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## Libertarian

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION

Volume 6 Number 1  
March 1986

The West Coast Libertarian is now six years old and we're still growing!! In late 1980, Cam Osborne and Marco den Ouden sat down to write a constitution and sent out fifty invitations to potential supporters. With this issue we'll have a circulation of almost 450 copies. Our Supper Clubs have also been successful. For a report on our last evening out, please see page 3. Information about our next meeting, Saturday March 22nd, with Vancouver personality Doug Collins appears on the same page.

\*\*\*\*\*LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF BC OFF TO A GREAT START\*\*\*\*\*

Whilst the world is not actually reeling from the events of Saturday, February 8th 1986, nevertheless, it was a happening of some note that twenty-two individuals became founding members of the British Columbia Libertarian Party.

With the formalities of registration under the Society's Act completed, we are now all set to make our presence felt when the next Provincial election is called. With the limited funds available, it is inevitable that none of our candidates will be able to run a very high profile campaign, but it is important that we have Libertarians on as many ballots as possible. This is the only way that we can provide a credible alternative for the many disenfranchised voters in this province.

All that is required of anyone is that you agree to have your name on the ballot in your local constituency as a candidate. It is not necessary for you to do any campaigning if you do not wish to, although you will probably get some attention from the media. Strangely enough, you will probably enjoy the experience. You will almost certainly finish up at the bottom of the poll, but the fact that some people will entrust you with their vote, even though they know virtually nothing about you, can also be a great encouragement.

If you would like to talk to someone about the idea, give me a call --  
Bill Tomlinson, 980-7370

\*\*\*\*\*LACK OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN USSR PROTESTED\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee to Free the Soviet Hare Krishnas, 5462 S.E. Marine Dr., Nanaimo, BC V5J 3G8 has informed us that nineteen Soviet members of the Hare Krishnas are currently being kept against their will in psychiatric asylums, slave labour camps and prisons. They would like us to join with them in exposing the reality behind the Soviet myth of freedom. A detailed up-to-date report documenting the persecution of the Hare Krishna movement in the USSR is available from the committee.

Members of the committee, ladies and gentlemen, fellow taxpayers. My name is Bill Tomlinson. I am a businessman living in North Vancouver, and am president of the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association.

I, along with so many of the other submissions you have heard, am deeply concerned about the preservation of wilderness. You no doubt have also heard submissions from mining and other groups who have an interest in making use of at least some part of some of the land in question.

In your report, you will no doubt strive for some kind of balance between the competing needs of industry and the conservationists, and when your government accepts your report, they will also attempt to find some politically acceptable compromise. This is all very well, and is exactly as it should be under our political system, for as long as the land is owned by the State, it is only right that our politicians should heed the wishes of their constituents. Unfortunately, as environmentalists well know, the effect of mining, or dams, or a host of other industrial activities, can have a disastrous effect on any wilderness area.

I realise that I have not said anything that you have not heard before, but it does bring me to what really is the root of the problem. In a true democracy, there is very little room for State ownership of land. This may work a little better in an authoritarian regime, but even there, decisions about the use of land can rarely please everyone, as the bureaucrats making the decisions have no personal stake in the outcome of those decisions. In a democracy, where governments change with regularity, any environmentalist should know that government control of wilderness is a two-edged sword. The speed with which the public mood can change has been clearly demonstrated in recent years by the last three federal elections - each one resulting in a new government with policies conflicting with those of the previous administration.

It is too much to expect people with a variety of ideological motivations, and who in most cases are more concerned with the necessity of planning for the short term, to put aside these important short term considerations and look at the long term requirements of the preservation of wilderness. We have seen numerous examples of the way in which environment can be sacrificed because of emergencies as perceived by government. One glaring example in recent years occurred in Alaska following the activities of the OPEC countries in the early seventies. The US Congress had no qualms about suspending their National Environment Protection Act in order that the Alaskan pipeline be built. Today we have a glut of oil and the producer price is plummeting, but the pipeline remains, and its effects continue to be felt.

In our own province, in the recent past, we have seen our government's crown corporations carry out such projects as dam building, with little regard to the impact on the habitat, the environment, or anything else. Even private property rights are regularly extinguished by the simple expedient of expropriation, with minimal compensation.

You are no doubt familiar with the story of the passenger pigeon. One hundred years ago, this species was so numerous that when flocks flew overhead, they darkened the sky. They were hunted and killed until now, not one single passenger pigeon remains. Perhaps we should consider this while looking at the situation of another bird, which, on this continent, is being slaughtered by the million day in and day out. In spite of this carnage, its population remains constant and may even be increasing. I am of course referring to the chicken. This may seem like a frivolous example, but I assure you it is not. The passenger pigeon, being part of our natural heritage, belonged to nobody, and thus by default, to everybody. I wonder how many chickens survive in the wild. If it were not for private ownership, the chicken would be another entry in the history books, beside the passenger pigeon and the dodo and so many others.

The lesson here for us is quite clear. Indeed it has already been embraced by such groups as the Audubon Society and Ducks Unlimited. The only way that we can preserve those areas of truly wild land that remain, is by getting them into the hands of individuals or groups who are sufficiently dedicated to preserving and protecting them, and by finding the political will to provide ourselves with secure and enforceable property rights. Nothing less can or will do.

\*\*\*\*\*MICHAEL WALKER HOPEFUL ABOUT FUTURE OF LIBERTY\*\*\*\*\*

Our February 8th Supper Club with Michael Walker of the Fraser Institute was one of our best attended meetings yet. Over seventy supporters came out to hear Dr. Walker's thoughts on "The Prospects for Liberty in Canada".

Dr. Walker has been more responsible than anyone else for changing the subject matter of the ideological debate in Canada. More and more Canadians are challenging the accepted wisdom that the state should increase its role in our lives. It is thanks to the Fraser Institute, founded by Dr. Walker, that Canadians are obtaining the facts and the intellectual ammunition to prevent further state encroachments. Thus the interest in Dr. Walker's talk.

Dr. Walker was optimistic for the long run but warned us that there were many disappointments still to come. For example, he had expected much greater change from the new Mulroney government. On the other hand, he was pleasantly surprised by the MacDonald Commission Report. He had not expected this group of retired politicians and bureaucrats to come to some of their free market conclusions. He wondered at the intellectual journeys the commissioners had made in rejecting much of their own past handiwork.

In the long term, if there is a quantifiable method of measuring liberty, Dr. Walker suggested measuring the level of taxation in a country. Taxation is a crude measure of the government's willingness to use coercion to get its way. Taxes are still rising in Canada but at least there are signs that people are "beginning to draw lines" beyond which they will not allow further government interference. The growth of the underground economy, tax 'avoidance' and even the deficit, were "positive" signs but only insofar as to suggest that government's power to extract further concessions from the public was growing more difficult.

Dr. Walker asked us to view society as being directed by past ideas and policies. There is much inertia in the system. The intellectual vigour of socialist ideas is dissipating but the boulder is still rolling to crush more of our liberties. It is starting to slow down as people "draw their lines", but more effort is still needed to get the boulder moving progressively again as society once again learns to value liberty and freedom. BY PAUL GEDDES

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NEXT SUPPER CLUB

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WHO: Doug Collins, columnist with the North Shore News, Associate of Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform. Well known controversialist and author.

TOPIC: Immigration and the Future of Freedom in Canada

WHEN: Saturday, March 22 1986. 5:30 cocktails and chit chat, 6:30 supper

WHERE: Moldovano's Restaurant, 709-12th St., New Westminster

(This is a very friendly restaurant and we will have our private room to hold our great discussion)

SUPPER: Choice of 3 Entrees: A. Barbequed Ribs with Lasagna

B. Chicken Champignon with Vegetables

C. Roast Beef, Potatoes with Vegetables

All entrees come with a house salad, chocolate mousse, coffee or tea.

COST: \$13 per person

RESERVATIONS

REQUIRED: Please reserve by Thursday March 20 stating your choice of entree.

Phone Paul at 438-6127 or Bill at 980-7370

COMMENT: We've been looking for a hospitable convenient restaurant for our meetings. If our members like Moldovano's we shall be able to hold more regular, less formal and more friendly meetings. Is this what you've been looking for too?

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OUR MAIL

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(Please write to us with your comments and questions. Are there any issues that you would like to see covered in future editions?)

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I have just received your latest Libertarian newsletter and I must say that I am overwhelmed that your beliefs can be so rational and yet so perverse with the survival of our society.

Recently in the North Shore News I read your President's letter of the day in which he stated (correctly) that no bureaucracy should control our lives. However, Mr. Tomlinson continued that everyone everywhere should have free access to all countries - saying that we should start this movement here!

After reading that letter I have decided that the Libertarian movement is really genocide in disguise! Man-made laws of consequence were established to protect our 'way of life' from those who have historically destroyed honest ways of life.

I must presume that Mr. Tomlinson has decided (by a unique twist of the right to the freedoms we all see that we are losing daily to the very people who intend to see the destruction of the Christian, White races since these have historically stood for everything good that the world has ever seen) under the Libertarian Credo that everyone, both evil and good is entitled to complete 'freedom'!!! I find it both unbelievable and yet typical of the irrational thinking about us constantly, that a group of people who say that we need so desperately to eliminate the evil of governments, and then want to replace that evil with a myriad of societies which have NEVER known democracy nor are even remotely interested in the concept. My thinking regarding government and its associated bureaucratic sins is no different than yours. But the need for the survival of my race and society does not strip me of my common sense to the point that I would allow every miscreant, into my country willy' nilly' as does your president want to do!

Sincerely, Geoffrey Fenton, BC Director COR WEST PARTY

(Bill Tomlinson's letter of the day, that Mr. Fenton refers to is reprinted on page 5. The complete correspondence between Mr. Fenton and Paul Geddes is available to whoever is interested.)

Editor's Response: Libertarianism consists of a belief in individual freedom and responsibility. A one sentence summation would be, "The only unpermitted action is the initiation of force or fraud against any other person or their property." Society from the libertarian perspective consists of the voluntary cooperation of all who see benefit in cooperation. It is not some mythical superior entity in whose name force can be initiated against innocent people. Thus anyone who wants to peacefully purchase property next to me, has the right to do so. I may not like them, but as long as they peacefully mind their own business what valid complaint could I have to interfere in their lives? Refugees from tyrants all over the world have settled in Canada, and although libertarians would prefer a freer country, we must recognize that relative to other countries, it's not that bad here.

Collectivism is the major philosophy of this age. Collectivists claim that the interests of the group (society, family, race or nation) are more important than individual freedom. They feel it is justified to use government power against peaceful individuals to further the aims of the group. If you admire the morality of the market then for consistency's sake, you should just as strongly oppose the government's control of the population of this country. I recommend to you the January issue of FREEMAN where this idea is argued more powerfully.

P.S. I do not believe that there is necessarily anything historically superior about the Christian creed or the white race. We have had our share of collectivist tyrants too. To defend freedom, I am not forced to defend all of their horrible acts. The idea of liberty is universal. The fruit of this idea has been harvested in many cultures and by individuals of many races. The real enemies of freedom in Canada are not the escapees from foreign bondage. Our enemy is the Canadian home-grown welfare state.

Sincerely, Paul Geddes, Secretary, Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association

# LETTER OF THE DAY

NORTH SHORE NEWS 27 November 1985

# Lost freedom affects all

Dear Editor:

It seems that all of us, to some extent, fear change.

It is probably this fear of change that manifests itself in the xenophobia that is occasionally expressed in the columns of your newspaper. Critics of a policy of open immigration may have sound reasons for their views, although most of the criticism we hear seems to be not

because we have open immigration, but because we have restricted immigration, with the restrictions applied in an imperfect manner.

It must tell us something about the comparative worth of the two systems, that totalitarian countries restrict emigration, while the Western democratic countries attempt to restrict immigration. In reality, the

immigration issue is a red herring.

If it is a good thing to restrict immigration into Canada, would it not then be better to restrict immigration into British Columbia, and even better, to bar entry onto the North Shore. The real issue is freedom of movement, and we must ask ourselves whether we really wish to live in a society in

which the right of any individual to travel, live, or work, should be curtailed by some faceless bureaucrat.

We should remember that whenever any of us is successful in restricting the liberty of others the consequence of our action will most certainly be a loss of our own freedom.

**Bill Tomlinson  
North Vancouver**

## \*\*\*\*\* FREEDOM VS ANTI-HATE LAWS \*\*\*\*\*

The BC Free Speech League, Box 665, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 3T2 has found the following quotation in noted author Elie Weisel's "Legends of Our Time": "There is a time to love and a time to hate; whoever does not hate when he should...does not deserve to love when he is able...Every Jew, somewhere in his being should set apart a zone of hate - healthy virile hate- for what the German personifies and for what persists in the German. To do otherwise would be a betrayal of the dead."

We may debate the merit of Weisel's point of view, but does he have the right to spread such ideas? Clearly, by anyone's definition, this is an expression of hate towards an identifiable group and it is currently illegal to distribute such literature in Canada. Do our bureaucrat's want to be caught censoring the work of such a high calibre author? Of course not!! If they did, Canadians would quickly realize the stupidity of the anti-hate laws.

The BC Free Speech League suggests that you write to Ms Linda Murphy, Importation Prohibited Unit, Connaught Building, MacKenzie Ave., Ottawa, K1A 0L5, asking why our authorities are practising only selective anti-hate enforcement. You should also send a copy of your letter to your MP and at the same time request an up-to-date listing of the "Importation Prohibited list" from Revenue Canada.

### GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION 1985 Income Statement

Revenue:	Contributions (62 contributors).....	\$2,756.88
	Other revenue (Supper Club Profits, Raffle, Interest).....	303.18
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$3,060.06</b>
Expenses:	Newsletter(Postage & Printing).....	\$1,523.02
	Delegate to Ontario Convention.....	471.00
	Contribution to C. Baldwin Legal Fund...	100.00
	Bank, MasterCard & Visa fees.....	99.88
	REASON subscriptions for libraries.....	86.44
	Tax Protest Day.....	85.84
	National fees .....	80.00
	Miscellaneous.....	39.29
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$2,485.47</b>
<b>SURPLUS (Total Revenue less Total Expenses)</b>		<b>\$574.59</b>
END of 1984 BALANCE		\$646.97
plus 1985 Surplus		574.59
END of 1985 BALANCE		\$1,221.56

GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

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DON'T FORGET TAX PROTEST DAY  
APRIL 30th

Last year, five of us stood outside the Revenue Canada Building at 1166 W. Pender St., and handed out a brochure with a slavering dog on the cover reading "Revenue Canada Out of Control". We distributed 2000 copies attracted a couple of new members and a column in the Vancouver Sun. Can we top that achievement this year? You bet we can!!!

Enclosed in this newsletter is a draft of this year's brochure. We hope to attract a bit of attention with our "Phoney Baloney Dollar". We hope our attempt at humour will be a bit more successful. What do you think of the dollar? Will you help us distribute it?

It is not going to be very expensive to get many of these dollars printed. You may borrow the original artwork to put your own message on the back or you can order a package of 50 from us for \$1. If you have April 30th free, how about joining us down at the Revenue Canada Building? So far eight people have agreed to spend the day with us. The more the merrier!!

For more information, phone Bill 980-7370 or Paul 438-6127.

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\* CHARLES BALDWIN NEEDS HELP  
\* So far our association has passed on  
\* donations of \$135 to Chuck's Trust Fund.  
\* Charles had his first day in court on  
\* March 3rd and this may be a long case.  
\* NOW is the time to come forward to help  
\* Charles defray his expensive legal fees.

The Vancouver Sun, Tuesday, March 4, 1986

## DON'T UNION PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS, TOO?

Charles Baldwin is presently fighting for his rights in court. He says that employees should have the choice to pay or not to pay their union dues for activities outside of collective bargaining. Why should unions be able to use members' dues for whatever they want?

If you, like Charles Baldwin, are angry at big labour tactics, and you're frustrated by the lack of effective voice in big labour programs, you can help Charles Baldwin in his fight against the B.C.G.E.U. This union states that members don't have control as to how members' monies are spent. Why shouldn't you have a say where your money goes? Send a confidential donation to:

**CHARLES BALDWIN TRUST FUND**  
c/o CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY,  
750 West Pender Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2B2  
For information, call (604) 433-9566

*(Ad paid for by the Charles Baldwin Committee, and prepared by PD&A, The Advertising Agency as a public service.)*

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