

Berlin should make Canadians appreciate freedom, MP says

I know Berlin is a long ways from Bolton or Acton or Georgetown, but all of us should take a moment and think about what's going on there.

With their hands, Berliners are taking down The Wall. All over eastern, Communist Europe, the

context; to stop being so internally focussed, and to be thankful for all we have.

Last weekend Dorothy and I took part in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Georgetown and Alton and Glen Williams. We would have liked to go to others in Bolton and Caledon and Acton - but the schedule just won't handle it.

Part of what we remembered is the sacrifice so many Canadians made so we could live in democratic freedom. This country played a role in that struggle far greater than our population or wealth or resources would have suggested. Canada is remembered all over the free world for the massive effort made during both world wars, then the Korean conflict, in the name of that freedom.

We fought being enslaved by a system which did not recognize personal rights. We fought against intolerance and prejudice and bigotry. We fought against blind aggression, and for the right to determine - together - our own futures.

Now we have all that, and every time I walk into the House of Commons, or see the parliament buildings, or represent that parliament here in the riding, I am a proud Canadian.

There are lots of pressures which would tear us apart. Last week I debated the new sales tax for an hour on CBC radio, for example, with a Liberal and a New Democrat who were unrelenting in their attack.

Finance Minister Mike Wilson is facing the same kind of barrage, and last week the provincial premiers were lined up to take a swing at him. They even commissioned a report from the Conference Board of Canada to show that the GST would do everything but cause the leaves to fall off the trees.

No matter that this same board has made three major mistakes in its previous reports, and had to apologize. No matter that our free country is flirting with disaster as it goes into new debt at the rate of \$1,000 a second. And no matter that neither the premiers nor the opposition parties have a single alternative to try and turn the economy

around. It just seems to be enough to criticize. To ignore realities and to attack those now running the country.

That's a far cry from our country's past. During the last war, politicians came together to work for a common goal. Business people donated their time for the cause. Millions of Canadians bought millions of savings bonds to finance the building of tanks and airplanes. We grew victory gardens, and collected string and tin foil. We put up with gas rations and food stamps. There were no new cars to buy in the showrooms, and there were thousands of lost sons to mourn.

What a difference now. In Ottawa, the government faces a shortfall of \$80 million every day - while outside there are protestors blasting decisions to cut back government spending. I see them every time I come out the door, with their signs saying cuts to VIA Rail will destroy our way of life.

Ironically, what threatens us the most is living beyond our means. We spend \$30 billion a year more than we take in - and already have a debt of about \$350 billion. Those who think this doesn't matter are dreaming, because already over a third of all taxes are flushed away just paying the interest on that debt.

If nothing changes, soon half our taxes will be spent on interest - leaving not enough to even fund the programs we have today.

What Hitler and Hiroshito could not do 45 years ago, we could do to ourselves within the next two dozen months. If we do not cut spending, raise revenues, sell assets and do the other things which must be done, we will lose our freedom.

We risk being told what to do by our creditors. Already the Interna-

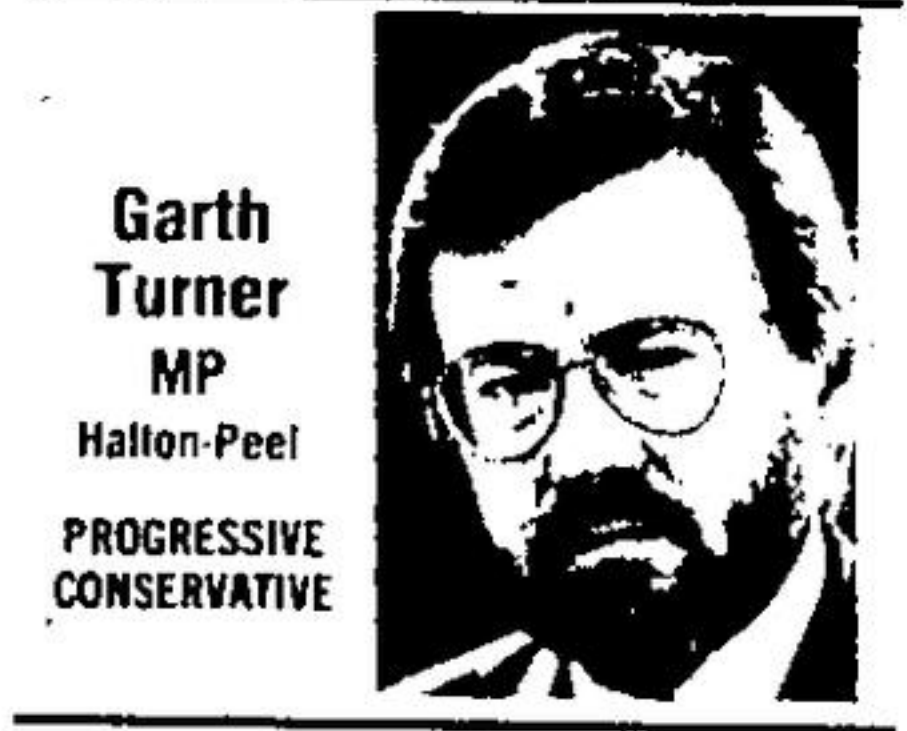
tional Monetary Fund is warning us. The Economic Council of Canada is saying the debt wolf is at the nation's door. And anybody who looks at the books can see the clear threat.

The last few days have opened my eyes further. Seeing the drive for freedom in Europe, and remembering the effort to protect freedom made by Canadians in the

past has strengthened my resolve.

All of us have a role to play. It won't always be easy and there will be more sacrifices called for. We'll be asked to do with less, and to offer more.

I guess just one thing is for sure: If we do it together, we will stay free. Personally, I can't imagine any other kind of Canada.



Garth Turner MP

Hilton-Peel

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

people are forcing changes which just months ago seemed impossible. Thousands every day are fleeing to the West, while others stay behind and fight for democracy.

What these nations want is what we already have - the freedom to speak; the freedom to travel; freedom to choose their own leaders; and the freedom to succeed or fail on their own merits, without state control.

I remember the day in 1961 when the Berlin Wall went up. My parents sat, in horror, watching the evening news on television. The images of the cinder blocks being slapped together is still with me. Now the image of Berliners dancing on top of that wall, and physically tearing away at it are also with me.

I know that some days we seem to have big problems - GST or Meech, Lake or VIA Rail. But in the scope of things, they don't amount to much. There are millions of people in the world who are willing to stake everything for a shot at the kind of life, and the kind of system, we take for granted. In East Germany, they are willing to drive to the border, then leave everything behind in the struggle to get across. In Beijing, they stood in front of columns of tanks, then died on the stones with their bicycles and banners.

We have got to put our lives in

Christmas ball

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital is holding its 31st annual Christmas ball on Friday, Dec. 1 at the Holy Cross Auditorium on Maple Avenue in Georgetown.

The buffet dinner begins at 7:30 p.m.

Black tie is optional.

Tickets are \$50 a couple. They're available at the hospital gift shop or by calling 877-8555 or 877-4593.

Music will be supplied by Dave Smallwood.

Table-top bazaar

There will be a table-top Christmas bazaar at Robert Little School in Acton Saturday, Nov. 18.

The bazaar will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance in the gymnasium.

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