

# Turner to fight for property owner's rights

Last week I told you about my changes - resigning as a committee chairman in Ottawa so I can better represent middle-class concerns in Ottawa. It seemed only logical to me, after learning how this system of politics works for the past two years.

Half way through my time as an MP I wanted to come back to the reasons I ever ran for office - fairer taxes, housing affordability, breaks for families, and care for both the economy and the environment.

I went back to Ottawa last week, and you'd think I had done something unprecedented in Canadian history. Calls from reporters lit up my office phones. I ended up on national TV explaining why the resignation took place. Some media interpreted what I'd done as some kind of protest against the government. And I kept getting asked, "but why are you really doing this?"

The real reason is too simple to be interesting: For years I was a critic of politicians, and now I am one. I'd like to be a bridge between government and average people. I'd like to put the middle class back on the national agenda - right up there with Lucien Bouchard and the Mohawk Warriors.

Parliament has resumed sitting, and by coincidence, this is the week in Ontario when people in the real estate industry celebrate the fact home ownership and private property are so important to us.

But did you know there is no constitutional guarantee in Canada about owning property? There's no law saying a government can't come along and take your house away.

For the last eight years, it's been that way - ever since the Constitution was brought back to Canada in 1982. Before that the Canadian Bill of Rights (which Diefenbacher established in 1960) said this: "It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there has existed and shall continue to exist...the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law."

But that right to own property was dumped from the Charter of Rights which we got when the Constitution came back - mostly because, at the time, the NDP objected to it. So now, according to constitutional expert Peter Hogg, the Charter "affords no guarantee of compensation or even of a fair procedure for the taking of property by government. It means that the Charter affords no guarantee of fair treatment by courts, tribunals or officials with power over the purely economic interests of individuals."

And I object to that.

## EAGLE offers scenic walk

Want to enjoy the fall colors? Come join EAGLE (Ecology Awareness Group Landscape and Environment) on a scenic walk on Niagara Escarpment lands Sunday, Oct. 14, 1990 at 2 p.m.

EAGLE will be leaving from the Acton quarry lookout, heading down the Third Line, and joining the Bruce Trail to eventually complete the walk through a "sensitive" area threatened by quarries.

Guides will point out the historical significance of the area. Donations and pledges are welcome and all proceeds will go the EAGLE in the group's effort to protect the Niagara Escarpment as a unique natural area recognized world wide as a "Biosphere Reserve."

A bring your own barbecue will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gori. Coffee and barbecues will be awaiting your arrival.

Details and pledge sheets can be obtained by phoning 877-7473 or 853-4915.

NB: Layered clothing and comfortable footwear is recommended.

Garth Turner MP

Halton-Peel PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE



To me, it should be a right that any Canadian can own property and have some protection that government won't take it away.

The Americans have this constitutional guarantee, and we should too.

So I am raising the matter in the House of Commons, and asking the government to do more than just give lip service to private property rights.

Nothing will happen quickly, of course. After Meech Lake failed the whole issue of changing the Constitution collapsed. It will take a long time before passions cool enough that we can start talking again. But when we do, this item should be on the table, right beside the future of Quebec, the rights of native people, recognition of

women and minorities and every other special interest group demand.

Two years ago, the Tory MP from Kitchener, John Reimer, introduced a motion in the House of Commons which said the Constitution should be amended "in order to recognize the right to enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof, except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

That motion passed, and yet - after two years - nothing has happened. During the last round of constitutional talks, the issue wasn't even mentioned. Once

again, the middle class was left off the agenda because we're all too polite and patient. We're easy to ignore in a country where the extremists and the zealots and the lobbyists get all the attention.

No more. You and I should have some fundamental guarantee that nobody will come and take our houses away. It may be a small point, but it's important. In a country where home ownership is a basic fact of life, this only seems to be common sense.

So why has politics denied it?

Let's try to find out. And then fix it.

## "Nutri/System added flavour to my life and helped me lose 100 lbs."



"I used to crave food all the time, and my eating was getting out of control. Then I went to Nutri/System. They helped me lose all the weight I wanted and I still got all the flavorful food I craved. Mouth-watering dishes like Mexican Pasta and Chicken Polynesian.

And wonderful desserts like Apple Cinnamon Cupcakes and Chocolate Pudding. Now, my life's taken on a new flavor, too. It's upbeat and fun. And I'm loving every minute of it."

Lucia A. Figueroa



Our Comprehensive Weight Loss Program Will Help Over **ONE MILLION** Clients This Year!

### IT INCLUDES:

- Safe and effective weight loss
- Nutritionally balanced meal plans
- Nutritional supervision
- No calorie counting

Our client, Lucia Figueroa, lost 100 lbs.

OVER 1,700 CENTRES WORLDWIDE

**nutri/system**  
weight loss centres

SPECIAL OFFER!  
2 WEEKS ONLY

# LOSE ALL THE WEIGHT YOU WANT AND PAY FOR ONLY 10 LBS.\*

Call Today For A **FREE** No-Obligation Consultation

## GEORGETOWN ORANGEVILLE

GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE

290 GUELPH STREET

**873-1900**

47 BROADWAY

**942-3500**

Special offer does not include cost of exclusive Nutri/System Food. Offer valid at participating centres. New clients only. Offer expires October 13th, 1990.