

NEVER ON A SUNDAY?

When photographs of a police raid on a car dealership in St. Thomas, Ontario appeared on the front pages of the local newspaper, subtle images of a totalitarian state were brought to mind. The stationing of police officers at each door, along with the spectacle of business documents and records being seized and carted off, would have convinced any casual observer that a crime of major proportions had been committed. And it was true.

The crime? It was *Sunday*, May 4th!

Unbelievably, for *some* people in the province of Ontario, operating a business on a Sunday has become a crime punishable by police intimidation, legal charges, and a potential \$10,000 fine for each "offence."

Sunday closing legislation has been with us for many years; first in the form of the *Lord's Day Act* and then, after that act was struck down when it was rightly found to be forcing a particular religious view on Canadians, in the form of *The Retail Business Holidays Act*, which effectively was the same law changed to reflect secular wording and thus continue the religious tradition without acknowledging it.

We never thought we'd see the day when earning one's livelihood through gainful employment would be considered a crime, but that day repeats itself at least once every week.

What has happened to our once-free, competitive, and prosperous province? It used to be that we *rewarded* those in our community who worked overtime and extra days to get ahead. We were allowed the incentive to work harder to make a better life for ourselves and our families.

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But then certain political interests decided that the only "competition" they have any interest in is that between various left- and right-wing lobby groups and governments who all want to claim credit for the privilege of robbing us of our freedom to choose --- on a Sunday.

On the political left, organized labour groups protest against freedom to trade on Sundays because they fear the prospect of having consumers dictate to labour (as they do to business), and not the reverse, which is what they want. On the political right, *some* businesses who think they deserve government "protection", also don't like being dictated to by the consumer, so they support legislation against those who see the profit to be made by doing so.

What both groups have in common is the belief that someone else's freedom of choice somehow imposes an obligation on them --- but what really motivates them is a greed for the unearned: they both want the market to be put on "hold" until *they* are willing to participate. Because they've chosen to stay home and "rest", they would deny the economic benefits created by working on Sundays to the very people who create those benefits --- all in the name of claiming their "fair share."

Their reaction? After citing the "injustice" of having to compete (?!?!), they run to the nearest unprincipled politician to have *their* choice (i.e., not to work on Sunday) imposed on everyone else!

We strongly disagree with Sunday closing legislation because:

Freedom Party believes that the *purpose of government* is to *protect* our freedom of choice, *not* to restrict it.

Governments of free nations have no right to impose the values and choices of others on you. Whether you choose to remain home, to work, to shop, or to attend the church of your choice, we think that choice belongs only to *you* --- even on a Sunday.

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