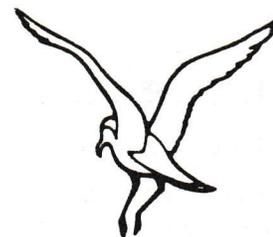


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EDITORIAL

WHERE HAVE ALL THE HEROES GONE?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "hero" as "3. A man who exhibits extraordinary bravery, firmness, fortitude, or greatness of soul, in any work or enterprise." I have always been a seeker and a worshipper of heroes, thus I was delighted to hear the news that Canada had a new hero in Iranian Ambassador Kenneth Taylor. Touting the affair as shades of "Casablanca", the media described a man risking all to whisk six Americans out of Iran, spurning danger, defying death if need be. A man who had to do what a man has to do. Now that's a hero!

So I enthusiastically plunged beyond the headlines into the details, only to find my enthusiasm for this deed wilting like a week-old bouquet. In cold fact, what did happen in Iran was not heroic, it was barely noteworthy. Stripped of journalistic hyperbole and pomp, the story sounds like this:

On November 8, just four days after the seizing of the American embassy in Iran, Taylor receives a phone call from one of the five Americans who had escaped the hostage taking. Concerned for their safety, they ask Taylor for asylum. Taylor's response: *Wait for two days while I cable Ottawa for approval.* Then, on Nov. 10, approval having been granted, the five arrive by car in broad daylight at the embassy (foreigners, apparently, are subjected to very little scrutiny in Iran) and are taken by Taylor to his official residence, to be joined on Nov. 22 by the sixth fugitive. (Fugitive from what? Would the Iranian officials have turned the

(continued on page 2)

ELECTION POST-MORTEM: A COMMENTARY

Another federal election has passed and Canada's favorite demagogue, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, is back in power again. The wailing and gnashing of teeth this has produced in western Canada is truly astonishing. While getting Trudeau back is certainly nothing to rejoice about, did the grumblers really believe that a Clark government would have been much better?

The fact is, that whoever won the election, Canada is destined to head further down the statist road. With Trudeau we are merely getting there a little bit quicker.

Every cloud has its silver lining and the silver lining in February 18's outcome is that we will now reach the day of reckoning that much sooner. And consequently, the revolt of the taxpayer and the destruction of state power will

also come that much sooner.

In the January 17, 1980 issue of *World Market Perspective*, economic analyst Jerome Smith argues that "the state, by its inherent structure and method, is an appropriate mechanism for only two purposes: plunder and destruction." But, he continues, there is an upper limit of plunder that productive citizens are able to endure. When states bump up against this upper limit, the result is "a depression which either reduces the proportionate size of the state again to an endurable and tolerable level...or a revolution, which sharply reduces the size, scope and power of the residual or succeeding state mechanism." (This is what happened in the Chilean revolution that overthrew Allende.)

Smith goes on to argue that "any efforts to reform the state are worse

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE:

"Welcome to 1984!" by Marco den Ouden

EDITORIAL (from page 1)

Americans over to the terrorists as if they were escapees from jail?) On December 10 Taylor receives his "first big scare": the Canadian newspaper *La Presse* knows about the hostages. *La Presse* was hardly alone in this knowledge. Dozens of politicians and diplomats knew about it, as the talk of all the embassy parties in Ottawa concerned itself with the status of the Iranian "houseguests".

On January 4, the Clark cabinet passes a secret order-in-council to issue six Canadian passports for the Americans. In fact, everyone on the Canadian embassy staff knew and approved of Taylor's decision to accept the Americans before he allowed them asylum. Finally the six "houseguests" were flown home and the embassy closed.

In all of this story, where are the clues that an heroic incident occurred? Where are the signs that Taylor or his staff or the six Americans were in any danger whatsoever? Since when do heroes wait for bureaucratic approval to do their heroic deeds? Since when does a hero carefully go through career-saving channels to obtain passports, and since when does it take a cabinet two months to issue them? Since when are struggles of life and death urgency, requiring total secrecy for their success, topics of gossip during diplomatic cocktail parties? Heroism be damned! The entire story, including the political delays, smells of chicanery. The Great Escape becomes an interesting but hardly heroic incident, blown out of proportion by a political party in an attempt to shore up a crumbling election campaign, and by a desperate media searching for even the slightest act of valour.

I do not mean to disparage Ambassador Taylor. His task was a tough one, and one way or another he succeeded. However any potential that he may have to truly be a hero was not put to the test during this three month episode. I comment on this incident solely because I believe it captures the desperation that we in the free world face each day. As we watch our code of liberty crumble under the weight of mediocrity, as we watch a

president bow down to a gang of thugs, as we watch our two potential prime ministers engage in an election of finger pointing and juvenile name-calling, we look for an act of courage which will help us to restore our sense of lost prestige. So desperate are we for heroes that we clutch at straws such as the "Canadian Caper".

We are too permissive. To call this incident heroic is to destroy the concept of heroism. If we allow the title of hero to be awarded so cheaply, then what title shall we bestow upon the Ayn Rands and Ludwig von Mises' of our world? Better to wait for a real hero than to praise someone undeserving. It's either that or set up a new government department, say HeroCanada, to which anyone can apply and from which the title HERO is granted each July 1 by lottery on coast to coast television.

ELECTION POST-MORTEM (from page 1)

than futile as their only possible success would be to delay the day of reckoning for statism. The energies and intelligence of such efforts will be much more positively and fruitfully employed if directed at lowering the victim population's tolerance for state plunder (taxes), state coercion (regulation) and state deceit (counterfeiting)."

Smith argues that we are now in a period of hyperinflation that is bound to accelerate over the next few years. The day of reckoning is fast approaching.

In Canada, (as in the U.S.) the coming revolution will not be violent. People will simply refuse to sanction government and ignore its dictates. Inflationary fiat currency will be superseded by a market alternative (gold and silver).

Any violence that occurs will come from the parasitic elements who discover that the teat of the government milch cow has gone dry. But any such violence will prove futile against an anonymous silent majority that ignores them. -Md0

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DOLLARDS AND SENSE

by Bill Buckler

Dr. Hans F. Sennholz, the noted Austrian economist and lecturer, has recently written a book on inflation. In it, he lays out a code of moral conduct which, if followed, will lead our society back to a system of free and voluntary interaction through the example set by its adherents.

"To spearhead the rebirth of our free society, let us rededicate ourselves to a new covenant of redemption, which is a simple restatement of public morality. In the setting of our age of economic redistribution and social conflict it may be stated as follows."

No matter how the transfer state may victimize me, I shall seek no transfer payments, nor accept any.

I shall seek no government grants, loans or other redistributive favours, nor accept any.

I shall seek no government orders on behalf of redistribution, nor accept any.

I shall seek no employment in the government apparatus of redistribution, nor accept any.

I shall seek no favours from the regulatory agencies of government, nor accept any.

I shall seek no protection from tariff barriers or any other institutional restrictions on trade and commerce.

I shall seek no services from, nor lend support to, institutions that are creatures of redistribution.

I shall seek no support from, nor give

support to, associations that advocate or practice coercion and restraint.

from: AGE OF INFLATION
Hans F. Sennholz
Western Islands - 1979

(The book is available from the Book Service. Price: \$12.00)

* * * * *

And while we're on the subject of inflation, the Israeli government has decided to introduce a new form of currency called, appropriately enough, the Shekel. This was done because of the 100% + rate of inflation under which the old Israeli pound has been suffering for the past three years. The move will, of course, have no effect on inflation. It may, however, succeed in lulling the people into a false sense of security by conjuring up images of manna from heaven.

* * * * *

Don't vote, it only encourages them department: Remember the many and varied polls taken by all and sundry during the recent federal election campaign? Especially the large proportion (30-40%) described as "undecided"? Ah, sweet euphemism! For "undecided" read uncompromising. Men and women who refused to deny the fact that, in most cases, they had no good choice available to them.

* * * * *

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "The strength of our government lies in its system of checks and balances. We write the checks, the government increases its balance."

ANONYMOUS

PRIVATE AID: A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE

This short article is reprinted from the C-FAR newsletter of February 14, 1980. C-FAR (Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform) is a private non-profit educational organization incorporated under the laws of Ontario. For further information write to: C-FAR, P.O. Box 332, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 5L3

C-FAR favours a vastly reduced role for government in foreign aid and an increase in private charity. Government involvement in foreign aid means the creation of a large self-perpetuating bureaucracy. Projects are often conceived without determining real need or commitment in the Third World. Poor countries must really want the service they're being provided with and they must make the commitment to work with the resources given. Too often foreign aid is merely prestige handouts to foreign governments. Money is thrown at problems, but there is little commitment by the recipient to work with what he has to improve.

A recent story in *Farm and Country* outlines the direction that would be far less expensive and more productive than Canada's present policy of spending \$1.23 billion annually on foreign aid. The story deals with Wilfred Ntiamoah, a young farmer from Ghana. Ntiamoah visited Canada this past fall. He showed the first prerequisite for help - motivation: he was willing to sacrifice and work hard. "He, his mother, and his brother pooled their resources and paid his fare and expenses to Ontario. This cost them \$3500. That is a lot of money, even by Canadian standards. The equivalent amount in terms of our earning capacity would be at least \$20,000. And the Ntiamoah family felt the investment would be justified if Wilfred could return to Ghana with a lot of know-how on running a chicken hatchery adapted to local conditions." (*Farm and Country*, December 18, 1979.) At this point, Wilfred's visit had not cost the Canadian taxpayer a single cent.

"During the fall, he took what must have been one of the world's toughest and fastest crash courses. There were stints at the University of Guelph, where he learned caponizing and the art of artificially inseminating chickens,

plus 18-hour days spent visiting chick hatcheries, genetic centres, feed mills, and working on farms. During this period he was sponsored and guided by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Agriskills Abroad group." Agriskills is privately funded. Again, the cost to the Canadian taxpayer was nil. Wilfred was learning valuable practical skills through people-to-people contact.

Farm and Country went on to point out that Wilfred has returned to Ghana with the skills needed to set up a 1000 bird hatchery. He requires a modest \$2000 to buy and airfreight chicks to start his hatchery. This is the sort of job private charity should be doing. *Farm and Country* was taking up a collection to help Wilfred. Again, the cost to the taxpayer - nil. The \$2000, *Farm and Country* noted acidly, is "the sort of money a CIDA bureaucrat would use to light his cigars...Our high-flying foreign aid spenders think in millions, and then they prefer government-to-government involvement."

The cost of helping Wilfred was minimal. He was sent back to Ghana as a highly motivated, free enterprise farmer. Several farmers who observed him noted that he displayed a dedication to work not always found in Africa. This project also emphasizes the all important thing in Africa - food production. While Africa's population has soared in the past decade, food production has slumped. Africa faces famine in the 80's. Too much foreign aid has concentrated on unneeded industrial projects or politically sexy monuments like four-lane highways that go nowhere.

SHORT NOTE: This issue is being sent out about two weeks later than our usual mid-month publishing date. We hope to be back on schedule again soon.

WELCOME TO 1984!

by Marco den Ouden

Winston Smith was being interrogated by O'Brien in the Ministry of Love.

"Do you know how long you have been here?"

"I don't know. Days, weeks, months- I think it is months."

"And why do you imagine that we bring people to this place?"

"To make them confess."

"No, that is not the reason. Try again."

"To punish them."

"No!" exclaimed O'Brien. His voice had changed extraordinarily, and his face had suddenly become both stern and animated. "No! Not merely to extract your confession, nor to punish you. Shall I tell you why we have brought you here? To cure you! To make you sane! Will you understand, Winston, that no one whom we bring to this place ever leaves our hands uncured? We are not interested in those stupid crimes that you have committed. The Party is not interested in the overt act; the thought is all we care about."

The thought is all we care about.

That is the essence of totalitarianism as depicted in George Orwell's prophetic classic "1984".

Orwell paints a macabre world where people are watched in their homes by telescreens, where deviant ideas are searched out and condemned as "thought crimes", where the fearful midnight knock on the door comes not from the regular police but from the thought police, where children are indoctrinated to report deviant parents, and where the watchword of the society is "Big Brother is Watching You."

In order to promote orthodox thinking, a new language is introduced, a language so structured that unorthodox thought is impossible.

Scapegoats are deliberately created to whip people into a frenzy during a procedure called "the two minute hate".

And the Ministry of Truth, the propaganda arm of the Party, systematically edits archival newspapers and documents to recreate the past in conformity with the Party's wishes.

Some may pass off Orwell's book as far-fetched but improbable fantasy. But the fact is that we are already well on our way to the society of 1984.

conspiracy: thoughtcrime in embryo

The precursor of "thoughtcrime" already exists in the "conspiracy" laws on the books in Canada and the U.S. Conspiracy is defined (in law) as: "an agreement by two or more people to commit a crime, fraud, or other wrongful act." (Random House College Dictionary)

In other words, if two or more people get together, talk about breaking a law and agree to do so, they are guilty of conspiracy. Whether or not they actually act on the agreement and break that law, or even attempt to, they are guilty. Even if they later change their minds and decide to void their agreement, they are still guilty.

Clearly, the laws against conspiracy are not designed to combat crime, but to combat *thinking and talking about committing a crime.*

Conspiracy, of course, involves two or more people. But many crimes are committed solo. If the government had the capability of selectively reading minds, would it make the thinking about and planning of an illegal act a crime? And would it use such a law as a justification for using their mind-reading powers?

Suppose the government's thought scanners probed the mind of a man in a store and discovered he was casing the store and planning to come back later to rob it? Would that government arrest the man and charge him with planning a crime?

(continued on page 6)

WELCOME TO 1984 (*from page 5*)

By the logic (or illogic if you will) that justifies conspiracy laws, solo planning of a crime should also be a crime.

The flaw in conspiracy laws is that they equate thought with action. But in fact, the thinking about and planning of an action does *not* commit the person so thinking to carrying out the action. He may change his mind. Until a thought has been put into action, it is benign.

By enforcing conspiracy laws, our governments have made the thinking of certain thoughts and the verbal or written expression of such thoughts illegal. It is, in effect, an attempt at thought control. It is Orwell's "thoughtcrime" in embryo. In *principle*, there is no difference between conspiracy laws and the "thoughtcrimes" of 1984.

big brother is watching you!

The telescreens and other invasions of privacy of 1984 already have their precursor in today's wiretap laws. The police can and do obtain court orders authorizing them to listen in on private telephone conversations. They are also empowered to place listening devices (bugs) on private property.

Again, the purpose of wiretapping is not to prevent a violation of individual rights, but to weed out deviant thought. Wiretapping is the usual method for obtaining evidence in conspiracy cases.

The gross violation of privacy that this constitutes should be of grave concern to all unorthodox thinkers. You could be next on their list.

In Canada in particular we ought to be especially concerned with wiretapping. The police are required to report all wiretaps to the provincial attorney-general. In B.C. in 1978, there were 113 authorized wiretaps reported, up from 89 the previous year. In fact, Canadian police are seven times more likely to use wiretaps than their American counterparts.

And those are just the authorized wiretaps. How many unauthorized wiretaps are there? Do the police go on fishing expeditions and when they find

something, then seek an authorized tap? These questions should be thoroughly investigated. The MacDonald Royal Commission into illegal activities by the RCMP has shown that our famous mounties are not above breaking the law themselves. Not only do they regularly open people's mail, they even burn down barns when it suits their purpose.

a case in point

A recent case in Vancouver exemplifies the dangerous extent to which our pious police forces are willing to violate a person's privacy.

Former radio hotliner Ed Murphy, author of the best-selling *Legacy of Spending* and a director of HALT, was charged, along with a Vancouver business man, with conspiring to bribe a provincial cabinet minister. Murphy's phone was tapped for over a year (as well as the phones of the businessman and the cabinet minister). In the course of the investigation, a quarter of a million telephone conversations were recorded.

In court, the prosecutor readily conceded that no bribe was ever made or even attempted. The sole charge is conspiracy. Most of the evidence was obtained from wiretaps.

The evidence was extremely flimsy and, in this writer's opinion, Murphy will be acquitted when the judge renders his verdict March 6.

But what this case demonstrates quite clearly, is that the government can harrass anyone who is a thorn in the government's side on the flimsiest of reasons. And the police and the courts are not required to reveal the basis on which a particular wiretap is approved.

Did the RCMP have genuine suspicions in the Murphy case or did they go on a fishing expedition at the behest of a disgruntled Liberal senator? Your guess is as good as mine.

In an era when so many of our laws are worth breaking, and the thought of doing so occurs to most people regularly, conspiracy laws make criminals of all of us. Let's move to abolish thoughtcrime before 1984!