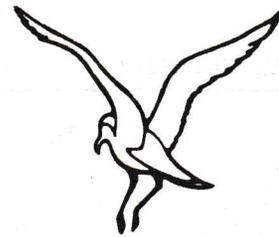


The Libertarian

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EDITORIAL

THE IRAN CRISIS

A gang of Iranian extortionists hold sixty Americans hostage in Tehran, the ransom being the ex-Shah of Iran. What makes them know they can get away with such an act? Simple. They've done their homework very well and they know that the American government will do anything but make the right decision. The right decision is obvious. Do not compromise. Let the terrorists know that such actions no longer work against the American people.

But compromise is the *only* foreign policy of the U.S. today. It is the foreign policy of every pragmatic government. Make it up as you go is the methodology of such a government. Such an approach got the Americans into the Viet Nam tragedy. Such an approach left them flustered against Russian troops being moved into Cuba. Such an approach left Jimmy Carter to resort to a totally unenforceable oil boycott against Iran as a solution to the Tehran dilemma. How the Soviets must be laughing!

Would a libertarian president attempt to come to terms with these gangsters? No he would not, because a libertarian president: would recognize the necessity for long term thinking which means show the world that hostage taking will be futile in the future; would recognize that he is not responsible for the possible deaths of the hostages, the Iranian hoodlums are; would recognize the importance of the principle of the contradiction of compromise, that you do not compromise with tyrants on the grounds of expediency without later paying a fatal price; would recognize

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FOUNDATION UPDATE

Most of the activity during the past month has revolved around HALT (Human Action to Limit Taxes). Here follows a chronological listing of recent events.

In late October, Mike Little and Walter Boytinck were guests on the Terry Moore radio show on CJOR in Vancouver. During their hour together they touched many bases, from the tax revolution to the Magna Carta. Terry liked what he heard, joined HALT and asked Mike and Walter to return as guests at a later date.

HALT finally made the pages of Maclean's Magazine twice in two weeks. Barbara Amiel referred to "the new HALT movement" in her column of November 5, and Suzanne Zwarun wrote an article for the November 19 issue on the upcoming plebiscites in Edmonton and Calgary, mentioning HALT's leadership in the Calgary petition drive and quoting HALT

Calgary president Wayne Kollinger.

On November 8, Jessica Markland, a documentaries producer for the CTV Television Network shot segments for the Live It Up program on rebels against the bureaucracy. The action was filmed at Ed Murphy's Pub and featured interviews with Census rebels Angela Shermata and Walter Boytinck, tax rebel Mike Little and all-around rebel, Ed Murphy himself. Although Ms. Markland had originally planned to use the material to put together a five minute segment for the show, she enjoyed the taping so much that she's going to make a whole show out of it. It should be shown sometime in December.

On November 12, 13 and 14, HALT had a booth at the Executive Lifestyle 1980 show at Vancouver's Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Vancouver Board of Trade sponsored event drew about 10,000 visitors and

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IN THIS ISSUE:

"The Declaration of Individual Independence" by Geoffrey Thomason

SPEECH TO BURNABY CITY COUNCIL ON THE MANN HOME EXPROPRIATION

by Christian Sorensen

On October 22, 1979, Chris Sorensen delivered the following speech to a Burnaby Council meeting packed to overflowing. As a result of the efforts of Mrs. Mann and her supporters, the expropriation has been postponed until January 15, 1980.

Mr. Mayor and Councilpersons:

My name is Chris Sorensen and I am a spokesman for the Mann Home Defence Committee. We come before you tonight in order to set the record straight concerning the expropriation of Mrs. Mann's home and to ask a small favour of the Corporation.

My personal involvement in this matter began last week when, as a member of the University of British Columbia Libertarian Society, I helped demonstrate against her expropriation. I am opposed to the expropriation laws on principle, as being neither necessary nor just. I suspect that the reasons for this expropriation case are typical of many; what made this case different enough to attract my attention is that Mrs. Mann is putting up a fight.

Mrs. Mann has told me that she does not want to leave her home and never has. Any indication of negotiations which she has given to the Municipality of Burnaby was given under duress, with the threat of expropriation hanging over her head.

Those threats started in January of 1978 when Council first tried, unsuccessfully, to take Mrs. Mann's property. Thereafter, Burnaby began to pressure the Veterans' Land Administration, which held title under an Agreement for Sale, to either consent to expropriation or to pressure Mrs. Mann to bargain with the Municipality. For a time Mrs. Mann did attempt to co-operate to a limited extent, fearing the consequences of outright resistance. However, negotiations broke down so a functionary of the Veterans' Land Administration sent an ultimatum, reading in part,

"If something concrete cannot be finalized between the two parties by March 21, 1979, I feel obliged to put the matter up for expropriation..."

Thus was the pretence of these neg-

otiations as being voluntary dropped, and the gun behind the shotgun wedding revealed!!!

Permission for expropriation was granted on May 24, 1979, just two days after the defeat of the Liberal Administration and Burnaby Council moved quickly to pass the appropriate bylaw shortly thereafter, on June 11th. Now that the City seems to have legal title to the property... Mrs. Mann's property... the law provides for the formation of an arbitration board to determine compensation. The fact that participation in this board is not voluntary is made obvious by the Municipality's powers to debar any claim to compensation if Mrs. Mann does not co-operate.

Bravely, Mrs. Mann has refused to authorize any price figure that would serve as a bargaining point, despite the tremendous pressure on her to do so. Mrs. Mann's decision to fight these expropriation proceedings is quite momentous, in view of the odds against her. She knows neighbours who themselves faced expropriation and were told that "you can't beat our battery of lawyers, and if you try, it will only cost you a lot more". Her motives are being questioned publicly by supposedly responsible officials. Mayor Constable has himself stated that the whole thing "may be a question of someone's greed". The Municipality of Burnaby is powerful; it has lots of money, information and press contacts, and it has the law on its side.

What does Mrs. Mann have on her side? She has only determination, public support, and physical possession of her property. She holds on despite a barrage of threats and intimidation from the Municipality.

Threats and intimidation. I do not use those words lightly. A notorious example is the letter Mrs. Mann received
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SPEECH TO BURNABY COUNCIL (*from page 2*)

on October 3, 1979 from Burnaby's solicitors telling her to move out by the 15th of October. Mayor Constable, after denying the existence of such a letter, and this in front of Council and a full gallery, has said that he didn't interpret it as meaning that the Municipality wanted her and her belongings out by the. Yet, if that is so, then Burnaby must have wanted to start work with her belongings in place, for the letter reads in part:

"We confirm that the Corporation of the District of Burnaby proposes to enter upon and commence site work at the subject property on or before October 15, 1979."

However, the letter goes on to state that:

"We advise you now of Burnaby's intention with respect to entry upon the property so that Mrs. Mann may take whatever steps are necessary for her relocation, removal of belongings, etc.."

The stated intention of the letter is clear enough to me, as it was to Mrs. Mann. But perhaps Burnaby never did really intend to move on to the site then, in which case the letter can only realistically be described as a blatant attempt to intimidate Mrs. Mann.

I suspect that such intimidation is standard practice for Burnaby in its expropriation cases, only differing in degree according to the amount of resistance that is put up. Expropriation is a dirty business by its nature, so rather than holding individual officials or bureaucrats responsible for excesses, I see the standard workings of the law in crushing the individual as at fault. This process is often shrugged off as necessary, but I think that as human beings we should recognize that the most important considerations of government should be with the rights and dignity of individuals.

I therefore urge the City of Burnaby to stop intimidating Mrs. Mann, and I realize that the best way to do that is to reverse the expropriation proceedings. I certainly hope that such a procedure for reversal exists, and so I am request-

ing that the Municipality answer in writing what the full procedure would be for reversing an expropriation.

SPECIAL TO THIS ISSUE

In this issue we are pleased to present Geoffrey Thomason's Declaration of Individual Independence which appears in the centre pages of this newsletter. Because of the inspirational nature of the piece, we have omitted pagination and enclosed the article in a decorative border, making it suitable for display or framing.

Geoffrey Thomason's feisty independence as evidenced in this document, is undoubtedly related to his many years as a mixed bag entrepreneur, free-lance creative consultant and grass roots philosopher. Asked in a recent interview if he would consider adding a term in parliament to his many credits, Thomason rejoined, "I am an apolitical being, devoted to the harrassment of government. What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that its people preserve the spirit of resistance?"

EDITORIAL (*from page 1*)

that any state which would sanction, even approve of, such an atrocity is an outlaw state and should be treated accordingly.

Some sentimental wishful thinkers may hold that such a stand is barbaric as this attitude may lead to the death of some or all of the sixty hostages. But it was this wishful thinking that spawned the Iranian crisis, and it is this short-sighted thinking that guarantees that atrocities such as hostage taking will continue for all time until the number sixty pales into insignificance.

"Under liberty, you may give away your own liberty, if you think good, and be socialist, or anything else you like; under socialism, you must be socialist, and may not make a place for yourself in any free system." -Auberon Herbert

the declaration of individual independence

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a person to dissolve the political bands which have connected him with the state, and to assume among the powers of the earth the individual sovereignty to which his nature entitles him, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that he should declare the causes which impel him to such action.

I hold these truths to be self-evident: that I am endowed by my nature with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from my consent; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is my right to join with others to alter or to abolish it; that should the people not act to preserve their liberty and oppose oppressive government, it is my right as an individual to withdraw moral sanction. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security. And should the people be apathetic and disinclined to overthrow their despotic government, it remains my right to withdraw my moral sanction from such government and to resist its tyranny in whatever manner I can, and in concert with such individuals as might agree with me.

Such has been the patient sufferance of individuals everywhere in the world today; and such now is the necessity which constrains them to alter their systems of government or to withdraw their moral sanction from such governments. The history of present governments is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over my life and the lives of my fellowmen. To prove this, let facts be presented to a candid world.

They have imposed taxes on me without my consent, establishing an apparatus of compulsion and coercion to forcibly extract payment from me, and threatening me with incarceration and even violent bodily harm should I resist.

They have deprived me in many cases of the benefits of trial by jury. Further, they have established many commissions and agencies to regulate my life by fiat decree, depriving me of recourse to due process of law.

They have debased their currency through the fraudulent tax of inflation.

They have impeded the free exchange of ideas and information between myself and others by censorship and the licensing of communications.

They have harrassed me in my endeavours to peacefully pursue my livelihood by making me beg permissions in the form of licenses and permits. Further, they have made me pay for licenses and permits, thus making me pay for what is my natural right, to be a productive citizen.

They have conscripted me in both wartime and peace to serve unwillingly in the military, endangering my life and violating my liberty. They have conscripted me as an employer into the civil service as an unwilling and unpaid tax collector.

They have prevented me from purchasing goods at the best possible price when the producers are foreigners by imposing tariffs. They have done so to my detriment.

They have subsidized incompetent and uncompetitive domestic producers with taxes taken from me without consent to my detriment.

They have discouraged charity and goodwill towards those less well off by usurping from the churches and charitable organizations the function of helping our needy.

They have violated my privacy by forbidding certain peaceful activities between myself and others and even by forbidding to me the use and enjoyment of certain products.

A government whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit.

I, therefore, do solemnly declare that every individual person ought to be free and independent; that I absolve myself from all allegiance to the state insofar as and to the extent that the state infringes upon my sovereign independence to pursue my own goals and my own happiness in peaceful and voluntary co-operation with my fellow man. I withdraw my moral sanction from the activities of the state to the extent that it interferes with my peaceful activities. I do not consider myself under any obligation, morally or otherwise, to obey the dictates of the state where those dictates are not designed for my protection against violence or fraud. I will obey the dictates of the state only to the extent that it is prudent to do so, but pledge myself to resist such oppressive tyranny, alone and in concert with like-minded individuals.

And for the support of this declaration, I pledge my life, my fortune, and my sacred honour.

Gregory Thomson

METRICATION? BAH HUMBUG!!

by Marco den Ouden

On July 1, 1979, while Canadians were observing the 112th anniversary of Confederation, a holiday to celebrate liberty, the residents of Sherbrooke, Quebec, of Peterborough, Ontario, and of Kamloops, British Columbia, were having their liberty restricted. On that day it became mandatory for merchants in those areas to advertise their wares in price per metric unit. As of July 31, those merchants were *forbidden* to use the familiar English units of measurement. Scales not capable of weighing in metric units were outlawed.

On the 112th anniversary of the independence of the Canadian government, one more element of independence was taken away from the Canadian people.

The metric program had been in the offing since January 1970 when a White Paper on Metric Conversion was tabled in the House of Commons. In June 1971, the Metric Commission was established by Order in Council to devise a scheme for implementing metric conversion.

If the metric conversion program were voluntary and beneficial to Canadians, it would be quite acceptable. In fact, it is neither voluntary nor beneficial.

details of white paper ignored

The main reason given for mandatory metric conversion by its proponents is that the majority of the world uses the metric system and conversion would thus further Canadian exports. By advancing this argument, these proponents reveal that they have not read the White Paper and are governed by self-serving rationalizations. The logical conclusion to derive from the details given in the White Paper is the exact opposite of what the metric pushers claim. Metric conversion *must* be an economic disaster.

The White Paper on Metric Conversion argues that "differences in standards constitute more than a passive barrier

to trade." Further, the report states repeatedly that "conversion is costly and complex" and should be "undertaken in the expectation that the costs will be more than offset by the benefits." While the majority of countries may use the metric system, the White Paper concedes that "the industrial capabilities and technological leadership of the United States leads to the dominance of inch-pound designs and specifications in many fields." And, says the report, "the United States, which is Canada's main export market, has not made a decision to convert."

In fact, since the White Paper was released, the United States has decided that the use or adoption of the metric system by the American people will be "strictly voluntary and that our national policy does not favor the metric system over the customary system." (U.S. Congressman Eldon Rudd) Furthermore, Britain's Conservative government under Margaret Thatcher intends to disband the British Metrication Board.

Pat Carson, in charge of metric conversion for Loblaw's Limited and an outspoken opponent of metrication, argues that 80% of Canada's trade is with non-metric nations. For example, 70% of the plywood produced in Canada goes to the American market. American builders want four foot by eight foot sheets of plywood, not the 1200 millimetre by 2400 millimetre sheets that the Metric Commission recommends the industry manufacture.

Clearly the facts detailed in the White Paper do not support the conclusion drawn by metric advocates.

If one accepts the White Paper's premise that "differences in standards constitute more than a passive barrier to trade", it also becomes clear that the encouragement of foreign trade is *not* the Metric Commission's motive in

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METRICATION? BAH HUMBUG! *(from page 6)*

promoting the metric system. Prior to the metrication bamboozle, the metric system and the English system co-existed and were both "legally acceptable for commercial purposes." Thus a manufacturer who wanted to pursue a foreign market in a metric country was free to manufacture in metric and a manufacturer who wanted to concentrate on the American market could manufacture in inch-pounds. Each could specialize to pursue his respective market. Now the American market is jeopardized.

In spite of the White Paper on Metric Conversion's assurance that "No legislative action is contemplated which would make mandatory a general use of metric in place of inch-pound units", the Metric Commission has taken the choice away from the people and imposed an apparatus of compulsion and coercion with its attendant regulatory agents, inspectors and courts to ram metric down the people's throats whether they want it or not.

the real reason behind metrication

If the data given in the White Paper so clearly indicates that the argument that trade will increase is a lie, what is the real reason for the government's eagerness to impose the metric system?

Part of it is undoubtedly psychological. A recurring theme in the White Paper is the simplicity of the decimal based metric system. "At present, the educational system is cluttered with illogical and complex weights and measures," it says, and "the simplicity of the decimal system would be a boon to pupils and teachers".

But while the metric system may be simpler and easier to use in some cases, it is not true that the inch-pound system of weights and measures is illogical or irrational. It is neither logical nor illogical, rational nor irrational. It is a tool to be used.

People are rational or irrational. Arguments are logical or illogical. But the concepts of logic and rationality do not apply to a system of weights and measures. Such a system is either use-

ful or not useful. And its usefulness depends on whether the system is standardized, not on whether the system is based on a decimal, binary, hexadecimal or other numerical base. The English system is standardized and people have found it useful and continue to do so.

And learning two systems as students do now, is no more detrimental than is learning two languages. (Something our government seems very eager to promote.)

Perhaps the real reason for the metric madness is the natural bureaucratic inclination towards uniformity. Leaving the people the choice of whether to use metric or inch-pounds will have some people going one way and some the other. And what kind of a crazy bunch of sheep would that be for our shepherd government to lead? Individual choice must be stamped out! Bureaucratic edict must be implemented!

the people fight back

But people are fighting back. The Canadian Football League has actively resisted metric conversion, much to the consternation of the Metric Commission. Apart from the pressure to which the CFL was subjected, Commissioner **Jake Gaudaur** (CFL, not Metric) was incensed by the Metric Commission's assumption that adoption of metric by the CFL would make Canadians more amenable to the system. Says Gaudaur, "I consider this an insult to the intelligence of Canadians".

In Peterborough, one of the test centers of the metric program, the Peterborough Libertarian Association, led by their vice-president Sally Hayes, has been protesting metrication in Peterborough. Letters to the editor were written and a petition was launched. The group is not opposed to the metric system per se, but to the coercive imposition of the metric system. The petition calls for any metric conversion to be done on a voluntary basis.

The group has done considerable research and documentation on the metric issue and is leading an active and intelligent opposition. Peterborough MP
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METRICATION? BAH HUMBUG! (from page 7)

Bill Domm has responded positively to Mrs. Hayes' letters and asked to be informed of any intimidation of his constituents by the Metric Commission.

On November 9 at a meeting at the Toronto Holiday Inn, Mrs. Hayes launched Operation HUMBUG (Help Undo Metrication, BUG your MP!) An aggressive campaign is being waged, including such items as bumper stickers reading NO METRICATION BY DICTATION and METRICATION IS HUMBUG.

The government's timetable calls for full implementation of metrication after Christmas, and, says Sally Hayes, "I am convinced we must make every effort to stop them from going into full swing in January".

The Minister of State for Small Business and Industry, Ron Huntington, to whom the Metric Commission is responsible, has said that the metric system is here to stay. It is too late to stop the program. In a letter to myself dated February 12, 1979, thanking me for sending him "The Libertarian", Ron Huntington wrote, "I, too, am a libertarian and am doing all I can to make sure some liberty is left within the system for my progeny". We ask Mr. Huntington to prove it. Disband the Metric Commission, or at the very least, make metrication voluntary.

We urge all our readers interested in this issue to write to Ron Huntington, and all those willing to petition for freedom of choice on metrication or to help in some other way, to contact Sally Hayes or The Libertarian Foundation.

The addresses are:

Ron Huntington,
Minister of State for Small Business
and Industry,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario

Sally Hayes,
Operation HUMBUG,
677 Crown Drive,
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 6W2

FOUNDATION UPDATE (from page 1)

many new contacts were made.

On November 13, there was activity on two fronts. In Vancouver, Rick Bolstler and Bill Buckler, Jr. conducted a meeting at the Rembrandt Hotel for Lower Mainland HALT enthusiasts. The purpose - to form active HALT Municipal Action Teams.

And in Victoria, Mike Little addressed the Housing Urban Design Association of Canada (HUDAC). His topic - the importance of maintaining consistency in the advocacy of free enterprise. Mike pointed out the contradictions inherent in calling yourself a free enterpriser, simultaneously applying for special privileges to the government.

On November 15, Mike Little and Nick Moldovanyi left for Toronto to spend a month promoting HALT in the East. CTV producer Jessica Markland (see above) said she would arrange for Mike to appear on CTV's Canada AM.

More news next month.

"Liberty has never come from the government...The history of liberty is the history of the limitation of governmental power, not the increase of it."

- Woodrow Wilson

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Editor
Assistant Editor
Managing Editor

Rick Bolstler
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