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Libertarian

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Libertarians Protest Census

On June 3 Libertarians in Toronto and Vancouver held demonstrations outside the offices of Statistics Canada to protest the 1981 Census.

In Toronto Linda Cain, leader of the Libertarian Party of Canada, held a press conference on May 25 to denounce the Census as "an intolerable violation of our civil liberties."

She attacked the \$95 million cost of the Census, almost \$2 million of which went to advertising "to gull Canadians into believing that they can choose to stand up and be counted, when in fact the only option they are given is to lie down and be numbered...or else." About 150 people turned out in Toronto to protest on June 3.

Our organization in Vancouver started a few days later with a press release distributed on June 1 to announce the protest. GVLA secretary Marco den Ouden told the press that the Census was a "gross violation of the individual's right to privacy". The \$95 million cost, he declared, was enough to buy every household over ten litres of milk or a roast or almost ten gallons of gasoline.

The press release sparked extensive media coverage, the most notable of which was a front page banner headline in the June 2 Province reading "COUNT US OUT, CENSUS RESISTANCE GROUP SAYS". Marco was interviewed by CKLG and CFUN radio stations, which carried the story several times during the day, and by KVOS-TV which ran a sympathetic news feature on their 10:30 Report that evening.

Long time census fighter Walter Boytinck was interviewed on CKVU's Vancouver Show by
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Vancouver Sun photo says it all

Census (from page 1)

Laurier Lapierre on June 2. Walter tried carefully to explain his objections to the census and his concern with a citizen's right to trial by jury. He argued that a jury would never convict someone on a charge of refusing to file a census form. But interviewer Lapierre constantly interrupted Boytinck and badgered him, barely giving him a chance to get a word in edgewise. Lapierre concluded smugly, "Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like you to meet Walter Boytnick [sic]. He is a criminal." In spite of Lapierre's offensive conduct Walter handled himself quite well.

Many irate libertarians phoned CKVU to complain about its rude and inconsiderate interviewer. Several will be writing letters as well.

June 3 was Census Resistance Day for the local Libertarian movement and at noon several activists and sympathizers turned out to carry placards in front of the Statistics Canada building. The bright red and black signs carried such slogans as "Big Brother is Counting You", "Get Government Out of the Bathrooms of the Nation," and "Privacy is a Right, not a Privilege."

The press was there in numbers and several of the demonstrators were interviewed. BCTV ran a feature story on the census on their Newshour and included scenes of the demonstration and comments from the protestors.

The Province ran a short blurb noting that there were more press people than protestors but the Sun ran a photo and a fair report pointing out the Libertarian objections to the census. The report quoted Marco as saying the Census had "a potential for danger. How would you feel if you were in Germany in 1935 and the government asked you what your religion was?"

The GVLA's first foray into activism received considerable publicity and several new libertarian contacts were made. It should be considered a great success. Thanks and congratulations to all who participated, and a special note of appreciation to Marco who organized and coordinated the protest.

Statistics are the eyes and ears of the interventionists: of the intellectual reformer, the politician and the government bureaucrat.

-Murray N. Rothbard

Summer Barbeque

There was an overwhelming response to the idea of continuing our Supper club throughout the summer.

In view of many people's desire for something different, the next Supper Club meeting will be an outdoor barbecue. There will be no speaker. Rather, the occasion will be an opportunity to mix and get better acquainted and generally to have a good time.

This will be a "Bring your own steak and wine" affair. There will be a side buffet of baked potatoes, green salad, hors d'oeuvres, and French bread.

The barbecue will take place on July 18 at 6:00 p.m. As yet a location has not yet been found. If anyone would like to offer their back yard it would be greatly appreciated. Please phone Marco at 937-0529 if you can help with this.

There will be a nominal charge of \$2.00 to cover the cost of the side buffet.

Plan to attend, and bring any friends who might like to meet libertarians. Please phone and let us know if you're coming... and hope for sunshine!

Dear Maclean's:

Viva Amiel !!

Barbara Amiel was in town for three days recently to promote the paperback edition of her book Confessions. GVLA Vice-President Robin Gillespie talked at length with her and spoke at the last Supper Club meeting of her constant struggles with Maclean's editor Peter Newman in trying to maintain her editorial independence (and, not incidentally, her job).

It seems that she is kept on as a writer purely at the whim of Newman, who does not like her at all. The only reason he keeps her is that she is consistently rated the most popular writer on the magazine when it does periodic surveys. Letters, particularly favorable ones, help her to keep her job.

We cannot afford to lose one of the few libertarian voices in the national media. We suggest that fans of Miss Amiel write to Macleans whenever a column or article of hers particularly impresses them.

Law Society Assailed

Jack James, Vancouver lawyer and outspoken critic of the Law Society of B.C.'s position on advertising, thoroughly entertained and enlightened an audience of 23 at the third meeting of the Libertarian Supper Club on May 29.

James started with a chronological account of the battles of his friend and fellow lawyer Don Jabour and himself against the Society. Jabour was the first to be prosecuted for advertising. And he was acquitted. This prompted James to place a few ads in newspapers to launch the "Law Shoppe".

But Jabour's acquittal was appealed and overturned and James in turn was also charged. He was convicted of "conduct unbecoming a member of the Law Society" and fined for advertising. He was later charged with having a corporate logo. James pointed out the hypocrisy of this charge by showing the audience a letter on Law Society

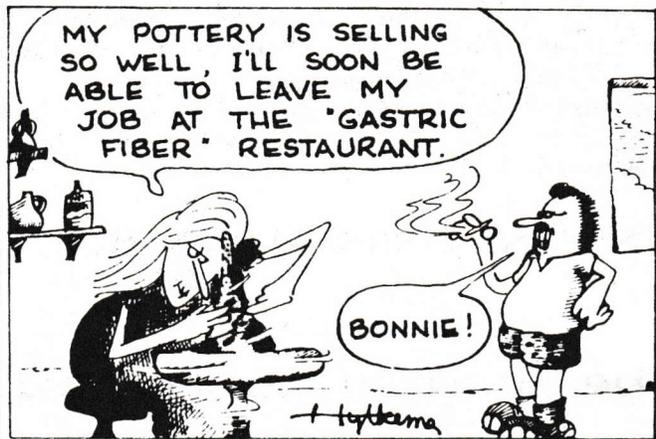
letterhead. Lo and behold, it had a logo at the top.

But the harrassment was not to stop. James was told he could not use "The Law Shoppe" as a trade name for his practice. The word "shoppe" smacked of crass commercialism, and was unacceptable to the stuffed shirt hierarchy of the Law Society.

However, James also owns Self-Counsel Press, which publishes books on law for the layman. To get around the ban on the use of the trade name "The Law Shoppe" James retained it as the name for a book store. His law practice, under the designation "Jack James, Attorney" operates out of offices at the back of "The Law Shoppe". A sign inside the store distinguishes between the two. As the Law Society has no jurisdiction over book stores, the shop remains in business. "If they wanted to play silly games," said James, "I decided to oblige."
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Randall K. Hylkema



Supper Club (from page 3)

James also related how the Law Society cracked down on an enterprising fellow who financed divorces and hired a lawyer to do the legal work. The Society forbade the lawyer from doing business with the financier by passing a regulation prohibiting "steerage."

The relationship between James and the Law Shoppe is not one of steerage, however and plans are underway for the store to advertise. One advertising slogan being considered is "We may not win your case for you, but we'll lose it for less!" How the Law Society handles this will be interesting to watch.

After his talk, James answered questions. As a prelude to criticism of James' support for mandatory membership in the Society, despite its failings, Walter Block praised James for integrating a principled stand into his business operation. James protested that he wasn't acting out of particular devotion to principle but because

he hoped to "make a good buck" doing so. His honest and blunt response was greeted with enthusiastic applause from the audience and a comment that "making a buck" was an honorable principle in itself.

Coming back to his criticism, Walter compared James' attempts at reforming the Law Society to the complaint of the galley slave who called for softer whips rather than for the abolition of slavery. The abolition of compulsory membership in the Society is the only permanent method of eliminating abuses by the Society, it was suggested.

Walter also insisted that James was, in fact, acting on principles other than simply "making a buck", and offered that James might be making more money by following the establishment route. James conceded that this might be so but, he said, "it wouldn't be nearly as much fun!"

On that note an entertaining evening drew to a close.

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

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