

Halton Hills Outlook

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Their Outlook

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Latest resignation causing depression among Tory MPs

Perhaps it's the accumulative effect, but the Bissonette affair seems to be having a greater impact on the Tory backbenches than any of the other problems encountered by the Mulroney government.

One reason may involve the timing. Most of the 209 Conservative MPs had returned from their Christmas holidays, highly optimistic about the government finally shaking off the so-called "sleaze factor".

"When we broke for the Christmas holidays," said one western Tory member, "we felt really good about things. I think we all thought we had turned the corner."

"Who needs more of this crap?" You get the same type of comment from most corners of the Tory backbenches. There is some anger, some resentment, even some pity. But above all, there is frustration.

One wonders how the prime minister must feel.

It obviously doesn't help to have the latest Gallup Poll indicating that, for the first time in history, the Conservatives are in third-place in terms of national popularity. At 28 percentage points, they were two points behind the New Democrats.

NOTHING BUT
One angry member said he spent the Christmas recess "busting my butt" on behalf of the government. "So how do you think it feels to come back and have all this blow up in your face?"

He answered the question himself. "Lousy."

Another said that he has never seen his caucus colleagues so depressed about a particular issue. "It's not the resignation itself, or even the events surrounding it; it's a question of whether it will ever end."

Mr. Bissonette is the sixth minister to leave the Mulroney government under some degree of controversy. Only one has returned to the cabinet table. Marcel Masse, now energy minister, quit in 1985 while the RCMP were investigating his election expenses; when cleared, he rejoined the ministry.

Robert Coates resigned as defence minister after visiting a strip joint in Germany. John Fraser, now Commons Speaker, resigned as fisheries



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

minister over the Tuna affair. Suzanne Blais-Greiner, quit as minister of state for transport over a policy disagreement concerning the bailout of oil refineries. Sinclair Stevens resigned as industry minister amid conflict-of-interest allegations.

And while caucus colleagues were no doubt sorry in each case, none of the first five resignations resulted in any discernible caucus depression. But it was different this time. macleod2

REACTION SEEN

Anyone who watches the daily Question Period in the Commons can quickly notice the effects. Just watch the faces; better still, listen to the applause, or rather the lack of it, on the Tory benches. Usually, when the prime minister or the deputy prime minister defends a Tory colleague, he is supported by loud clapping.

It has been rather muted of late. Said one MP: "It's no fun sitting there day after day while Grits and the NDP keep talking about a rotten government, and every day the newspapers add new twists to things. I mean, how long are we supposed to sit there and clap?"

One can also spot some resentment, particularly among certain western MPs, over the fact that problems are being caused by the prime minister's Quebec friends. While the Bissonette affair was at its height, three aides to Quebec ministers were forced to resign, two of them for past criminal activities.

"Up until this latest scandal, I thought there was lots of time before another election and all our problems would be forgotten by then," said an MP. "And there's still time, but I am beginning to have my doubts whether we can ever shake the 'sleaze factor'."

"God, how I hate that expression," he added.



"A NEW POLL HAS MULRONEY AHEAD ... MILLA MULRONEY, THAT IS!"

Many budget options for windfall funds

TORONTO-The kind of good fortune enjoyed by Treasurer Bob Nixon is best illustrated by what Progressive Conservative Leader Larry Grossman wants him to do with his spring budget.

Nixon is sitting on windfall revenue as a result of a combination of a booming southern Ontario economy and Liberal tax hikes imposed when the Grits first took power in 1985.

Windfall revenue in this sense means not a genuine surplus, but income above the levels the government expected and budgeted for, therefore money that remains free to be allocated.

Grossman says it amounts to \$1 billion. In fact, he predicted such a huge revenue surplus last spring was inevitable because the Grits were deliberately underestimating provincial growth.

So far, Treasury admits to being \$400 million ahead of prediction on revenues.

Grossman claims that another \$300 million will show up in the figures eventually, while the Liberals will (through a variety of accounting tricks and last-minute spending) hide another \$300 million. Maybe. Maybe not.

But there is certainly no doubt that Nixon is watching the money roll in in unparalleled volumes.

Since the 1985 takeover provincial revenues have climbed 25 per cent, 13 per cent last year alone.

The question then becomes what to do with it.

Grossman's recipe for Nixon is tax slashing, a five-percentage-point cut in personal income tax and a one-percentage-point cut in the sales tax.

That would take \$700 million. Another \$300 million would be applied to the \$1.5 billion deficit.

Interestingly, Grossman said this isn't necessarily what a Tory budget would do should the party ever get the chance again.

They might re-order their spending priorities.

But given the figures for transfer payments and so on the Liberals have already announced will be in the next budget, this is what they should do with the excess revenue



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

they are accumulating, he said.

And what is Nixon's response? "There is great pressure to improve programs that have been strangled for money, particularly during the last few years of the Conservative government."

While he'd like to see taxes reduced, "we have to give a good level of service and we intend to do that."

Is he ruling out a tax cut in the next budget, then?

Well, no. As Treasurers normally do, he just isn't saying.

One suggestion is that if Nixon does go the tax cut route it indicates a June election for certain.

Nixon, by nature, isn't a tax cutter. He believes in the efficacy of government spending and, as a consequence, he lauds both high levels of spending and the taxes required to pay for it.

For example, with one major exception, the tax changes in his first budget - the first Liberal budget in 42 years - from a four percentage bump in the personal income tax to making gasoline a flat tax, all produced more revenue, \$650 million in total.

(The exception was the \$1 sales tax exemption, later broadened to \$2. As an aside - and as an indication of how people can get confused by the tax system - the Legislature's own cafeteria has illegally charged that tax since last spring until this week.)

In any case, it is good times for him. Because he has lots of money coming in he has lots of options.

And it would be nice if he took Grossman's suggestion.

As the Fraser Institute has ably demonstrated, for the average family of four earning \$36,000 almost half its income goes in tax - \$17,523 to be exact.

They could use a tax cut.

Letters

Darker side

Dear Sir,
Seniors - RRSP - The Darker Side!
I believed the glowing prospects of saving for my retirement through RRSP. I did enjoy a small measure of tax shelter, the last few years, while employed. Three years after my retirement at 65, an expense that indeed called for dipping into my "rainy-day" plan. At my bank, it would be no problem to withdraw \$6,000 from RRSP to buy a car. Then the bad news: the Government would take from me \$1,500 for this withdrawal! Later came a cruncher. My income, with wife's combined, entitled us to a pension supplement. On my application to renew this supplement in 1985, I was disallowed! The \$4,000 I withdrew to buy the car is considered income, therefore no "extras". To sum up: The government took \$1,500 because I withdrew my money. The government got purchase tax for the car, \$400 (it's the law). The government has deducted \$68 per month from our combined pension income. RRSP? Get the full story!!

George Mitchell,
Raylawn Cres.,
Georgetown

A smokescreen

Dear Sir,
The uproar over Sunday as an enforced rest day is a smokescreen. The Scriptures proclaim the Seventh day as the Biblical Sabbath in both the old and the new Testaments. A look at any calendar will confirm that the Seventh day is indeed the day we know as Saturday. The following quotes show who changed the day:

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of our Fathers (1917 ed.).

"The Bible says 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But the Catholic church says 'No, keep the first day of the week' and the whole world bows in obedience." Fr. T. Enright, Roman Catholic Priest.

So, people disobey the Creator Yahweh's Law by working on the Sabbath and uphold the Pope by enforcing Sunday as the rest day. It is a simple matter of obedience to Yahweh. Disobedience brings death. (Romans 6:23). Daniel wrote about the changing of the law in chapter 7. John wrote about the religious empire that rules the world (in Revelation 17) as Babylon, mother of Harlots.

Babylon's day of worship is Sunday, and annually December 25, the Venerable day of the Sun. The Sunday law is only the beginning. The Tribulation the Bible says will result from this will make the exterminations and martyrdoms of the Early and Middle Ages (also perpetrated by the Christian Church); conservative estimates 50,000,000 deaths insignificant by comparison. (Matthew 24:21). The time is coming and indeed is already here when ALL people will have to make a choice. Ignorance is no excuse. Choose Yahweh, Choose Life.

Michael Lindelauf,
for Yahwehs Assembly In Messiah
Box 767, Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1D0



CANADA'S IN A REAL MESS AND WHERE'S MULRONEY? - OUT OF THE COUNTRY!

YEAH - THANK GOODNESS FOR SMALL MERCIES!