

# The Libertarian

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## CANADA SAVINGS BONDS: INSECURITY FOR THE FUTURE

Something is wrong with the current campaign by the federal government to flog Canada Savings Bonds. Dangerously wrong. Never have the feds been so anxious to get the public to roll over their CSB's rather than cash them in. Why?

One can do some accurate speculation. In 1968 and 1969 the government issued two series of CSB's — the S24 and SR series. Both met with difficulties shortly after their issue because people could get better interest elsewhere. In order to prevent a run on its CSB's, the government retroactively increased the rate of return and in 1974 added a cash bonus for all bonds held to maturity. So attractive was its offer that billions of dollars of bonds were held to maturity. These bonds matured this fall. For every \$100 face value the government has to pay back \$217.75. Where will that money come from?

Government has three sources of funds: taxation, inflation and borrowing. Taxing Canadians to pay back the bonds makes it too obvious that the government skipped town with the funds. Inflating the money supply is political suicide for the Liberal party at a time of double-digit inflation. So borrowing is the only way left. And who is there to borrow from but the holders of maturing CSB's?

To quote an advertising folder, "New Canada Savings Bonds are a safe, secure investment backed by the resources of Canada". Rubbish !! They are backed by nothing more than the power of government to tax us. If they were backed by something real like those cute little gold maple leaves on the folder, we could consider our investment safe. But tax revenue is hardly safe. In today's political climate with its tax resistance and protest movements, it is hardly prudent to rely on politicians to continue fleecing the lambs. Governments have defaulted on bonds in the past and will do so in the future as necessary.

In 1985 when the bonds reach maturity, our government will be faced with three alternatives: to repay the investor with inflated dollars, to default on the debt, or to increase taxes. Which option do you look forward to?

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*Mike Davison photo*

*New Home of the Libertarian Foundation. Every Friday night is open house. Drop by for an evening of interesting discussion.*

## FLASH: LIBERTARIAN ELECTED IN ALASKA

Nov. 7, 1978: Dick Randolph, running as a Libertarian candidate, has been elected to the Alaska State House of Representatives. Randolph will be one of six representatives from District 20, which covers an area about the size of Vermont and includes the city of Fairbanks.

Seventeen candidates, including four Libertarians, competed for the six positions. Randolph finished fifth with a vote count of 5962. The other three Libertarians also did well, Bruce Boyd finishing eighth with 5544 votes, Bruce Wammack tenth with 4927, and Butch Stein eleventh with 4697. Top vote getter was a Democrat with 8131 votes.

Dick Randolph is the first Libertarian to be elected to a state office anywhere. As one representative out of forty he will make an excellent conscience for the other thirty-nine, reminding them always of the principles upon which their great country was founded.

Mr. Randolph, we salute you and wish you success in your term of office.

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"Pollution and Property" by Oscar W. Cooley

THE LIBERTARIAN FOUNDATION:  
PROGRESS REPORT

**Libertarian Society of UBC**

Under the leadership of Cam Osborne, the Libertarian Society is making excellent progress. A recent fund-raising and promotional event was the showing of the film, "1984". Over 400 people attended, filling the Student Union theatre to standing room only. Articles by student libertarians have appeared in *The Ubysey*, the campus newspaper, and have sparked enough controversy to warrant replies from other readers. Each weekly meeting of the club attracts interested observers and new members. One such meeting featured a recorded debate between American libertarians and socialists; another featured a slide presentation by Gregg Goodfellow on his summer trip to the Soviet Union. More films, tape playings, seminars and social events have been planned for the future.

**1978 FEE Seminar**

Eighty-five Canadians and Americans attended the 1978 FEE Seminar at the Four Seasons Hotel on the October 27 weekend. They were educated and entertained by four representatives from The Foundation for Economic Education of New York state.

Leonard E. Read, the 80 year old founder of FEE, opened and closed the seminar. Mr. Read stressed FEE's method for spreading the ideas of liberty: self-improvement. He was ably backed by two full-time FEE lecturers; Robert G. Anderson and the Reverend E.A. Opitz, and non-staffer Dr. Hans Sennholz, a Professor of Economics at Grove City College, Pennsylvania.

The seminar was organized by FEE trustee Gregg MacDonald of Bellevue, Washington. The Libertarian Foundation assisted Gregg with activities north of the border. Praise for the seminar was high and we will try to make it an annual event in Vancouver.

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**Telephone Message**

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*Two Poems by Roxane Sanderson*

UNTITLED

*Take me away.  
Watch for the unspoken admission.  
Define the subversive attitude and  
leave me screaming in a room of broken words,  
but "Freedom is not Slavery".*

GOLD OVER GOD

*The Prisoner  
wears his dungeon as a  
crown of thorns  
for he is  
the hero.  
Of righteousness,  
one is not assured.  
But faith is the influencing factor.  
At least our lack of it  
is his gain  
and eternity does not last for  
ever.*

*His wiry mop turned white,  
a step slowed and stumbled,  
but his eyes are still the fire of beginning  
and is too close  
but welcomed.*

*He thanks his man in black and  
hands a sovereign for the exit.  
The knife is quick and sharp,  
the head rolls clear of  
bleeding — hearts weep  
for the martyr,  
who fell fast for his god,  
fell fast for a sovereign.*

## DULLARDS & SENSE

by Bill Buckler, Jr.

Frank Calder, the Social Credit representative for Atlin, B.C. has spent 25 years in the Provincial Legislature . He attributes this political longevity, in part, to a somewhat unusual source: the 1500 outhouses in Atlin. Apparently, Mr. Calder urges his constituents to keep his political literature in the outhouse as reading material. I wonder if, in emergencies, this literature serves another, perhaps more useful, function.

\*\*\*\*

Idi's at it again ! President Amin has requested that kamikaze pilots be sent to Uganda to help train his fledgling Air Force. According to Radio Uganda, Emperor Hirohito has reacted favourably to the "request". This is a great coup for Idi and his boys. The Ugandan Air Force pilots will now be crashing their planes on purpose instead of accidentally.

\*\*\*\*

Canada's first Prime Minister, John A. MacDonald, had a cabinet of 12 and a civil service of 330.

Pierre Elliot Trudeau, the present resident of 24 Sussex Drive, has a cabinet of 31 and a civil service of 435,103 !!

I've heard of "going forth and multiplying" but that's ridiculous !

\*\*\*\*

At a recent Socialist International Congress (held at one of

Vancouver's most opulent hostelries, the Hyatt Regency) a delegate was heard to remark, while picking his teeth over dinner: "This is how we want the whole world to live. Nothing is too good for the workers". Yes comrade, and nothing is what the workers will get as long as people like you WANT.

\*\*\*\*

Mary Wright, a University of Western Ontario psychologist, says that teenagers and some other groups should be licensed before being allowed to have a child. In other words, she wants the state to have the sole power to determine who is "adequate" to raise children. Big sister is watching US.

\*\*\*\*

Mr. Bernie Cobin, widely known as Harry Hammer, the Warehouseman, will keep his furniture store open in defiance of Vancouver's Sunday closing bylaw. Mr. Cobin, who has been open on Sundays for the past ten years, has vowed to fight the city edict all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, if necessary. He expects to be the only city furniture store open on Sunday Nov. 12, the day that the law goes into effect. Another refreshing example of a man with the courage of his convictions.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "No Canadian politician can be bought — you rent them." Dave Broadfoot

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## OUR READERS INQUIRE

*What would be the Libertarian solution to the problem of postal strikes ?*

The first thing to recognize when looking for a solution to any problem is its root cause. This is certainly true with the post office. Canadians have already been amply provided with superficial theories as to the cause of, and the solution to, the problem. Basically, they fall into two categories:

- a) incompetent and intractable management, insensitive to the needs and desires of the workers, the situation made worse by the fact that the workers must bargain under the Civil Service Act rather than the Labour Act. The solution: convert Canada Post into crown corporation.
- b) power-hungry, intractable union leadership and lazy, mutinous, communist workers who see themselves in a position to hold the Canadian public up to ransom. The solution: remove the right to strike in "essential services".

These ideas contain a kernel of truth, but miss the point. The solutions offered can do no more than prolong the agony and will ultimately fail.

*(continued on page 8)*

## POLLUTION AND PROPERTY

by Oscar W. Cooley

IN ALL THE WELTER of worry about "the environment," seldom is property and its relevance to pollution mentioned.

To own property is to have a measure of control over a definable portion of one's environment. If one has property, he has a degree of power to prevent his environment from being despoiled. Indeed, the purpose of property, it seems, is to enable man, the owner, to bring environment under control and make it yield up a maximum of satisfactions.

It has often been noted that people pollute least — that is, take best care of — that part of the environment which they themselves own. The householder is more solicitous of the home he owns than the renter is of the house in which he is but a temporary tenant. A family which, on a picnic, might leave litter in a public park and beer cans by the roadside will not dump waste on their own front lawn.

Is it possible, one might ask, for an owner to "pollute" his own property? To the extent that it is his to utilize as he sees fit, whatever he does with it will be, in his view, its best use. And when a resource is being put to its best use, it can hardly be said to be "polluted."

If I deliberately pipe sewage into a pond on my own land, presumably I consider using the pond as a cesspool to be its optimum use. Hence, there is no abuse, no pollution. If however, either purposely or inadvertently I allow my sewage to flow into a neighbor's pond, against his will, I am without question polluting. I am lowering the value of his property. The obvious remedy is for him to assert his property right and ask me to cease; if I do not, he may ask the public authorities, a major function of which is to protect his and everyone's property rights, to enjoin my action. This is the normal way in which property is protected in a civilized society.

### A Private Lake Erie?

If, now, the pond is Lake Erie and has no specific owner, but is said to be "social property" or "in the public domain," people will take a quite different attitude. To pollute it is to injure well-nigh everyone in general but no one in particular. "Everyone" does not go to court and seek injunction. Hence, it seems one may pollute this "pond" with impunity, there being no owner to object. And so it becomes a public sewer.

As such, it is at first very useful, for the dilution is so great that no harm is evident; but as the sewage content of the water increases, injury is done to those who would

drink the water, to would-be bathers, to fisherman whose catch dwindles, to hunters of waterfowl, and even to people who live along the banks. None of them takes action, however, mainly because he does not consider that he owns that body of water. He does not consider that it is his to utilize and that he can therefore exclude — and enlist the State to help him exclude — all others from its use. In short, Lake Erie is unlike the farm pond, it is not private property. That is why it is polluted. It is public domain, and the public domain easily becomes a public dump.

If, now, Lake Erie were converted into private property — let us assume it becomes the recognized property of the "Lake Erie Company," which proves itself the legal heir of those who bought it from the aborigines — we would have a quite different situation. The company would want to maximize income from the lake, as from a tract of owned farm land, residential property, forest, coal-bearing land, or other asset. It might do so by selling rights to fish, to sail, to bathe, to transport passengers or freight, and by selling water to cities. It would undoubtedly improve its property by stocking with desirable species of fish, deepening ship channels, improving beaches, and so forth.

The owner would naturally strive to conserve its lake property in the most practical ways possible, so that it would reap a generous income, both now and in the future. At the moment, it might pay to sell to the cities along the lake the right to use it as a sewer; but this would threaten the future income to be gleaned year after year from the fishermen, bathers, shippers, boaters, drinkers, and other potential users. Only if the cities would pay the company a sum greater than the present value of all the streams of anticipated future income would the lake be turned into a sewer; and that, one may surmise, would cost such cities as Cleveland and Toledo a pretty penny.

In all the voluminous literature of conservation, seldom is it pointed out that only under private ownership are the resources of the earth most fully conserved, since it is the private owner who has the keenest incentive to maximize his returns *in future* as well as at present. This is because the private owner is conscious of having sacrificed to get his property, a fact which has indelibly impressed upon him that it is a scarce good, to be carefully husbanded. Public property, on the other hand, is regarded by the public as a "free good," unlimited in amount both now and forever. Since it belongs to everyone, no one person can prevent others from using it. Hence, each reasons that he had better get his while the getting is good, that is, now. The result, far from conservation, is rapid exploitation and waste.

### Correction by Law

Environmentalists are wont to visualize land, water and air being protected and conserved by police action. Laws will be enacted — wise laws, enacted by socially minded legislators who somehow are gifted with the knowledge of just how each natural resource should be utilized to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number, both now and in the future. These laws will set the private, profit-seeking polluting entrepreneur back on his heels. Once such laws are passed and enforced, the problem of pollution will melt away. This is the politician's solution to what is essentially an economic problem.

Undoubtedly, changes in the laws are needed. Certainly we need changes which will spell out and define the rights of property owners more clearly and specifically than has been done up to the present. For example, just what are the property rights in a flowing stream? In a body of shifting air? In the ocean deep? In the fish that swim, birds that fly, animals that wander now largely at will about the environment? The present laws of property are concerned mainly with the solid land, but this constitutes only about one-fourth of the earth's surface and represents an even smaller fraction of her resources.

Gordon Tullock in his booklet, *The Fisheries... Some Radical Proposals* (Columbia, S. C.: Univ. of South Carolina) now out of print, foresees the privatizing of the ocean fisheries. Once the ocean, at least the shallower parts of it, is divided into privately owned plots — and Tullock suggests in some detail how this might be done — it will be "farmed" much more productively than it is at present, he believes.

There was a time when man allowed the land to produce what it would — animals, birds, trees, fruits — and he hunted the product. But it was a laborious and hazardous business, and one may imagine every family ranging over many square miles to bag a living. Then, man learned to domesticate animals and to till the soil and grow crops. This vastly increased his production. But as to fish and other sea wealth, both organic and inorganic, we are still

*Mr. Cooley is Associate Professor of Economics at Ohio Northern University.*

largely in the hunter stage. We have harnessed only a small fraction of the earth's resources, yet we are already obsessed with the threat of over-population.

### The Origin of Property Rights

As man evolved from hunter to herdsman to tiller, he devised property in land, for only as each could exercise control over his little corner of the environment could he be sure of reaping where he had sown. As Harold Demsetz<sup>1</sup> puts it: "Property rights arise when it becomes economic for those affected by externalities to internalize benefits and costs." He cites Eleanor Leacock's study of the Indians of eastern Canada. In early days, when they hunted merely for food and a few furs for themselves, conservation of wildlife did not pay, and hence they hunted far and wide, recognizing no property in land. But when the white man came and the fur trade became profitable, hunting lands and even individual beaver houses were allotted to families. In the language of economics, they internalized external costs and benefits. The cattle grazing industry acted similarly when the cattlemen discontinued the "free range" and fenced their individual holdings.

Man has been slow to define property rights in water and air, not only because of its seeming inexhaustibility, but also because of its fluidity. It is recognized, however, that an owner has a right to pure water on his land, even though it flows from his neighbour's land. In like manner, a householder has a property right to pure air over his house and lot, for what would the latter be worth if overlaid with a vacuum? The growing insistence that power plants, steel mills, and the like cease polluting their neighbours' air is a recognition of this right.

To pollute my neighbours' land, air, or water is to trespass on his property. The rights of property need to be more sharply delineated and respect for them intensified. For maximum protection and conservation, resources now said to be in the public domain should be reassigned to the private domain.

Not the socialists but the capitalists have the solution to pollution !

In "Toward a Theory of Property Rights," *American Economic*

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rumblings

— by Richard Bolstler

### **De-Socializing Medicine**

Medicare has always been portrayed as an example of how socialism and capitalism blend together so well in our mixed economy. Universal health care was to be provided for just a few pennies a day by implementing a government run medical insurance program. However, cracks in the theory of socialized health insurance have become gaping chasms when put into practice.

One such Grand Canyon is the growing disenchantment of the physicians who must work under the system. Consider the following statistics from Great Britain:

On a piecemeal basis, a British general surgeon gets \$4.50 per operation and \$0.30 cents for each outpatient seen.

British G.P.'s get \$0.60 cents per consultation; electricians get \$6.65 for the first 15 minutes.

British physicians get \$8.50 for house calls between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Veterinary physicians get \$48.00 for such visits.

The real purchasing power of British doctors has fallen by 26% in the past 30 months.<sup>1</sup>

Canadian physicians, too, are aware of their decline in purchasing power over the past decade. Dr. Peter Lommerse, past-president of the Manitoba Medical Association, captures the feeling of despair in his profession: "Of course one wonders about what money values people put upon us. In eight years in group practice at Killarney (Manitoba) our net has increased 1.7% whereas the net of nurses has increased over 60% in that time. Not only that, but in the last twelve months, I'm earning 1.7% less up to July 1, 1978 . . . To sum up our problem, we seem to be of diminishing importance; we seem to have no say in our future; there seems to be no plan to improve our future except to steadily nip away at our work, and we are steadily moving to the poverty line".<sup>2</sup>

Predictably, a decline in purchasing power of the physician would result in a decline in the quality of health care. A recent report released by the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons showed that many of the complaints against practitioners in Alberta were that the physician does

1. Western Medical News, *International Report*, September 1978.
2. Western Medical News, *Plight of the rural general practitioner in Manitoba*, September 1978.

not spend enough time with his patients and in particular enough time in explanatory discussions of the patient's disease. In attempting (unsuccessfully) to protect their earnings physicians are examining more patients in the same time thus reducing the overall quality of care.

The President of the Hamilton Academy of Medicine, J. Douglas Bell, goes so far as to recommend that all Ontario physicians opt out of OHIP. Says Bell, "Not to opt out means continued servitude and harassment. There will never be economic justice for physicians as long as they deal directly with CHIP and government. For the sake of yourself and the community you serve, set yourself free. Opt out of OHIP".<sup>3</sup>

These are strong words, spoken by men who feel pushed to the wall. Anti-medicare sentiments have become strong enough to prompt the formation of a political action group called the Canadian Association for Independence in Medicine, or CAI-MED. CAI-MED was formed in Vernon, B.C. on May 20, 1978 by a number of physicians across Canada, who oppose the socialization of medicine in this country. Their primary purpose is "to work to maintain the private practice of medicine and to mobilize the support of physicians in the various provinces who are appalled by developments which have occurred during the last decade, since the introduction of a monopoly health plan - Medicare - in Canada."

CAI-MED wants to keep government out of the affairs of organized medicine and is striving to create a system in which the physician deals directly with his patient in respect of financial matters. CAI-MED, according to President Geoffrey Dawrant, is "to become a lobby or pressure group to crystallize the sentiments and articulate the views of the many physicians across Canada who oppose socialized medicine." Dr. Dawrant is in private practice in Edmonton and is one of the founders of CAI-MED. Under his outspoken leadership, CAI-MED should provide, as Dr. Dawrant puts it, "the means to escape from under the heavy hand of government."

What has been clear to libertarians for many years is now becoming clear to the medical profession - socialized medicine is a mistake. It has made pencil pushers and form fillers out of doctors. It has brought about a declining quality of health care. It has driven doctors out of Canada. It has provided nothing but headaches and frustrations for the forgotten man of socialized medicine - the physician. The individual is always forgotten in any socialized field of

3. The Medical Post, *Opt out of OHIP Hamilton MDs told*, September 26, 1978.

(continued on page 8)

## THE LIBERTARIAN'S BOOK REVIEW

**Defending the Undefendable by Walter Block (\$11.15)**

"Something to Offend Everyone" says the banner across the dust jacket of Walter Block's witty and intriguing book, **Defending the Undefendable**. Indeed, this book has even offended many libertarians who consider it an embarrassment to the movement. Sharon Presley, Libertarian Feminist, declares the book "frivolous and insensitive". Economist Walter Grinder calls it "an absolutely mad way of introducing someone to libertarianism". On the other hand, Roger Lea MacBride, Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate in 1976, calls it "Drano for Clogged Minds, except that Drano is neither amusing nor stimulating, and this book is both". John Hospers, philosopher and author of *Libertarianism*, says it is "eminently readable, challenging and provocative"

Actually, both sides are right. The book is challenging and provocative. It is also frivolous at times and occasionally wrong.

Block's thesis is that many of the reviled members of society are mistakenly maligned. Each short chapter is a defense of one of these despised characters (32 in all). Block argues that none of these characters initiates force or commits fraud and hence none are guilty of wrongdoing. Further, he argues that they perform a beneficial service. Because they perform useful services in face of great odds, Block calls them heroes.

Unfortunately, the 32 characters Block defends make up a very mixed bag. Some do perform a function for which there is a market. The advertiser, the slumlord, the importer, the middleman, even the prostitute and the drug pusher, all perform services for which people voluntarily pay. Block dispels the fog of misconceptions about these occupations brilliantly.

But some others in Block's rogues' gallery are not such angels as he portrays them. He uses a semantic argument to defend the person who yells "fire" in a crowded theatre. He doesn't really defend the right of anyone to walk into

any crowded theatre and shout "fire" at all. He defends the right of theatre owners to permit such disruptions if they so choose. And that is *not* the same thing.

He defends the male chauvinist pig because the MCP properly opposes laws requiring bars to admit women against the wishes of the owner. But this is a minor aspect of the MCP. Over all, the chauvinist attitude towards women is collectivist and anti-libertarian in spirit. To call such a character a hero is a travesty of justice. One wonders why Block neglected to defend the racist bigot, who is really of the same ilk as the chauvinist. After all, he opposes forced busing. Perhaps that one was too "hot" for Block to handle.

The chapter to which I took the greatest exception was the defense of the counterfeiter. Block argues that fiat money is not genuine money at all and is a counterfeit of genuine money. Thus counterfeiting is justified because the counterfeiter is counterfeiting what is already counterfeit. His argument is flawed, though, for the counterfeiter is still perpetrating a fraud, passing off as genuine fiat money that which is not genuine fiat money.

Block argues further that rampant counterfeiting would destroy the government fiat money system and is therefore beneficial. "Although a few individuals may suffer a loss from this activity," he says, "on balance, the activity of the private counterfeiter is more beneficial than harmful." If even one individual is harmed by the private counterfeiter, libertarians must reject counterfeiting as an immoral activity. Block's argument here is utilitarian and collectivistic and has no place in a purportedly libertarian book.

In spite of these serious flaws, the book makes entertaining and stimulating reading. Rodrigues' hilarious cartoons alone are worth the price of the book. But read it critically and cautiously. Mixed in with the brilliant insights and analyses is some semantic sophistry.

— reviewed by Marco den Ouden

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*Our Readers Inquire (from page 3)*

The basis of the libertarian solution lies in recognizing the root of the problem, the fact that the post office is a coercive monopoly. We know that Canada Post is the only deliverer of mail in Canada, but few of us have stopped to ask why. If we did, we would find out that no one else is allowed, by law, to deliver mail in Canada. The Postal Act declares the mail to be an essential service and sets up Canada Post as a department of the Federal Government to perform that service. It also specifies that Canada Post will be the only agency to perform that service.

If anyone then wonders about Purolator Courier or Bankers' Dispatch, they may rest assured that they too are covered under the legislation. Under the Act, the Minister has the power to deem that certain classes of written communication are not mail under the definition of the act, thus freeing private carriers to handle them. This means, of course, that the Minister has the power to deem the reverse and shut all the private expresses down any time he cares to.

The main characteristic of a coercive monopoly is the fact that entry into the marketplace is restricted or prohibited by the force of government. This is also the chief cause of the havoc wrought by postal strikes. It is only when a monopoly exists in the provision of some service that a strike in that service will disrupt it over the entire marketplace. The United Auto Workers can strike Ford, GM, or Chrysler, or even all three, but because there is so much competition to provide automobiles to the Canadian public it is impossible for such a strike to cut off all supplies. Because Canada Post is a coercive monopoly the CUPW leadership can prevent all Canadians from receiving their mail; no one else can step in to fill the vacuum.

Therefore, the Libertarian solution to the problem of postal strikes begins with abolishing the Canada Post monopoly of

mail delivery and ceasing all government subsidies for its operations. Some purists may object to this, saying that Canada Post should be abolished outright: this is consistent with the Libertarian ideal, but it is unnecessary. The present state of government postal service is such that if the laws stifling competition were repealed, many competitors would spring up providing better service or lower rates and the Canada Post would soon lose much of its business. Without subsidies it would simply be unable to operate.

— Robin Gillespie

*Rumblings (from page 6)*

human action. If people as educated and organized as those in the medical profession are feeling harassed to the point of quitting their profession or their country, what does the prospect of a socialized Canada hold for those of lesser fortunes? Certainly not a vision of prosperity and happiness.

Canada needs more groups such as CAI-MED. For it will only be after doctors, lawyers, dentists, teachers, university professors, business leaders, and all other professionals organize for the purpose of reversing the process of government involvement in all of our lives, that we will be able to create a nation founded on principles of personal liberty. How refreshing to see that it is happening.

For those interested in finding out more about CAI-MED, write to:

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