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Logically

In the language of logic, there is a phrase *reductio ad absurdum*. It means to carry any argument to a ridiculous extreme as a way to demonstrate truth or falsity.

Now that 1977 is behind us, and Canada enters the last years of the decade of the '70s, it might be worthwhile to look at a few of the trends of the last few years and see where they're taking us — *reductio ad absurdum*, over the next 50 years.

For example, if the costs of the Post Office continue to rise while the service provided declines, by the time another half century has passed (give or take 40 years) we might expect the Canada Post Office to be handing next to no mail, while charging anyone brave enough to slip a letter into a mail box several hundred dollars.

Similarly, if the main way for Canadians to get rich continues to be by selling out to foreign investors, we could end up with no Canadian owning anything.

In 50 years, everyone would work for the government — a prospect as depressing as the opposite extreme, of everyone depending on private enterprises for employment.

Those who work, that is, they'll earn the highest wages in history, while supporting the largest number of unemployed in history. Or if you're really pessimistic, you could argue that in 50 years, no one will be working, we'll all be on unemployment insurance.

Everyone will carry a gun, for defence only, of course. No urban dweller will venture out at night or answer the door.

Our per capita energy consumption, already the highest in the world, will climb. We'll continue to disregard warnings of physical and economic limitations to the energy supply. Until in a final splendidly selfish fling, we'll squander the last barrel of oil in a gas guzzling car, or chop the last tree for an oversized Saturday newspaper, and then settle with a wheeze back into the Dark Ages.

Is that the way we want it?

The British anti-nuclear physicist Amory Lovins frequently uses his own *reductio ad absurdum* proposition. He says that we

should imagine the kind of world we want to have 50 years from now, and then insure that our present decisions make that world more possible, not less likely.

His idea has not proved popular. It requires personal and national self-discipline. It demands conscious planning. It may mean sacrificing some ambitions or expectations, even sacrificing some of our present standard of living. Who knows where it could lead in the battle to save the environment of this small planet?

Support the farmer

Producing food is a mug's game in Canada, 1978. Canadians who used to spend 25 per cent of their disposable income on food, now only spend 18 per cent. The result is that in 1978 the buying power of farm income will be less than it was in 1966. And you think you have trouble keeping up with inflation!

Efficient food production is the foundation of Canada's life and economy but people who produce food, the farmers, are taking an economic beating which the rest of us do not seem to care about. Farm costs are rising much more quickly than are farm receipts. So, Statistics Canada forecasts a lower realisted farm income for the third consecutive year.

What hope is there then for Canadian farmers in 1978? With any luck there will be increased sales of cheese, yogurt and ice cream and increases sales of fluid milk. But, these will be balanced by lower sales of industrial milk. Beef prices are expected to rise, but hog prices will fall. Cereal and oilseed prices are not expected to improve. It certainly does not inspire great confidence in farmers who face higher prices for equipment, fuel, fertilizer, labour and other production costs.

Farmers, always at the mercy of the weather, always pressed by consumers pleading for cheaper food, are worried and angry. From their point of view, Canadian consumers are expecting the farmers to subsidize them. No wonder farmers see marketing boards with strict powers to control supplies and prices of farm commodities as agents of justice. They offer the farmers some stability of income, some protection against other parts of the food industry. Canadian farmers in 1978 are facing terrible uncertainties. Their efforts deserve our understanding as well as our admiration.

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Bible Digest

"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Romans 4:3

Isn't it strange that we find it is easy to believe the things happening in the world, but find it difficult to believe the one who made it, and everything in it including ourselves. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

So far no answers on Ontario's standing

By DEREK NELSON
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

One of the ironies of the Confederation debate is that this country is divided split in two. And the worse part is the division favors Quebec.

Take the following series of exchanges in the legislature one day last week.

Liberal leader Stuart Smith asked what the government intended to do about Quebec's barring of Ontario construction workers from that province, even though their construction workers come here in droves.

Labor minister Bette Stephenson said both the present separatist PQ, and its predecessor Liberal government, have restricted access for Ontario construction workers.

Because Ontario doesn't believe in "balkanizing Canada in this way" there would be no retaliation against Quebec workers, she said, a position with which Smith agreed.

MPP Ives Hall (L.A.) asked if Ontario would see a DREE (Department of Regional Economic Expansion) designation for the Niagara Peninsula from the federal government so that grants could be made available to combat the area's high unemployment.

Industry and tourism minister John Rhodes said that sounded like a good idea since the "criteria for designation seems very flexible (since even) Metropolitan Montreal is considered a depressed area."

But treasurer Darcy McKeough noted the province can't even get eastern Ontario, which has been economically deprived for a long time, designated under DREE.

(In fact some DREE assistance does go to eastern Ontario, but in neither the quantity nor quality that it flows to Quebec.)

SIDBEC

For example, DREE itself spent \$27 million in Ontario, mostly in the North, compared to \$105 million in Quebec, according to the last statistics available.

DREE spends other money too in Quebec, one especially annoying example being the \$30 million it's giving to the Quebec government owned and operated white elephant steel company SIDBEC.

(Ontario mills don't receive a cent, naturally.)

Rhodes was also asked a question by MPP Mel Swart (NDP-Welland-Thornhill), who wondered about tales a proposed General Motors auto parts plant scheduled for the Niagara area will be going to Quebec instead.

The Minister said he understood the "federated government through DREE, are prepared to make financial assistance to GM if they were to locate in Quebec."

FAVORITISM

An interesting addendum to the events in the legislature was on the television news that night.

A sewer construction project in Hull can't go ahead because the PQ government vetoed giving the job to the lowest bidder because the company in question is from Ontario.

This kind of favoritism, some of it indirectly financed by Ontario, is leading to "de facto" separatism regardless of any promised referendum.

From Ontario's viewpoint the question is what can be done about it. So far there aren't any answers.

...EVERY SO OFTEN,
BILL AND THE BOYS
TRY TO BAN SOMETHING.
LAST TIME, IT WAS
"LIFE STYLE BEER
ADS". NEXT, MAYBE
JACK AND JILL
MAGAZINE...



Respect? What of it?

By GERRI CONNOROUGH

What is your version of the word "respect"?

When I was growing up respect was a word used for: your elders, teachers, priests, rabbis and ministers, the family doctor, and just about every other person you would be likely to come in contact with — with the exception of the town drunk.

Respect was a word for other people's property. It was a word for your own property.

Of course, times change and the availability of products lent itself to shoddy workmanship and a "throw-it-away" generation. Why fix it? Buy a new one.

Yet whatever we buy today from Bologna, bacon, and chicken to a table or a sofa has neither the taste or the durability of what was produced in the past. No longer, is there "respect" for quality or good workmanship.

A man's name used to carry a certain respect with it. Now people prefer to be known as Sam or Jack and family names are seemingly forgotten. I remember a little bit of wisdom I read somewhere about a father passing his name down to his son.

It went something like this: "It's about all I have son, but it's a good name and when I was given to me it was free of any tarnish or dishonor. I have worked hard to keep it that way, so I could pass it on to you in the same manner in which it was given to me. Now it is yours and I hope you will be able to pass it on to your son clean and untarnished."

Now that's what I call "respect". I remember the way my grandmother used to hang clothes on the line. Everything went in order, towels with towels, shirt, all in a row, whites with whites. Now the modern housewife throws it all in the dryer and the whole wash comes out for shades of gray. Nothing I've seen today matches the sparkling sunshine white of grandmother's time.

The old wringer washer combined with mother nature was a team that no detergent today can compete with despite what the TV ads claim. Of course, when grandma hung the clothes on the line the clothes weren't made of the same matchstick stuff of today that spring apart and break as soon as they are used. Would you believe a plot between the manufacturers of automatic and clothespin makers? For my way of thinking it all boils down to "respect". A company whether they made clothespins or tables built their reputation on the reliability of their product but not so today. Argue with a manufacturer about the shoddiness of a piece of goods and he'll gladly replace it. Unfortunately, it's replaced with another shoddy piece of workmanship.

Today in the classroom teachers are hard-pressed to keep control and order. Parents of 30 or 40 years ago taught their children "respect" for the teacher and, of course, the teacher re-inforced that respect with the loud crash of the pointer on the desk of the unwary dreamer.

Easter Sunday of old was a time to slip

into pretty new fashions — now the only fashion slipped into for Easter is a skidoo suit. Perhaps our change in weather is Mother Nature's revenge for our general mismanagement of planet earth. It would not surprise me in the least to go out to the front yard and find the tulips pushing up their little heads complete with toques and scarves on. Spring — humberg! See what happens when Mother Nature gets "no respect".

The greatest respect I can think of is respect for life. For all living things. Michael Biggs, a marine biologist in Vancouver, says that at least 8,000 northern fur seals are doomed to die a lingering and painful death because of plastic debris draped overboard from ships. The problem started about 10 years ago when fishermen began to switch from fibre nets and bindings to synthetics. Nets and twine of natural fibre used to sink to the bottom and rot, but synthetic material is virtually indestructible.

"The seals play with the floating bands and get their heads caught in the noose," said

Mr. Biggs. "As the seal grows the plastic eats into his skin and eventually strangles him" he said.

According to Mr. Biggs the garbage is discarded by all vessels from fishing boats to ocean liners. A prime example of "no respect." No respect for life — the lives of the seals, or the life of our ocean — no respect period.

Each generation brings about its own set of woes and if our doesn't entirely destroy our planet perhaps the coming generations will turn again to quality — quality workmanship, quality products, a quality of life.

Respect is such a little word but it packs a gigantic wallop. They say we can never turn backward in history and I for one would really not care to, despite the aggravations of our plastic society. But perhaps we can learn not to discard all the old for the new. Perhaps we can learn that everything doesn't have to go; that "respect" as in respect for home, family, friends, our world, and life is never old fashioned.

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

With hundreds of their supporters on hand at the Oshawa Arena Thursday night, the Georgetown Raiders captured the Intermediate "A" hockey championship by defeating the Markham Millionaires 4-3 in an overtime session in the fifth game of the play-off series.

William Baluskiak, 45, of Port Robinson, an employee of the Scott-Jackson Construction Company, which is installing the new sewerage system in Georgetown, was killed almost instantly last Thursday in a cave-in. The accident occurred on Emery Street, near the Queen Street intersection, where a big steam shovel was digging a sewer trench four feet wide and ten feet deep. Baluskiak was working in the trench with a hand shovel in company with Thomas Yalteman, 20, who was laying tile. When a fellow worker shouted a warning, Yalteman managed to jump back and was buried to his waist in the falling earth. Baluskiak, however, had no chance to save himself and was buried three feet deep.

The new municipal office was officially dedicated on Sunday morning before a gathering of town officials, including the Council, Hydro Commission, School Board and Fire Department members.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Refutation of permission for some 582 housing units to be built on land in the Delrex area of town is expected next Monday when an amendment to a bylaw which committed the town to a 1954 agreement with Delrex comes before council for okay. The amendment is necessary because building on the land at the present is not permitted in the agreement, because of Delrex's failure to maintain a 40 per cent industrial commercial

ratio as agreed in 1954.

Georgetown Raiders will defend their Intermediate "A" championship starting tonight against the Napanee Comets in Napanee.

Georgetown's fourth public school will be known simply as the Park Public School. The name was decided on last Wednesday when the local school board held their regular monthly meeting at Harrison school. The new building had been referred to as Park school ever since it was first proposed, however it was not until last week that the board made the name official.

Daylight Saving time has been adopted in Georgetown and will come into effect on April 27. It will terminate Oct. 26, the same period as it is in effect in Toronto.

TEN YEARS AGO

County council arrived Friday at the 1968 mill rate which has been set at 6.98, an increase of 1.03 mills, about half the expected increase. Council spent almost two hours debating whether to cut the budget of the Halton Children's Aid Society by \$5,000 before passing the budget as it was originally presented by the finance committee — without the \$5,000 cut.

A large enthusiastic meeting of the Legion were unanimous in their acceptance of a proposal to sponsor and maintain a residence for the mentally retarded in North Halton. This is a concept of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, and it is hoped to get underway with the purchase of land and building in the near future. A two-day strike ended Saturday when nine members of Local 647, Teamsters Union, returned to work at Georgetown Dairy Limited.

Hope he keeps involved

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

Two years ago, when the Conservatives were looking toward a new leader, everyone kept an eye on Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, that earnest, no-nonsense politician who, many thought, could win easily on the first ballot.

Other candidates hung back, waiting to see whether Lougheed would succumb to immense pressure and enter the race as the Tory most likely to save Canada from fragmentation. In this particular area he seemed head and shoulders above everyone else. "Alberta Premier could win in a walk," was the headline on one public opinion poll.

Lougheed, now 49, did not succumb. "I haven't finished what I have set out to do in Alberta," he said, closing the door on federal politics. His final decision was met with a national wave of disappointment.

Nevertheless, party members found consolation in the fact that Lougheed's common sense views and his reliable counsel would still be available from his provincial podium. It was assumed he would still have an enormous influence on the reshaping of Canada, and his voice would come through loud and clear regardless of which candidate won the national leadership.

REMAINED QUIET

For the first few months after Joe Clark assumed that leadership, it was understandable that Lougheed and other Tory premiers were relatively quiet. They didn't want to distract from the young national leader who faced a formidable task in reorganizing a party that has a festish for factions.

But just 10 months after the Conservatives changed leaders, the voters in Quebec also brought about a drastic change, and the separatist government of Rene Levesque came to power. If ever there was a time for a response from English Canada this was it. At least that was what everyone said.

And the responses came thick and fast as other politicians variously decided that Quebec's separation was inevitable, or that we faced civil war or that we should agree to a new constitutional arrangement with Quebec, or that it was time we told Quebec there could be no special economic arrangements following independence, etc., etc. In retrospect, English Canada seemed to think that everyone in Quebec was a separatist, and unless we converted them immediately all was lost.

But one voice was missing. Premier Lougheed was serenely surveying the scene from Edmonton, and adding little to the critical debate. While others cried that the end was near, the Alberta premier didn't seem alarmed, and unlike other premiers he didn't race off to Quebec City to try and reason with the dreaded separatists. Many Tories were impatient. Why, they asked, didn't Lougheed want to play a greater role in saving Canada?

AWAITED CHANGE

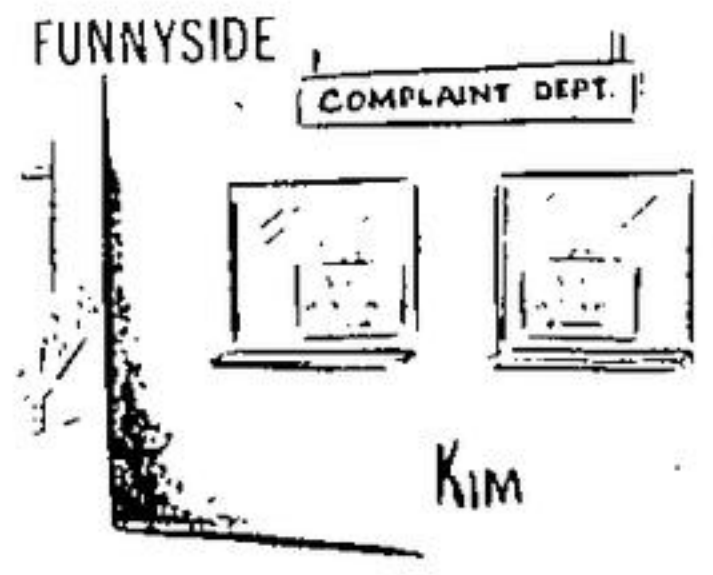
Then gradually, as Lougheed continued to be low, things began to change. Premier Rene Levesque began running into the day-to-day problems of governing Quebec during economic difficulties. Public opinion polls began to indicate that separatism was not an inevitability. Then the Liberals moved ahead of the Parti Quebecois, even before a new Grit leader was chosen. The crisis began evaporating.

And, just as if he knew this would happen, Lougheed waited patiently in the wings. As the screaming subsided, and we gradually returned to reasons, he felt the time was opportune to speak.

Rejecting any special status for one province, the Alberta premier now has proposed a whole series of reforms which, he hopes would satisfy the demands of all provinces in a renewed federation. The Supreme Court of Canada had become a constitutional court, the provinces would appoint 40 per cent of the members to regulatory agencies, the federal government would vacate the field of indirect taxation and, generally, the provinces would have the flexibility to do their thing while Ottawa would maintain enough power to ensure sovereignty.

It was a typically cool-headed Lougheed offering, delivered with impeccable timing when everyone could relax and listen. Had he said the same thing six months ago, his suggestions would have been lost in the shuffle.

And now he has tried the waters he hope he will keep on swimming.



AROUND THE RIM

By BOB RUTTER
Herald Editor

It was demonstrated by the groans and howl at the Halton Progressive Conservative nomination last week that the provincial Tories don't necessarily have a popular link with the federal party.

Tristan Lett, the youngest of the three Halton candidates, spoke to a silent overflow crowd last week, a feat that is almost unheard of at any nomination convention. The reason: He mentioned his support from and association with provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough.

And it is possible that tonight both candidates for the Tory banner in Brampton, Georgetown could face the same prospect. Both Everett Biggs and John McDermid have

extensive provincial political experience.

Mr. Biggs was a well-respected deputy-minister of agriculture and later deputy-minister of environment while Mr. McDermid was executive assistant to then industry and tourism minister Claude Bennett. Mr. McDermid is now in charge of public relations for Ontario Place while Mr. Biggs has resigned his post nine years before retirement.

It is difficult to get a reading on what will happen tonight at the Brampton-Georgetown nomination. Insiders admit that most delegates are in a quandary as to who to support. While the candidates have committed voters, the undecided vote will be important.

And the general consensus is that delegates will have to decide between political

expertise with either youth or long experience.

One thing is certain, however, and that is that Brampton-Georgetown Tories will have difficulty in providing a showing as good as the Halton Tories.

Speaking about the Halton nomination, last week I predicted that Otto Jelneck would likely take the nomination on the second ballot after considerable politicking by his supporters after the first round results.

It didn't work out that way as Jelneck swept through the first ballot, with about 51 per cent of the delegate support.

That was due almost entirely to a bland speech by Tristan Lett which appeared to observers to raise the ire of delegates. As a prominent Tory said later, Lett wrinkled a

few feathers and almost broke every unwritten rule in the book about nominations.

During his nomination speech and the speech by his nominator, Lett made some snide sweeps at the other two Halton candidates Otto Jelneck and Dr. Art Ross.

Among other things, he noted that both came back into the riding to seek election while he was a resident of Oakville. His nominator also quoted a letter of support from Jelneck to voters in a Metro riding which urged support of a young PC candidate with similar qualities as Mr. Lett. Both other candidates have strong ties to Halton. Jelneck returned home after his riding in Metro disappeared. He ran there at the suggestion of then Tory leader Robert Stanfield.

And then there was the surprising reaction of the crowd toward his comments on Darcy McKeough and his economic background with the provincial government.

The Lett speech itself was unemotional. He spoke bluntly with a forced earnest and the contents of his speech were bland and reminiscent of Pierre Trudeau making a policy statement which had no concrete proposals for consideration.

What resulted will never be fully known but the inference appears to be that Lett lost some support which swung into the Jelneck camp.

Had the nomination run into a second ballot it would have been a very tight race. Most observers agreed that the second round would have been a 51-49 per cent split.

Then there were groans!