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Libertarian

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION

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Tenants Against Rent Control

On April 17, libertarian activists Paul Geddes and Robin Gillespie announced the formation of Tenants Against Rent Control (TARC).

"Although some people believe that rent control benefits the poor," said Geddes, "we believe that there is adequate evidence to the contrary, that rent control actually constitutes a major threat to the survival of affordable decent rental housing."

The scarcity of low rent housing and the trend towards the conversion of rental units to condominiums is an unfortunate consequence of rent controls says TARC.

Five reasons are specifically cited for TARC's opposition to rent control:

1. Rent control hinders the building of new rental housing.

2. Rent control results in the deterioration of the present rental accommodation stock.

3. Rent controls have resulted in a permanent low-vacancy rate for Vancouver.

4. Rent controls have added uncertainty to tenants' lives because now tenants must rely on the benevolence

of their landlords and hope that he does not act in his own self-interest and find a more profitable use for his property.

5. Rent control has allowed politicians to prey on the short term interests of voters with financial troubles by offering temporary bribes (lower rents) but trapping constituents into a long term permanent housing shortage.

TARC calls for "the removal of government restrictions which prevent the market from offering solutions to the perceived housing shortage." The repeal of rent control, elimination of the red tape involved in construction and the relaxation of zoning regulations would greatly improve the situation.

Tenants Against Rent Control has an impressive Board of Advisors consisting of the Fraser Institute's Michael Walker and Walter Block, Simon Fraser University economics professor Herbert Grubel and Globe & Mail columnist Richard Needham.

To date press coverage has included a front page story in The Vancouver Province, articles in two
(continued on page 2)

Coming Events

TARC (from page 1)

community newspapers and an interview on CKVU-TV's Vancouver Show.

Persons interested in joining TARC or learning more about it can contact Paul Geddes at 689-5260 or write to:

Tenants Against Rent Control,
906-1640 Alberni St.,
Vancouver, B.C. V6G 1A7

Supper Club

On April 10, Walter Block launched our second season of the Libertarian Supper Club with a talk on the privatization of public resources. He also spoke briefly about his memories of Ayn Rand when he was a student at the Nathaniel Branden Institute in New York in the 60's. A record turnout of 42 came to hear Dr. Block, including many non-libertarians.

Our next Supper Club meeting will be held on Saturday, June 12. Our speaker will be Tom Pappajohn of the Western Canada Concept Party. It should be a most interesting meeting. A location has not been settled on yet so those planning to attend, please call Paul at 689-5260 or Marco at 937-0529 for further details.

Principles of Liberty

The Principles of Liberty program from the Society for Individual Liberty has arrived and discussion sessions have started. The discussion group meets Sunday nights at Paul Geddes apartment. Those interested in joining or attending a second go-round of these talks at a later date, please contact Paul at 689-5260 or Marco at 937-0529.

Sunday evenings: Paul Geddes moderates a discussion of issues and basic libertarian philosophy. SIL's Principles of Liberty program forms the basis of the discussion and the format is that of Socratic dialogue. Contact Paul at 689-5260.

Thursday evenings: First Freedom Toastmasters Club is in hiatus for the summer but those interested in learning to improve their public speaking are invited to join us when we resume in September. Please call Marco at 937-0529 if interested.

Join the Party

About half of the recipients of this newsletter are not members of the Libertarian Party. They include attendees at our Supper Club meetings, a few subscribers and interested parties.

We would like to take this opportunity to urge non-members to join the LPC. The Libertarian Party is an officially recognized political party and donations are valid for claiming a political donation tax credit.

The Libertarian Party is the only Canadian political party that stands uncompromisingly for individual liberty and capitalism. Members receive the party's newsletter Principle, which keeps you up-to-date on libertarian activities across the country.

A membership application form is enclosed with this newsletter and we urge you to complete it and send it with your contribution today!

**DON'T BE A TAX
COLLECTOR:**

**JOIN JOHN HAYES'
SLAVES' REBELLION!**

WHO IS

JOHN HAYES?

Reprinted below is an article describing the efforts of Peterborough Libertarian activist John Hayes to challenge the withholding provisions of the Income Tax Act. The article is available as a pamphlet from the Libertarian Party of Canada. Ask for one and give it to your employer.

HE IS FACING UP TO REVENUE CANADA

Since November 13, 1981 John Hayes of Peterborough has ceased to be a tax collector. The twelve employees of his Site Investigation Services have been receiving two paycheques: one for their regular take-home pay and one for the income tax normally withheld from them. John Hayes is entrusting his employees with their own money because he doesn't want to be a thief any longer. He realizes that he is not playing by the government's rules, but the game was rigged from the beginning. His choice was to do what he knows is right, from now on he won't be intimidated by them.

Instead, he has invoiced the government for all of the accounting work he has had to do for them so far. He doesn't think that he should be forced to work for Ottawa, especially without getting paid for it. Nor does he accept responsibility for the personal affairs of his employees - their tax obligations are theirs, not his. In any case, John argues that the interest from income tax deductions rightfully belongs to his employees, not to him or to the government: why should he keep money that doesn't belong to him?

Revenue Canada is quite upset at losing their grip on John Hayes. Their chief collections officers are after him, so far they are 'officially' acting as if John had personally absconded with the money. This is despite the fact that his employees are sending in the tax deductions themselves. The government has moved in with its heavy artillery: his business bank account has been frozen, some of his accounts receivable have been seized, and a 10% fine has been levied against the firm.

"It had always bothered me that you could force me... to be your tax collector. ... You have made me into a thief, a special kind of thief admittedly, but a thief nevertheless. I am sorry that I've done your dirty work all these years, but there's not much I can do about that now. From here on in, however, I have resolved to turn over a new leaf."

John Hayes

John Hayes is determined to outlast them; he is keeping Site Investigation Services going despite the restrictions and threats. John Hayes is no criminal: his

activities are public and above-board. He intends to take Revenue Canada to court and to try to garner as much public support as possible. Several letters of his to the tax men have been eagerly reprinted by local newspapers. As well, editorials supporting him have appeared in the *Peterborough Examiner*, the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, and the French-language *Toronto L'Express*. Soon everyone will have heard about John Hayes: *the man who won't be enslaved*.

HE REFUSES TO BE THEIR TAX COLLECTOR

Distinguished Scholars Headline Fraser Forum

Religion and capitalism, are the two irreconcilable enemies or mutual friends? That is the topic that The Fraser Institute will explore in two all day forums to be held on the 5th and 12th of August.

For many years the mainstream religions have been promoting variations of the socialist ethic. The profit motive, greed and selfishness have been denounced in the same breath with that dreadful monster, capitalism.

And while the rise to prominence of the fundamentalist Moral Majority may have led some to believe that religion is starting to look favorably on the free market, it is these self-same fundamentalists who would meddle with the market in the form of blue laws, censorship and other restrictions of individual liberty.

The Fraser Institute's Forums will feature prominent theologians and scholars who cherish individual liberty and the capitalist system. They include James Sadowsky, S.J., Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University and a longtime friend of Murray Rothbard; David Friedman, Professor of Economics at UCLA, author of *The Machinery of Freedom* and son of Milton Friedman; Edmund Opitz of the Foundation for Economic Education, author of *Religion & Capitalism: Allies Not Enemies*; Arthur Shenfield, Ludwig von Mises Distinguished Professor of Economics at Hillsdale College, author of *Capitalism Under the Test of Ethics*; John Chant, Professor of Economics at Simon Fraser University; Paul Heyne, Professor of Economics at the University of Washington and author of the best-selling university textbook *The Economic Way of Thinking*; Imad Ahmad, Islamic scholar and chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia; Walter Berns of the American Enterprise Institute; John Cooper, also of AEI and co-author of *The Corporation: A Theological Inquiry* and Robert Benne, author of *The Ethics of Democratic Capitalism*.

The fee to attend these forums is a modest \$5 (\$10 extra if you wish to partake of the luncheon).

For more information contact Walter Block at The Fraser Institute, 688-0221.

Written by an engineer

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