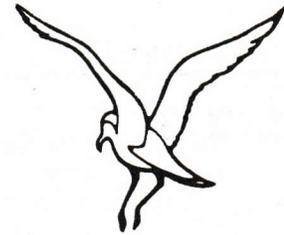


The Libertarian

Published by The Libertarian Foundation, 909 Thurlow Street
Vancouver • British Columbia • Canada • Telephone 688-2308



Volume 2, Number 10

January 1980

EDITORIAL

PRINCIPLES VS. POLITICS

"It is at last apparent that there are two distinctive political philosophies in Britain and we must all be quite clear where we stand. Those members of the Conservative Party who believe in paternal intervention and merely pay lipservice to libertarian ideals are, whether they realize it or not, collectivists. Those Conservatives who are libertarians believe that only by constant vigilance can the freedoms that we consider to be essential today be kept alive for our children tomorrow."

This hard hitting quote did not come from an outsider chastising the Conservative Party for political greyness. It came from Conservative MP Archie Hamilton from an article in the October 9, 1979 Daily Telegraph titled, "The Ideals of Mrs. Thatcher." Recent changes such as the abolition of monetary exchange controls, the end to special legal privileges of labour unions, the partial denationalization of industry, and the abolition of the Price Control Board would indicate that Prime Minister Thatcher has opted for the libertarian approach. More of this thinking is needed if Britain is to regain the stature it once commanded in a more libertarian age. How encouraging and how out of character to hear an elected politician reduce politics to libertarian versus collectivist principles.

Hamilton concludes with "Margaret Thatcher has already ensured her place in history by becoming the first woman Prime Minister in Britain. Future generations
(continued on page 3)

WORTH WATCHING

On January 11, PBS launched a ten part series on economics called "Free to Choose" featuring free market advocate Milton Friedman. Each show consists of a half hour of narration and explanation illustrated by film shot on locations around the world. (The first show took us to Hong Kong and to the university in Scotland where Adam Smith taught.) The second half hour is discussion of the ideas presented by Friedman and his critics. Ralph Nader had been invited to participate in one of these sessions but declined. (We wonder why.)

In Vancouver the shows air on Saturdays at noon and are repeated on Tuesdays at noon on KCTS Seattle, Channel 9. In other locations, check your TV Guide or phone your PBS station.

This well-produced show ought to have a tremendous impact.

MANN EXPROPRIATION BATTLE NOT OVER

Despite the support of Burnaby's new mayor Dave Mercier, Mrs. Lillian Mann has lost a preliminary round in her struggle to keep her home. On Jan. 14, Burnaby City Council voted to proceed with the expropriation as planned. The vote was 6-3.

Although the mayor is supposed to chair the meeting and not comment on decisions made, Mayor Mercier broke with tradition and expressed his displeasure after the vote was taken.

The main argument for continuing with the expropriation was "we've come this far so why stop now." Apparently the idea of perpetuating a mistake strikes most Burnaby aldermen as good strategy.

URC Libertarians plan to take up the placards and demonstrate on Mrs. Mann's behalf again until the battle's won.

IN THIS ISSUE:

"The Economics of Metrication" by Sally Hayes

BOOK REVIEW

I'M MAD AS HELL (by Howard Jarvis with Robert Pack)

reviewed by Vicki Perkins

One year after Proposition 13, which required state legislators to limit property taxes to 1% of the assessed value, personal incomes in California had risen by 14%, sales had increased by 14%, and unemployment had actually dropped by one per cent to 6.2%.

Contrary to predictions of massive layoffs and economic depression, California was booming. Governor Jerry Brown jumped on the handwagon and cut state income taxes by \$1 billion.

Howard Jarvis firmly believes that California's happy experience with tax reduction can be repeated anywhere. This book is part of his plan to spark a nationwide tax-cut movement.

It tells the story of Jarvis' fifteen year struggle to get a tax limitation initiative on the ballot so that Californians could vote on it. It is a story of backbreaking work, year after year, as petition after petition fell just short of the required number of signatures; stubborn dedication despite intense opposition from most of the media; and eventual success only when people felt they were fed up with high taxes and inflation.

The exciting message Howard Jarvis is bringing to the United States is that cutting taxes reduces the waste inherent in anything any government does so dramatically that the beneficial effects are felt almost immediately in every sector of the economy.

A Canadian government which proposes to balance the federal budget by raising taxes could learn a lot from the California experience, and from Howard Jarvis. Here's what he thinks about such schemes:

"The balanced budget concept does not speak directly to the real problem: cutting inflation. The only program that can have any meaningful effect is one that will require government spending to increase at a rate less than the rate

of inflation. Otherwise you're just adding fuel to the fire of inflation... One of the things that I think we have to do is to make certain that the cost of taxation does not keep up with inflation. That's the only way to break inflation. Inflation is the result of government extravagance and overspending which causes them to print more money, which causes the devaluation of the dollar."

There you have it in words that anyone, even a politician, can understand. Since Proposition 13, more and more people have come to realize that government spending is not a universal panacea and that the real way to "stimulate the economy" is to stop taxing it to death.

Jarvis has a timely message for Albertans as well. Recently, Alberta legislators have proposed restricting the right to petition for a plebiscite on the municipal level. Jarvis, on the other hand, believes that the right to initiate legislation is more important than the right to vote and should be expanded to all levels of government.

To those who argue that we elect representatives to carry out our will, so we should leave them alone to do their jobs, he says,

"There is hardly a better example of conflict of interest than the difference between the best interest of the politician and the best interest of the people he has the duty to represent. The more taxes, the more money government has to spend, the more public employees the politician can put on the public payroll, the more power the politician has."

A cynical view, perhaps, but how else explain the terrific increase in both the size of government and the rate of taxation? Obviously, it's not enough to vote out a government you don't like; the laws they have passed will still be

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I'M MAD AS HELL (from page 2)

on the books. How many laws does the average government repeal?

a stylistic failure

Jarvis' style of writing makes me "mad as hell" because I got tired of plowing through pages of anecdotes about all the famous people Howard Jarvis has ever met. The book could be subtitled, "Famous People I Have Known: how some became famous by listening to my advice; how others refused to take my advice but later admitted I was right."

People who have intellectual, as opposed to emotional, reasons for opposing high taxes and large governments won't find much meat here. Jarvis' politics seem not to be based on any philosophy so much as on a desire to preserve the American Way of Life. This is most evident in the last chapter entitled, "What we must do." Included in the program are two issues that have nothing to do with tax reduction: educational reform and national prestige. Jarvis wants to stop permissiveness in the schools and make the U.S. "return to our position as No. 1." Probably these goals appeal to many of his supporters. I'm sure they also turn away many potential supporters who agree with his other ideas.

For a man who once wrote for a chain of newspapers which he owned, and who helped J. Paul Getty write his memoirs, Jarvis has a remarkably limited vocabulary, and his grammar could have been the product of the very educational system he accuses of turning out functional illiterates. He talks about people "paying too much taxes" and says things like "Financially I was doing good." For adjectives, his choice is restricted to "wonderful", "fantastic", and "marvelous!!!". John F. Kennedy inspired many eloquent eulogies, but to Jarvis he was "a hell of a nice guy."

This populist style of writing, together with the grating name dropping and self-aggrandizement which pervade the book, almost overpower the real message Howard Jarvis is trying to deliver. Really, he says it all in the

Introduction, "People who want to do something don't have to wait for somebody else to lead them... We won, and so can you."

Vicki Perkins is Secretary of HALT's Calgary Chapter.

EDITORIAL (from page 1)

will revere her if, having launched the nation in a libertarian direction, she can keep it on course." Yes, indeed they will. Now if only our Conservatives would mould their policy after libertarian ideals rather than compete with the Rhino Party for political joke-manship. May Mrs. Thatcher provide additional inspiration for libertarians who wish to bring about a change in Canada's direction. We have had too many comedians and incompetents at the helm. Let us continue to work toward replacing them with someone whose philosophy is grounded in reality.

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THE ECONOMICS OF METRICATION

by Sally Hayes

This article is excerpted from a speech Mrs. Hayes gave in Toronto in November to launch Operation Humbug (Help Undo Metrication, BUG Your MP!)

I would like to turn now to the economics of metrication. I am sure that Canadians in general have no idea that we are looking at a multi-billion dollar extravaganza in this country.

Metrication was actually proposed and foisted on us primarily because of the economic advantages Canada was to gain by adopting it. The particular brand of metric which we were to adopt, however, was conveniently omitted from most of the early rhetoric. And it is still being overlooked, to a great extent, today.

As early as June 1967, MP MacLean referred to the Kennedy round of trade negotiations and urged a study and development of the metric system on a gradual basis because "most of the world in which our manufacturers will find markets for their goods is already on the metric system." (Hansard, June 30, 1967, p. 2177)

MP Cantelon, on October 30, 1967, also urged adoption of the metric system because it would assist us in external trade and business within the country. (Hansard, p. 3622)

Speaking to the White Paper which was consequently tabled on January 16, 1970, Jean Luc Pepin stated that "Canada's ability to maintain and expand its vital export trade with countries in the metric sphere will directly benefit from the move we have decided to make." (Hansard, p. 2470)

And on December 16, 1970, R. Pasford declared that "...conversion to the metric system would greatly benefit Canadian industry and trade..." (Hansard, p. 2126)

The first questions which any practical person would ask at this point would have been, what are these benefits and what are the costs? It would then have become evident immediately whether or not the plan was a viable one.

Canadian Metric Commission Executive Director Paul Boire, however, maintains that "costs benefit analyses are all but impossible and too complex to calculate."

Can you imagine going in to explain your wonderful plan to your boss but are unable to give him any idea of the costs, the benefits or the problems? Yet that is the kind of hokey which our government has accepted since 1971.

In spite of Mr. Boire's inability or reluctance to estimate the costs and benefits, others have attempted to do some studies. And even a few of these estimates along with consideration of our present economic condition will show quite readily that we are on a suicide course. (see chart next page)

Even this analysis, however, does not include such things as the tremendous bureaucracy which will be necessary to police this nightmare; re-tooling, relabelling, converting and repackaging; homemakers trying to interpret metric recipes and having to go out and buy new kitchen utensils; the time wasted in business training, explaining and converting; the U.S. tourists who do not come after getting fed up with the new language on our roads, in our weather forecasts and now, the purchases in our stores. Anyone depending on tourism for their livelihood is having their wrists slashed by the very people whose salaries they pay.

There is expense even right here in this meeting and in all lobby groups forced, of late, to get working against the government in self-defence, instead of devoting their energies to the productive things in the marketplace.

Consider also the new machinery, dual inventories, dual book keeping, figuring plans, finding material to fit metric specification, carrying two sets

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CHART OF ESTIMATED COSTS AND PROBLEMS OF CONVERSION

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
Agriculture	\$ 3 million 15 million 2 million	3000 elevators @ \$1000 each 150,000 producers @\$100 each Terminal conversion	Hansard, p. 2457 Jan. 27, 1977
Auto mechanics	Up to \$3000 (each)	Two sets of tools will now be necessary	Interviews with local mechanics
Construction	A local bricklaying job which should have cost \$30 cost \$100 because of metric confusion, delay on the site and having to return another day		C. Sommons, Pres. of Bricklayers' Union, Sept. 1979
Dairy	\$100 million	Based on U.S. figures of \$ 1 billion	Montreal Star Sept. 4, 1979
Education	\$4/public school student \$50/vocation school student		MP Epp, as re- ported from a study by Man. school trustees Hansard, p. 908 Oct. 31, 1974
Food Industry	\$3 million	And this is only the budget of <u>one</u> retail chain which operates in Ontario only	Mr. P. Carson of Loblaws, quoted in Toronto Star September 1979
Lumber	\$30 million	The conversion is costing a B.C. company as much as this amount	MP D. Cameron in Toronto Sun Aug. 22, 1979
		62% of lumber industry exports go to the U.S.	MP Whittaker Hansard, p. 4361 March 25, 1977
Manufacturing		Our manufacturers will lose the edge over metric countries when we convert	MP S. Darling Hansard, p. 4184 March 17, 1975
Metric Commission	\$16,487,000 spent up to the end of 1978		
Retailers	\$100 million	Financial Post calculates this will be the cost of converting scales across Canada	P. Curran in Montreal Star Sept. 4, 1979
Trucking	Metriation will mean an increase of 10% - 12% in freight rates to the consumer.		Len Huyser, Pres. Cdn. Freightways

(This is only a partial list excerpted from a list six pages long compiled
by Sally Hayes)

THE ECONOMICS OF METRICATION (from p. 4)

of tools, not to mention the tremendous financial strain on the farmer.

Mainly, of course, the huck will stop with every Canadian citizen. For besides paying for the direct government subsidies, pay-backs and expenditures for metric conversion for the public section, we will have to pay a higher price to almost every company which has had to bear the expense of conversion. In other words, we will get the **DOUBLE WHAMMY** come the new year. This move will not only fuel inflation, it will fan the flames from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island.

Another very important economic impact will be felt in our export trade, and between 70 and 85% of that trade is with the U.S.. All members of the legislature were very aware of the need to go hand in hand with the United States on metric conversion even as early as 1967. (MP Winters, Hansard P.2178, June 30, 1967) In January of 1970, MP for Peace River, Mr. Baldwin stated that "...it might be suicidal for us to adopt the metric system without considering what is being done in the U.S." (Hansard p. 2471)

In spite of this main concern, however, Canada has now, or is in the process of outlawing the system which our biggest customer uses. All this at a time when, as Mr. R. Drinnan of the Alberta Trucking Association states, "...the U.S. appears to be deaccelerating its metrication program if not on the verge of dropping it altogether."

Other informed persons have also pointed out that this idea that we shall get a bigger share of the European market because we convert to metric is just so much malarkey. Trade is a two-way street and it will still boil down to price, availability and quality. And as we all know, we are not very competitive in the international sphere at the moment.

The U.S. unofficially estimates that metric conversion will cost them between \$20 and \$100 billion. (Adjusted for Canada, that comes to as much as \$430 for every man, woman and child.) That

is a lot of money.

Says Mr. Victor Bardawill, a Toronto consulting engineer, "...conversion to S.I. (Système Internationale, the variation of the metric system Canada is adopting) will cost billions and billions of dollars." In the same letter to the New York Times he states, "...existing building measurements, land measurements, production facilities, technical books and publications are based on the foot-pound-second system." The costs of completely new facilities in S.I. has to be higher and the task of fitting new facilities into existing ones will involve mental gymnastics of the first order.

Mr. Drinnan now suspects that "many Canadian industries are having second thoughts about the economic feasibility of converting to metric from the Imperial standard. This is because they are now faced with the practical costs of overhauling plants and products and not just a theoretical exercise."

In other words, they and all Canadians have been flim-flammed and are only now becoming aware of the reality which was stated by Mr. Pat Carson of Loblaw's earlier this year. "Canadians are being forced to abandon a lifetime of education knowledge and experience in one measurement field without any real proof that the new system will be even a marginal benefit." (Letter to R. DeCotret, June 13, 1979)

did you know? (a quiz)

Let us now take a closer look at this rosy picture which metric proponents (many of them unaware of a few facts) have painted with a view to honesty and forthrightness. To make it a little more interesting, we're going to play DID YOU KNOW? (Just for the fun of it, please keep track of those you didn't know)

1. Without any referral to parliament or to the Canadian voters, the Liberal government decided on metrication simply by stating so in a White Paper on Metric Conversion in Canada. In his comments before the White Paper was tabled on January 16, 1970. Minister J.L. Pepin

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THE ECONOMICS OF METRICATION (from p. 6) stated, "...no legislative action is contemplated which would make mandatory a general use of metric in place of inch-pound units." (Hansard, p. 2470)

2. To this day, neither parliament nor Canadians have been asked whether or not they want metrication. That means, in effect, that for the past 8 years metrication, a matter of national concern, has been in the hands of non-elected bureaucrats.

3. Throughout the White Paper and the Hansard, the term "the" metric system is used - which according to Victor Parda-will is "...the most deceptive and seductive aspect of the government White Paper..." (Referendum on Metric, May 24, 1978)

4. Many Canadian organizations such as The Consumers' Association of Canada, The Agricultural Institute of Canada and The Canadian Chamber of Commerce are all mentioned in the White Paper as groups supporting conversion to the metric system. What is not clear in the record, however, is whether or not these organizations were aware that there is more than one kind of metric system and that Canada was adopting the unique Systeme Internationale.

5. There are several metric systems and less than 5% of the world uses S.I.. The c.g.s. metric system is in common use in much of the world, but even there, one finds differences from country to country. As MP Malone stated in 1977, it is propaganda to say that 95% of the world lives on the metric system. "There are the metric systems of almost all the countries in the world with their exceptions." (Hansard, p. 6078, May 30) John Bramsen, Metric Co-ordinator for the Canadian Manufacturers Association concurs. "There are about a dozen types of metric systems in Europe." (Harrow-smith article by J. Bennett, Metric Madness, 1979 p. 78)

6. In November of 1970, MP Basford introduced Bill S-5 commonly known as the Weights and Measures Act. On second reading in support of this bill, Mr. Basford twice stated that this bill "also retains the customary Canadian

units which cannot be taken away without an act of parliament." (Hansard, Dec. 16, 1970, p. 2123 & 2126) And MP Gillespie said in 1975 that "the legal basis for using the metric or decimal system was first introduced into the Weights and Measures Act of 1873 which was incorporated into the 1971 bill.

7. The Metric Commission was established by an Order-in-Council in 1971 and it was their task to prepare an over-all plan for conversion to the metric system. On November 12, 1974, MP Epp charged that this responsibility was not being met and that "all the ramifications of that conversion are not apparent to Canadians." And in 1975, MP Kemping maintained that a metric bill should be brought before the House and not a "loosely worded Order-in-Council which allows the Metric Commission to proceed as it sees fit." (Epp - Hansard p. 1262; Kemping - Hansard, Mar. 17, p. 4162)

8. In 1974, Orders-in-Council were used once again to bring in the regulations ensconced in the Weights and Measures Act. As late as 1976, however, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Don Jamieson was still claiming that "as far as the conversion to metric was concerned, ...it is essentially a voluntary program. There are no penalties within the metric conversion program." (Hansard, p. 3969, Vol. XIII May 5 - June 7)

9. On March 25, 1977, MP Hamilton stated that 95-97% of the rank and file farm organizations are against what is happening here.

10. In 1979, a protest group known as Anti-Metric Canada delivered 250,000 signatures to parliament.

11. In the Metric Commission of Canada Bulletin 1978 - #1 it was stated quite clearly that the newly appointed U.S. Metric Board was "responsible for coordinating voluntary conversion to the metric system in the United States."

12. Since 1866, the U.S. law has included provision for the voluntary uses of metric measurements.

13. Recent U.S. surveys indicate that

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THE ECONOMICS OF METRICATION (from p. 7)

less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the American people want to adopt the metric system, voluntarily or otherwise.

14. The changing of fuel pumps to litres in some places in the U.S. was not done by government edict. It was a management decision.

15. In the summer of this year, the House Appropriations Committee recommended (with Congressional Intent) to the Metric Board that they inform the American people "...that use or adoption of metric is strictly voluntary and that our national policy does not favour the metric system over the customary system."

16. The U.S. has since passed Bill 96-68 which prohibits all federal agencies from imposing or advocating the use or adoption of the metric system in the U.S.

17. Britain is not metric in weights and measures and the PBC announced on August 28 that the British Metrification Board was to be closed down.

18. "A metric one cm. bolt from a Toyota will not thread with a metric one cm. nut from a Volkswagen." (Harrowsmith, p. 78)

19. In 1978 while the official opposition, the Conservatives carried out a study on metrification and concluded that it should be abandoned, reversed or slowed down. Walter Banker of Nepean-Carleton called metrification "a fraud". Yet in May when they took power, they have reversed their ideas on metrification.

On October 4, 1979 in the same statement in which he announced the creation of an overview committee "to study progress on metric conversion", Ron Huntington, Minister of State for Small Business and Industry declared that metric is here to stay regardless of the committee's recommendations.

20. In May of this year while most people were busy with the election another Order-in-Council was passed empowering the Metric Commission to enforce their conversion timetable on Canada. And on January 19th, four months before this, the Toronto Sun carried an announcement from the Metric Commission chairman that retailers in the three test areas would have to market their produce under the

metric system by the end of the year or face up to \$1000 fines.

fight back now!

Is it any wonder then that we're in such a pickle? But it's not too late and don't you believe it - not for a moment. It was this resignation to the inevitability of metrification that has hamstrung many Canadian MP's and citizens over the past several years and all I can say to people with that attitude is that either they had the wrong kind of coaches in high school or they were never members of a come-from-behind team.

These idiots have taken us to the cleaners long enough. In fact, if the consequences weren't so deadly serious, I give them credit for pulling off the biggest sting in Canadian history.

They've humbugged the Canadian people, sure enough, but the humbuggies are now going to have their say.

I urge all of you to do your bit according to your taste and circumstances and help these bureaucrats find other employment.

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If you own or operate a company and can offer some kind of assistance to this effort, please get in touch with us. After all, your company may be on the next hit list of government activity.

It's never too late to correct a mistake. And like the little train who repeated, "I think I can, I think I can" as he chugged up the hill, WE WILL!!!