

west
coast



Libertarian

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION

April, 1981
Volume I, Number 3

Libertarian Supper Club

What One Person Can Do

On March 21 Peterborough Libertarian activist Sally Hayes addressed the second meeting of the Libertarian Supper Club of Vancouver. Twenty-six guests listened to Mrs. Hayes' discussion of the role of the individual in libertarian activism. She pointed out that one person can in fact have considerable influence on political events.

She mentioned her personal indignation at Senator Edward Kennedy's proposal of a Medicare program for the US and the way he cited Canada as an example of how Medicare has worked successfully. Ever since the introduction of Medicare in Ontario, Sally has been keeping a file of newspaper clippings on its effects on the state of health care in the province.

She noted that over 90% of the population had private insurance before the introduction of Medicare. The post-Medicare situation resulted in bureaucratic tangles, an exodus of doctors from the province, and a deterioration in the quality of medical care. The Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP) created so much dissatisfaction among Ontario doctors that a considerable number have opted out of the program.

To counter Kennedy's allegations she wrote a letter to the editor of every major newspaper in the US refuting the claims of the Senator using her collected documentation. Many newspapers published her letter and the Colorado Medical Association reprinted her letter in a brochure entitled "The Truth from Canada", copies of which were placed in the waiting rooms of most doctors' offices in the state.

This brochure was published shortly before a visit by Senator Kennedy to Colorado to promote his plans. Needless to say, he was not well-received.

She also related how her husband, John Hayes, addressed a Peterborough city council meeting and persuaded the council to refuse to subsidize a local artist to the tune of \$5000. He threatened to withhold his business taxes if such a grant was made.

Perhaps the best example of effective action by an individual was Mrs. Hayes' battles with the Metric Commissars. Peterborough was one of the three test centers for metrication several years ago. The local reaction to forced metrication was unfavorable and she took the time to document the expenses involved in the program and to launch an effective movement to stop compulsory metrication.

Operation HUMBUG (Help Undo Metrication -- Bug your MP) was instrumental in convincing Peterborough MP Bill Domm and former Minister of Small Business Ron Huntington to become outspoken critics of the program.

Metrication has effectively been delayed two years as a result of HUMBUG's efforts. 1982 is now slated as a target date for metrication in 37 cities across Canada. But Sally Hayes has not quit yet. Her organization continues to grow and will not cease until compulsory metrication is stopped and the Metric Commission abolished.

Her talk inspired her listeners to realize that speaking out on issues is not merely crying in the wilderness. Sally Hayes is an excellent example of what one person can do.

(For more information on HUMBUG write:

Operation HUMBUG
677 Crown Drive
Peterborough, Ontario

Census '81: Costly Invasion of Privacy

by Walter Boytinck

The Census is scandalous. It is the self-indulgence of some bureaucrats who would like a lot of information from us to keep themselves busy and to justify their salaries.

It is time that all Canadians "stand up and be counted" not by nose-y bureaucrats but by protesting this waste of money to collect largely irrelevant but often very private information.

The questions to which these bureaucrats want answers go far beyond their proper authority. Under Section 8 of the B.N.A. Act, it states that the population of the provinces shall be counted. That means that they count me, my wife, and my four children. Nothing else.

"Census" in one dictionary means "the official counting or enumeration of people" and it is referred to in the B.N.A. Act because the basis of representation in the House of Commons is to be by population. The census should be restricted to the constitutionally mandated enumeration every ten years. That means counting heads -- nothing else.

The 1976 Census cost \$86 million. \$20 million was spent on designing the form. One 1981 form is six pages long, while the other, which every fifth householder will be asked to complete, is 24 pages long!

The bureaucrats are going too far in the scope of questions they want us to answer. They have no business asking who is visiting you temporarily or whether you live in a house, tent or a railroad car. Other questions asked include:

- what your income is from wages, etc.
- what your religion is
- whether your house needs repairs (whose doesn't?)
- what your mortgage payments are
- how many bathrooms you have
- what you would expect to sell your house for
- your educational level
- where you lived 5 years ago
- how many children you have
- the date of your first marriage
- how many hours you worked last week

Much of this information is already available. For instance, names are with the Registrar of Births or the Department of Immigration. The names of those who have died are registered with the Registrar of

Deaths. Information on a person's marital status is also available elsewhere.

Mother tongue information should be readily available from immigration statistics and birthdates and sex distribution could be had from other sources.

Only interventionist governments need mountains of statistics. Consumers and businessmen, being part of the marketplace, make little use of government-gathered statistics. In 1976, approximately 59% of statistics were used by other government departments.

Bureaucrats and central planners, who are really outside of the market place, need statistics so that they can "plan" the lives of others.

When will government stop this waste of our hard-earned dollars? What will you do about it?

Walter J. Boytinck is a Vancouver lawyer and Vice-president of Human Action to Limit Taxes.

WALTER BLOCK ACTIVE DEBATER

GVLA member Walter Block has been busy lately. During the week of March 23 he defended the cause of liberty to public audiences three times in his capacity of Senior Economist at the Fraser Institute.

On March 24 Walter debated Alderman Bruce York on the issue of central planning in front of a UBC audience of sixty. Two days later at Langara College, he participated in a debate on rent controls, presenting the same cogent arguments he gave us at the Libertarian Supper club. The next day he presented Libertarian ideas to UBC's law students.

While many listeners were hostile to libertarian ideas, there were an equal number who seemed sympathetic and interested. At the debates, the votes taken were divided almost evenly.

Make plans to attend a public debate or meeting in which Walter is participating. They are a good opportunity hear Libertarian ideas pitted against the ideology of statism.

Watch for announcements in the West Coast Libertarian.

Amiel Addresses Fraser Luncheon

by Robin Gillespie

On March 24 the Fraser Institute opened its annual General Meeting. The keynote of the day was the address by Barbara Amiel, the noted journalist and author.

After a hot lunch, Ms. Amiel chilled a roomful of business leaders, media representatives and others with a presentation entitled "Canada: Newest Immigrant to the Third World".

With a title like that, one might have expected to hear about Prime Minister Trudeau's concern for the poor of the Third World and his recent tour of various countries promising them stacks of our money as aid.

In fact, this was hardly mentioned. What Ms. Amiel told us was more alarming. She described a program extending back through various liberal governments to Lester Pearson, a program to transform Canada culturally, economically and ideologically into a third world country.

The program got its real impetus from Trudeau when he decided he did not want to lead an insignificant Western democracy but would rather be the leader of the Third World. Because he couldn't stomach moving to the likes of Uganda or Mozambique he decided to turn Canada into a third world country.

The beginning, in the 1960s, was a campaign to convince us that Canada was little better than a colony. American cultural and economic imperialism were holding us down. In this phase the Trudeau government openly aligned itself with the Soviets. On an official visit to Moscow Trudeau spoke of the need for closer ties with the USSR as a counterbalance to our dependence on the USA.

This tactic has taken an interesting turn lately in the great constitutional debate and we are now being told we are under the colonial thumb of the British. This is so ludicrous that the present public acceptance of it defies belief.

The creation of a scapegoat is an important part of socializing a country. Socialist Lenin's scapegoats were the Romanoffs and the White Russians. Socialist Stalin's were the kulaks, the Nazi Germans and the imperialist Americans. Hitler's scapegoats were the Jews and the Communist Russians.

Directing attention and public hatred toward the scapegoat makes the people



Barbara Amiel

amenable to any government policy that harms the scapegoat, no matter what its consequences for the country. It is an interesting test to take some of our recent anti-American propaganda and for "American" substitute "Jew".

Along with this scapegoating went a government and media attempt to change Canada's basic value system and culture. No more was hard work to be encouraged, industry to be congratulated, success to be rewarded. Instead of immigrants from the Third World being encouraged to adapt to their new country, our culture is being changed to suit them. Instrumental in this process are the provincial Human Rights Commissions with their coercive powers and seemingly insatiable desire to trample those rights, particularly freedom of speech.

It is quite clear that government policy is ruining Canada's economy. However, Ms. Amiel would not assert that this is deliberate. She insists, rather that it is irrelevant to this "Third World mentality." Ideological considerations are all and the practical result of a policy count for nothing.

As an example of this attitude, she offered a conversation she had in Mozambique with a pair of Oxford-accented officials from a neighboring country. They were extolling the virtues of Marxism and praising the Frelimo for creating the first truly Marxist state in Africa. Remembering the people she had seen starving in the streets of Maputo, she asked if these policies weren't failures and wouldn't the people be better off with capitalism. The reply: "We don't care about the results; it

(continued on page 4)

(from page 3)

is the spirit that counts."

How have Canadians been gulled into participating in this program? Why do we continue to support regimes which hold the poor of the Third World hostage to their Marxist ideology?

By the use of guilt. Our ideology of (relative) freedom has allowed us to progress far beyond the unfree world. Now we are told that we have succeeded at their expense, that we bred their misery. This guilt for having caused their plight is offered to us as the sole reason for helping those less fortunate.

In Canada, far more than in the US, the communications industry is dominated by these liberal guilt-pushers. The result is media which unquestioningly accept the official view on these matters and present it as gospel. Ms. Amiel told the members that the Fraser Institute is almost the only counterbalance to this takeover of Canadian media.

What we need are private organizations such as Accuracy In Media, journals such as Public Interest, and most importantly, writers, editors, directors, and producers who will break this monopoly in the media and present the genuine liberal view.

Ms. Amiel calls for a reversal of this

tide, a reversal that we must create ourselves. "Let the Third World learn from us the lessons that we have to learn all over again; that success, learning and excellence are to be emulated, not punished. Liberal democracy is so far the best system of government an imperfect world has ever devised. Unless we start now to fight this guilt and the relentless attempt to turn our liberal democracy into the collective society, we too will be inside a prison, contemplating the exquisite wonders of the freedom we once knew."

The West Coast Libertarian is the monthly newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association, an affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Canada.

Subscriptions are free of charge to members of the GVLA, \$6 per year for non-members.

EDITOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Cam Osborne
Marco den Ouden



the greater vancouver
LIBERTARIAN association

1027-B Alderson Ave., Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 1V8