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WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher

BOB RUTTER, Editor

PHONE...877-2201

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Absolute values akin to insanity

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
More than seven thousand years ago it was written: "Limb for limb - eye for eye - tooth for tooth - anyone who inflicts an injury on his neighbour shall receive the same in return."

"Whoever takes the life of any humans shall be put to death."
Seven thousand years of history - of struggle - of wars - of giving birth and of dying. Seven thousand years and though man has survived, his values remain as primitive as those who stoned, tortured and beat to death, their fellow creatures - all in the name of justice.

The tragic death of Emanuel Jaques an innocent child has shown this beyond doubt. Though his death rips through the soul of all of us some allow feelings to rule over reason to cry out: Blood for blood.

An outcry of a different nature has risen from the Anglican Task Force on Human Life. Here they have suggested that the lives of severely retarded children be terminated. This is the basis of euthanasia. The horror here is the placing of value not on life itself but the productiveness of that life.

If we reason that the decision to allow severely retarded children to die has value on the basis of true mercy - will we not continue on? Where does perfection lie? What of the old - are they too no longer productive? What of the blind? The insane? The crippled? The weak? All who are unproductive and a drain on the taxpayers? What of the unemployed and those in prison?

We begin with a morality based on compassion, yet as in censorship and civil liberties the smallest infringement, done in the most humane of interests creates a monster whose malignant growth so exceeds the initial starting point that soon all is consumed and only malignancy is left.

Absolute power is the most terrifying of things - we reason on the insanity of an Idi Amin or a Adolf Hitler - men who abuse power.

To place less than "absolute value" on human life creates a monster.

So it is with abortion. We can reason on so many humanitarian pleas. So many good sound reasons for the termination of life, yet when we take away life, we take the most basic right we have - the right to live.

If we were to make our judgments solely on what is "normal" as the basis of the right

to life - who among us would be allowed to live?

What is normal is as varied as what is beauty, ugly, pornographic, moral or right. Who would you have decide for all of the above?

Man since time began has justified evil in the name of good. The insanity of war bears this out. Now man has developed a "neutron bomb."

This marvel does not destroy buildings - only people. Here the works of man have become more valuable than man the creator. An Empire State building has greater value than the humans inhabiting it. Humans are expendable, but their works are not.

A thought trend is to be seen here. We have allowed ourselves to become devalued. We now debate "whose" life is of value. The true answer is "no mans." How sad and how barbaric we still are.

The retarded persons who is not normal knows not of war, greed, lust, hate, murder, rape or corruption. His mind is incapable of thought for war as in the thoughts of so-called "normal" man.

It is man the thinker - the normal mind - that has conceived and bred the "neutron bomb."

We cannot allow our emotions to betray us. Neither in outcry of "blood for blood" as we so-called normal people suggest! torture, and slow death for the sick minds that killed an innocent 12-year-old. Nor can we allow emotion to rule us in so-called compassion and mercy that devalues the retarded mind valueless. It is not productive, cannot feel as I feel, is not normal, therefore should be terminated in the name of mercy.

A plea for life is just that - it cries out that all humanity has the right to life, a right so sacred that we can defend that basic right against all else. The rain and the sun fall on the just and unjust alike and you cannot take one from the other without destroying both.

The basic right to life has to be valued above all else in order to protect all. They must all have the right to life the sick and the healthy the strong and the weak the normal and the abnormal the young and the old

We cannot kill in the name of mercy, or justice, or vengeance and keep our own hands clean.

rather than life. I must concern.

Associated with the question of human life is our ability as a civilization to survive. Will food production through technological advances continue to remain at the level we now have, or will we face global concerns over where the next meal comes from?

Is society prepared to accept the cost of maintaining human life no matter how expensive this becomes or stretches our resources?

Recent sociological tests among rats show that social order collapses once population expands to enormous proportions. What will this planet be like in a century from now? Fifty years? Or, 25 years? Are we now experiencing through the apparent lawlessness and unacceptable breakdown in social mores, particularly in the United States, the beginning of the collapse of our way of life?

I don't pretend to have the answers to these and other questions. But we must be prepared to address them even if we do not find the answers. I believe they are all inter-related, but I don't know which is the key issue to address which allows the complex puzzle to fall into place.

I do know that the working paper by the Anglican Church may be a step on the right path toward finding the answers we should be seeking.



Reflections on summer recess

By DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

Summer days can be reflection days. Particularly summer days such as this year's when everybody, it seems, is so tired out that what they want to do is nothing, if possible.

So I am in a mood for reflection. And a natural bent for this is this question: Who, in many years here, stands out most in memory?

WAS BLACKWELL
And this is a thought that causes no concern.

I have known George Drew, have known Leslie Frost, have known John Roberts and currently, of course, know William Davis.

But none of these, though fine men all, stand out in my mind as does one other.

The man I most remember over the years is Leslie Blackwell.

BLACKWELL
Blackwell was attorney-general from 1943 to 1948.

But much more than that he was the number two, or you might say number 1 1/2, man in the government.

The government, of course, was headed by George Drew. And with Drew there never

was any question who was boss. He was.

But he liked to boss so much staff - including, at the time, World War II, that someone had to keep the home shop running.

And this was the job that Blackwell inherited. And filled magnificently.

DREW WON
A world-class baseball pitcher, six feet two, who had lost a leg in World War I, then coached both the Varsity football and water polo teams, he was a man's man who was never the first to leave any party.

He led a strenuous social life. But he probably got triple the work done of his colleagues.

And his reward was an anachronism. When Drew moved on to Ottawa in 1948 Blackwell ran to succeed him.

He should have won. But he didn't. Leslie Frost did.

And the irony was that Drew put Frost in.

He was afraid of Blackwell. Thought he would be too strong, and he still wanted to control the Ontario party from Ottawa.

Easy to fathom CLC in opposing controls end

It's hard to have imagined last week that there would have been approval by the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) to a government initiative to monitor the removal of prices and wage controls.

And the expected happened. The CLC refused to take part in what it described as an extension of the controls through voluntary restraint for the simple reason that the failure of such program would then be attached to the backs of the workers.

The federal government program instituted two years ago is not working. This October the annual inflation rate is supposed to be targeted to the allowable increase in wages - six per cent. But if the present trend continues, we may face eight to nine per cent on the anniversary date of the controls program.

We can't fault the government for having attempted to remove controls because it's apparent that a sluggish economy has resulted. But we also suspect that the fear of the inflation psychology grabbing hold of all areas of the economy once controls are lifted has spelt the doom for any such action.

The prime minister's comments last week that the CLC has forced a continuation of the controls program is not also unexpected. Nor would we suspect the indefinite continuation of the control period the way income tax has continued as a temporary measure since 1917.

It appears that government has no option and must now look at stimulating the economy within the controls guidelines. It's a sorry state of affairs.

And of course as soon as Frost got in everybody found out who the real strong man was.

Drew, in effect, was told to clean out his desk.

An opportune time for minister to act

Recent rulings of the Wellington, Bruce and Grey county courts have placed at least a four month delay in construction of the northern section of the Bradley-to-Georgetown hydro corridor.

Why then is it necessary to conclude the Acton hearings for expropriation of the southern section through Halton Hills when information is adamantly being refused by Ontario Hydro, especially when the Interested Citizens (ICG) is prepared to provide expert testimony in 30 days?

The hearings in Acton have been less than successful. Ontario Hydro's attitude of refusing to acknowledge any alternative routings, two court actions which were resolved in favor of the opponents and general confusion will make the outcome of the hearings whether pro or con suspect.

We are not, however, being presumptuous of the report hearing officer Donald Meyrick is preparing for Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor. Mr. Meyrick handled the hearings reasonably within the bounds of direction he received. His dignity, however, suffered at the hands of the Crown-owned utility when he was forced to beg Hydro to co-operate in providing information the court deemed necessary.

This then becomes an opportune time for Mr. Taylor to restore the public credibility in the hearings by either calling for a continuation of the Acton proceedings or to fulfill the request of the ICG which has for four years called for an independent inquiry into the routing of the Bradley-to-Georgetown corridor.

Reliving unemployment 'streamlining'

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

When I picked up the morning newspaper and saw that the Unemployment Insurance Commission was being "streamlined," I developed this strange feeling that I was reliving something from the past. You know that sensation you get when some event strikes you as an almost mystic repetition.

And here, in the morning newspaper, was a story about how Manpower Minister Bud Cullen was given the new title of "employment minister", reflecting the fact that the Unemployment Insurance Commission now would be merged with his department of manpower and immigration.

The idea, explained the minister, is to give the public a "positive image."

"We're talking about employment, not unemployment." At the same time, the minister's deputy, Jack Manion, was talking

about the duplication that now exists between the department and the commission.

"We'll be taking an enormous pile of paper out of the system," he said, with some enthusiasm.

However, it's worth noting that the minister said there will be no significant decrease in staff.

Anyway, after reading this I became quite concerned about this severe bout of mystic repetitions I was experiencing. My head was ablaze with visions about "UIC streamlinings."

RESEARCH PAYS
I hate to think of what might have happened to my sanity had I not gone to a library to see whether, at some point in my life, I had heard of the Unemployment Insurance Commission being streamlined.

When I saw the evidence, I felt like a new man. It turns out that the UIC has made a career out of being streamlined, from the time the first Employment and Social Insurance Act was passed in 1935, only to be declared invalid by the Privy Council.

But the problems were streamlined out in 1941 and the Unemployment Insurance Act came into force. Fourteen years later, a new streamlined act replaced it. It was administered by the Unemployment Insurance Commission, which reported to Parliament through the minister of labor.

A few years later a committee was established to look into the commission and it recommended that the unemployment services be merged with the labor department - a suggestion that was enthusiastically embraced by the government.

And bearing in mind what Cullen has just said about creating a new positive image, it's interesting to see what the 1964 Labor Minister, Allan MacEachen, said at that time about the merger: "The primary reason for this transfer is to develop an integrated approach to implementing manpower policy and programs in Canada, and to correct the negative image from which the employment service suffers in the public mind from its close association with the payment of benefits to the unemployed."

DIDN'T LAST
Less than two years later, the Pearson

government was again looking at the Unemployment Insurance Commission as it prepared legislation for a broad reorganization of government services. And it was decided that things could be streamlined if UIC joined forces with the fledgling department of manpower, which would also take over citizenship.

As Pearson told the Commons: "This legislation, if the House accepts it... will contribute to the more efficient operation of government and... will enable the country itself, I hope, to deal more effectively with the complex and changing problems of our national life."

It didn't work that way. There were monumental disputes between officials of the UIC and senior public servants in the manpower department and the government decided, in 1967, that things could be streamlined by separating the two warring partners. Now after a decade of divorce, it's apparently time for a streamlining remarriage.

We can only wish the couple well - but I have this strange feeling I have heard that before too.

Teresa is going to go far in life

By SUSAN De FACENDIS

If the fine sense of larceny my youngest daughter appears to possess is an indication of the 'smarts', Teresa is going to go far in life.

I have not yet decided whether this knack for slaying up gainful opportunities is a dubious advantage she was born with or if, being the youngest of three children, she acquired it in sheer self-defence.

Admittedly she has been on the receiving end of numerous 'con' jobs from Richard and Louisa, a fact that has stopped me from interfering thus far. If, for instance, one slice of cake or pizza happens to be slightly smaller than the rest, Teresa is usually the one who gets stuck with them. While the poor child mulls over the statement "Well, your stomach is smaller than ours," the larger slices have already disappeared.

Teresa however, has several advantages. As the shortest member in a tall family she views things from an entirely different perspective. If any item has been pushed, shoved or concealed under a table, chest-drawer or bed, Teresa is the most likely person to discover them. Add to this a highly developed hoarding instinct and there is not very much that escapes her notice during her frequent scavenger hunts around the house.

Her brother and sister on the other hand, with the exception of a MacDonald's, a Pizza Hut or a Chicken Villa, can never find anything. Thus the scene is set for Teresa to make them an offer they cannot refuse and it goes something like this -

Enter Louisa, breathless and excited. "Mom! Can I go to the movies with Susan?"

Mother responds with a perfectly normal curved ball: "Yes dear, if you have the money."

"Well, I have one hour. I'll go out and collect for my newspaper route. Where's my collection book?"

There then ensues a desperate hunt that includes the far uninhabited regions of the house, while Teresa awaits with exquisite timing for the moment when Louisa approaches breaking point.

"I know where it is," she will eventually state to her perspiring, harried sister, who now only has approximately 20 minutes to scrounge up some loose change. "Will you give me a dime?"

"No way, you nerd. Just tell me where it is."

"Well, maybe I didn't see it. I just forgot."

"O.K. O.K. I'll give you a dime. Just tell me!"

"Will you bring me home some popcorn from the movies too?"

I have no idea what marks Teresa is going to achieve in school mathematics but, at the age of seven, her bank account was already reaching alarming proportions.

Meanwhile, if our Government could use a good bargaining table negotiator to settle the mallmen, the air controllers, the electricians, the teachers... Well, I am sure Teresa would be happy to oblige - for a price of course.

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Youngsters and juveniles have been defacing and pulling boards from the grandstand at Georgetown Park. Inside the building a few broken bottles were in evidence, as revealed Monday, and editor Walter Bleh made a plea to everyone to be more careful and protect the "town's finest assets."

Throughout Halton County 1,120 young pheasant cocks and hens have been distributed by game warden Dudley Hitchcock and members of the Halton Sportsman's Association. All birds were placed in pens near farmer's buildings where they may be watched, in co-operation with a project by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.

A break down in the high tension feeder at Toronto left most of Halton County without hydro power for several hours Sunday afternoon. Power was off from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Council Monday donated \$300 as the town's share in a tree trimming program by which the Hydro intends to increase effectiveness of street lighting in certain sections of town.

Mayor Armstrong reported that while no arrangement has been made with Esqueping Township for ambulance service supplied by the town, he understands that any bill will be honored by the township council.

The Girls Pipe Band will march in the Warrior's Day parade at the Canadian National Exhibition on Saturday.

TEN YEARS AGO

A barn fire at Alluvialdale Farm, operated by Wilfrid Leslie and Sons on the Town Line near Union, caused about \$35,000 damage. The fire broke out suddenly about 8:15 a.m. while the 60-head of cattle was being milked. Mr. Leslie and sons Tom and Keith and employee Ray Beckett, were able to shepherd the entire herd to safety. The barn and an adjoining milk house were completely destroyed, along with the season's crop of hay and straw, a wagon, hammermill and feed mixers.

In Belleville, Georgetown is rated as a city. A Belleville resident asked council to send him a centennial medallion Georgetown had minted. However, no such medallion is in existence.

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103 MAIN ST. SOUTH, GEORGETOWN, L7G 3E5
WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF
Publisher & General Manager
BOB RUTTER, Managing Editor
BOB HILLIER, Adv. Sales Manager
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