

Only in Canada, you say, Bill?

Only in Canada? Pity. But where else in the world could you have a situation in which international oil prices are dropping while national prices for gasoline and heating oil move relentlessly higher?

This anomaly, of course, was a result of ferocious and frantic efforts by provincial and federal governments to tax everything but the air we breathe.

The trick is to find something that everybody needs, and that is steadily rising in cost, and then slap a progressive tax on it. That, my friend, is the reason you're paying about \$2.25 a gallon for gas when the sheiks of Araby are up to their navels in a glut of unwanted oil.

Should we ever have a massive, Sahara-type drought in this country, guess what your governments will tax heavily. Water? Right on.

If every cow in Canada suddenly stopped giving milk, you could depend on a stiff tax on milk and cheese.

If the Western provinces had a total grain disaster—hauled out, rained out, rusted out, chewed up by grasshoppers—the logical move by government would be to stick a tax on bread that would rise automatically every time the price went up.

Only in Canada. Where else in the world would a government try to bribe people to read a book by making used lottery tickets worth 50 cents on purchase of a Canadian book? It's incredible, and readers in other countries must be chortling, but it's done in Ontario. So much for our cultural pretensions.

Only in Canada. In what other country would a political party turf out a leader who had a clear mandate from two-thirds of his party to carry on?

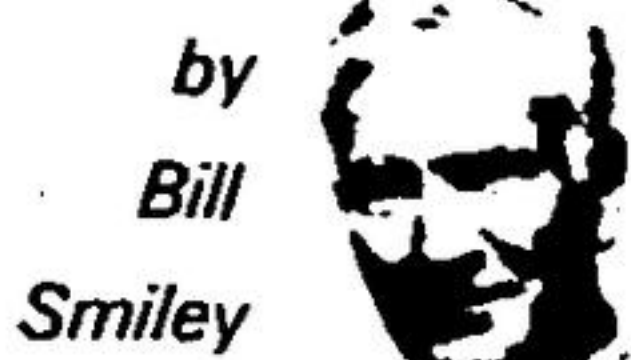
An in what benighted country anywhere would a dozen or so idiots leap to fill the discarded leader's shoes, knowing full well they could expect the same treatment just down the road?

Only in Canada. Can you imagine any other democratic country in the world where the head of government could give the finger to some of his people, tell some others to eat merde, utter obscenities in parliament, and still be re-elected?

Only in Canada. In what other country in the world is everything printed in two languages, and when you go shopping, the language in which you are feeble is the one that presents itself to you on every package, every tube, every box. (I swear that when Quebecois go shopping, they are confronted with the English side on every box, etc.)?

Only in Canada. Can you imagine another country that steadily destroys lush, productive farm-land by turning it into asphalt and urban sprawl, or tearing it up for gravel pits to create more asphalt, more urban sprawl?

Think of the hue and cry there would be in France or Italy if the government not only condoned, but encouraged, the ripping up of vineyards to build hamburger stands and gas stations and motels with lumpy beds and exorbitant rates.



by Bill Smiley

Only in Canada. Is there another country in the world that decided any building more than 60 years old should succumb to the wrecker's ball, be razed, and be replaced by a tasteful concrete-block and plastic abortion?

Other countries preserve their heritage, carefully, and often expensively, restoring old castles, ancient city walls, cathedrals, country homes. Here we wipe them out, say, "Oops," and rebuild them as "quaint" restorations with all the artifacts of the original, but with all modern accoutrements.

Only in Canada are authors considered as second-class citizens who don't really "work" for a living, singers as inferior unless they've played Vegas, actors as malcontent long-hairs who should get a job, ballet dancers as people dancing about in long underwear and our national broadcasting system as a socialist drain of the taxpayer.

Only in Canada can the government seize private companies without any explanation or compensation, 100 police raid a pseudoreligious organization and seize all its papers on the flimsiest of evidence, and politicians get up and lie and lie and lie, without any repercussions.

Oh, I'm not naive. I know this sort of thing is going on every day, all over the world. But in democratic countries? Only in Canada.

Look at Quebec. In a lovely bit of irony, the teachers, who had more to do with electing the Parti Quebecois than any other group, are now facing that party, snarling, calling it "fascist", beating its cabinet ministers over the head with placards: Only in Canada.

And finally, in what country in the world is it possible to have a cold at any day, week, or month of the year?

Only in Canada. Pity.

RR2



Spring: When a young man's fancy lightly turns to the things women have been thinking about all winter.

Monteith reunion

Dear Sir: Would you be kind enough to inform people via your media that Monteith-Shilling Public School located in Monteith, Ontario will be closing on June 30, 1983. We are

therefor holding a reunion for all former pupils, teachers and interested people during the long weekend in May. There will be a Teen Dance on Friday May 20, 1983, a Registration Tea on Saturday

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The following are my reasons for nomination . . .

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