

Opinion

Comments way out of line

Just hold it, Brian

Just who does Brian Mulroneu think he is?

He told about 1,000 angry protesters in Peterborough on Friday that they were "crackpots" and "vulgar".

That is quite a charge from a person who is arguably the most contemptible man to be supposedly leading this country since 1837. And quite a moment those comments were indeed for Brian's 'feel-good' and 'meet the people' tour.

It's a bit tricky to keep track of the latest strategy, but the current, 'I don't care what you think,' approach reminds us, uncomfortably so, of Trudeau and his gunslinger stance.

Mulroneu was the one who was elected to office and accepted the prime minister's paycheck with promises of leading us all to prosperity. Those protesters are private citizens who are paying the price for his government's failures.

Just who is the crackpot here?

Mulroneu's comments don't add to any sort of intelligent discussion of the ideas. They just make people very, very angry.

If Brian doesn't care about his own popularity, then he should care that he is seriously wounding this country. He has told the public if they don't like what he does, don't vote for him. But the emotions, the separation, happening here goes beyond the Conservatives being turfed out of power.

People in this country expect their politicians to listen to them. The type of anger Mulroneu is creating, by so obviously not caring to listen, is causing a rift between the people and any form of government.

Mulroneu has an obligation when attacked - when facing protesters - to answer the questions they ask, address the concerns they raise, not to attack the people, to discount their right to even protest as 'vulgar'.

We are in danger of people considering the federal government to be so out of touch as to be totally irrelevant to their lives. That's seems far-fetched, but the implications are scary.

Frankly, we're scared.

Opinion

Farmers say PM had better listen

Dairy farmers don't take time off lightly.

Cows aren't like a field crop, where you could occasionally leave them untended for a day without major repercussions.

With milkings and feedings to tend to and the knowledge that any break in their routines can cause anxiety and affect the production ability of a cow, dairy farmers don't just take time off on a whim.

And that's why Brian Mulroneu should be shaking in his boots.

Because thousands of milk producers are banding together and travelling to Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Friday to ask the federal government to retain article during the GATT negotiations. They will be protesting a trade deal they fear will open the border to a flood of cheaper, imported dairy products and other food items.

The Elgin County Milk Committee is joining the efforts of farmers from Oxford, Perth, Huron, Middlesex, Lambton and Kent. This area produces about 25 per cent of the provincial total supply of milk.

There are just over 2,400 dairy farmers in this seven-county area.

A great many of them will be boarding coaches and arriving in Ottawa for a mid-day rally. There they'll be joined by thousands of protesters from across Canada. Poultry and egg producers, who also work under supply management systems, share the milk producers' fears for the future of their industries.

They say we should all fear for a way of life with Canadians taking for granted a guaranteed supply of inexpensive food, because if Americans are allowed to dump on the open market, our farmers will go the way of the dinosaur.

It isn't easy for these people to leave their farms for a day. They are choosing this form of protest because they are very serious.

Brian Mulroneu should be very certain he listens.

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