

What this country needs is a baby boom!

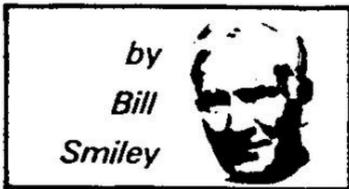
Isn't it kind of nice to see the government putting the boots to some financial wheeler-dealers for a change. Instead of bluntly telling us common chaps that we must toe the line with 6 and 5, with inflation, that the working man and the farmer are greedy and should be happy that swollen rates of usury have come down, and that there's a Big Rock Candy Mountain in the Sky, if we just continue to trust in it (the government)?

Isn't it kind of sad that a government should sit around on its big, fat tail, contemplating its big, fat navel, practically turned inside out because the comfortable pot-belly has so grown with pats on the shoulder, campaign contributions, and suggestions that, whatever happens can be covered up, or obfuscated by comforting stuff like, "You're doing fine, Jack. I love ya. Just don't get caught?"

Isn't it kind of nice that, once in an ice age, democracy actually works? That a placid government, even a majority one, which usually turns over every controversial issue to a Royal Commission which requires three years and millions of dollars to produce a report that nobody reads, can be forced into taking strong measures by an intelligent, well-prepared and determined Opposition, and actually has to get off its butt before the fandango is danced to its last note?

Isn't it amazing that government, with its huge staff of "experts" in practically everything, doesn't have a clue that: some trust companies are shaky; people are polluting other people's water; we are building national and provincial deficits which will put our country fairly quickly in with the Third World countries; our defence forces are a snigger around NATO; our industries, in general, are still in the 1950s as far as equipment, management and production are concerned?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone



by
Bill
Smiley

could put the boots to the government, as the latter has done to private enterprise? The only person who can is the Auditor-General, and after a couple of front-page stories which prove that the Canadian public is being sold everything but the Brooklyn Bridge, he is swatted off like an annoying mosquito.

Wouldn't it be great if people actually read the statement of the bishops, that people are more important than policies, rather than snarking, "Why don't they stick with their beads?", or, "If they're right, why don't they let the Canadian Manufacturers Association rewrite the Ten Commandments?"

Wouldn't it be simply splendid, if some "non-working" housewife, who has been putting in 16 hours a day, seven days a week, for 25 years, walked up and gave cabinet minister Judy Erola a tax allowance for non-working spouses?

This is the worst column I have ever written. Nothing but questions. Of course, they don't need answers because they are rhetorical questions. But the sentences are too long. Too many clauses beginning with "which". If a student offered this as an essay, I would rip it to ribbons.

Maybe it's because I'm becoming confused, like everybody else in this country. But who, normally a decent, responsible citizen, willing to share, to contribute, to work out something better, can be anything else but confused when he finds himself surrounded by venality and

apathy in high places, anger in middle places, fury in low places and whimpering from all directions, can keep himself looking at the plateau, rather than the valleys? There I go again. Another rhetorical question. Another rambling sentence.

O.K. Let's get off this querulous note. I'm getting as bored as you are. No more questions. Short sentences. Right? Right!

Getting rid of Trudeau is no solution. Nor is Joe Clark, who would sell his aged grandmother on the slave market to become prime minister again. Even for two weeks.

What this country needs is another baby boom. It would take a couple of years to get it going, but if the whole nation got down to it, the economy would soar once again.

All our industries were geared up to the fantastic boom of babies after World War II. Everybody needed diapers, booties, baby buggies, toys, smashed spinach, soothers, talcum powder, maternity dresses. Then, a little later, shoes, snowsuits, tricycles, orthodontists, TV sets, records, jeans, six-dollar hair-styles, granny glasses, mini-skirts.

The economy was booming. The Post Office was delivering the mail. Politicians were paid about what a plumber makes today and they were worth every cent of it. The national debt was just a tiny cloud on the horizon. Unemployment was a bad word from the thirties. Every kid was going to go to university and be rich afterwards.

There. That's my solution. It's as sound as that of any economist I've read. Who's for a Baby Boom?

Speak for yourself, of course. Include me out. But let's get the country back on its knees, at least, if not on its feet.

Correction

A headline dealing with the 1983 Halton Hills budget now being framed was incorrect in last week's paper. The headline said Keep Town spending at 1983 \$7.5 million

level and should have read Keep Town spending at 1982 \$7.5 million level. The story beneath the headline was accurate. The paper regrets the error.

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Winners of the public speaking contest at Limehouse school proudly show the winner's shield. They are Sharon Burrell second, Leah Stansbury first, and Lesia Shrubsole third.

Public meet on quarry blasting

There will be a public meeting next month for citizens concerned about blasting from the Indusmin quarry.

Friday at the Acton councillor's drop-in, Councillors Russ Miller and Ross Knechtel revealed they had met with industry and provincial officials about blasting complaints that morning. Councillor Pam Sheldon was also at the meeting.

Councillors have been probing the noise and house shaking problems resulting from the blasting for some time now. Also at the Friday morning meeting were three Indusmin officials, two others involved with seismograph monitoring of blasting, two representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, one official from the Ministry of Labor and two representatives of the Ministry of the Environment.

Miller explained they found out the blast travels out two ways, through the air and through the ground. The impact from the blast through the ground travels only a short distance, it's the waves from the blast going through the air which make homes shake.

One day people will hear and feel a blast, another day the same charge isn't felt. It's all because of the weather, the councillors noted. On a cloudy, overcast day when the wind is blowing a certain way, it will be felt.

Indusmin tries to avoid blasting when the weather is conducive to people feeling the blast, but because weather can change rapidly sometimes they end up blasting when it is overcast.

Weather may be perfect for blasting when they start planting the charge, but be poor by the time they have to set it off. The Ministry of Labor, for safety reasons, won't allow Indusmin not to set off a blast once the charge is planted.

A date for the public meeting will be announced in the future.

Consultants are needed, can't solve all problems internally

If corporations could solve their own problems, consultants would be out of business, David Williams of Williams and Associates in Acton claims.

Williams, a quality assurance consultant, responded strongly to comments made by management consultant Gordon Bonner in an article in a recent issue of this newspaper, that companies could solve their own problems.

"There are no doubt problems that companies can sort out by themselves, but they still need an unbiased, outside opinion," Williams asserted.

In a lot of cases, Williams said, the approach suggested by Bonner does not work. Bonner advocates having staff and management get together to "brainstorm", thereby finding solutions to company problems. Williams feels however that in many cases, attitudes among management and staff are too polarized to have any effective communication take place between the two groups.

"The quality circle idea, in which both management and regular workers have an interest in the quality of the product and the success of the company, does not work in North America as it does in countries like Japan," he added.

Williams and Associates, which opened its office in Glenlea Plaza on Queen St. Acton last month, specializes in quality assurance, quality consultation and expediting. Williams and his father Iain, both long-time Acton residents, have operated their business on a free-lance basis for more than a year.

Any company, however, can benefit from a quality audit, Williams said. His firm also sets up programs in companies to help them improve the quality of their products, provides on-site management if required, quality and technical manuals, and inspection services.

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David Williams

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