

People's Forum

Open letter to Garth Turner

An open letter to Garth Turner and other MP's.

From John Shadbolt, Libertarian, Box 75, Acton.

Recently I received your WHAT IF booklet. I have a WHAT IF list of my own.

1. WHAT IF the FEDERAL DEBT was not increasing by \$3,000.00 per minute. Do MP's think they should be allowed to squander our money with out of control spending?

2. WHAT IF the people insisted on having pensions similar to those given by MP's to themselves.

3. WHAT IF citizens insisted

they had the same tax breaks that politicians do?

4. WHAT IF citizens had low cost food and drink, similar to the MP's.

5. WHAT IF the people refused to pay the new tax grab, GST.

6. WHAT IF politicians represented the people's wishes on capital-punishment, tougher law enforcement?

7. WHAT IF junkets all over the world by MP's were no longer allowed?

8. WHAT IF the civil service was cut back. At last count something like 30% of our population was employed by government. I understand 15% is the

most it should be.

9. WHAT IF the 4,000 plus new GST tax collectors were fired?

10. WHAT IF the monies spent on your marketing ideas, i.e. the WHAT IF booklet, was paid for out of MP's own pockets, not by people who do not believe it will make any difference anyway.

11. WHAT IF the politicians represented the people who pay the bill, i.e. voted against the GST.

12. WHAT IF the government resigned? Perhaps Canada would be a better place.

Thankyou,
John Shadbolt,
Acton.

United Church controversy

Dear Editor:

Chill out everyone! That is the new message across our United Church. The fight is over, we have made our decision re the ordination of homosexual persons. We are on the move again. No getting even; have you hugged your former opponent today rhetoric is now in vogue around the church.

As a minister who has been documenting church fights and clergy abuse of all kinds for over a decade I am more than encouraged by this new and positive message. Imagine my surprise a few days ago when I picked up my paper and read "United Minister Fired for Stand Against Gays". I wish this was just an isolated case but it is not.

In the context of our new make love not war message from church leaders two items in the story demand a response. First the minister was fired against the wishes of the congregation and

after he had already resigned on a moral principle. Second the tortured logic and distorted view of the church used to justify the act.

The church official, chair of Halton Presbytery, in rationalizing the firing of the Rev. Dr. Brown of Burlington, Ont. said: "There has been a precedent in the church as there has in other institutions to ask for immediate resignation when you sort of bad mouth the institution." Incredible. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The real tradition and strength of our church has always been different from the secular institutions at this very point. Unlike secular institutions, the United church has always encouraged and even welcomed dissent. There is a line but you don't cross over it by "sort of bad mouthing". Former Moderator Muchmore used to say in this regard that the church was an anvil that has worn out many hammers.

Part of our ethos is that we take criticism. If it is true we change, if not, we learn from it and journey on in our struggle for social justice. If a pastor can't live with some policy he or she resigns on a matter of principle as Dr. Brown did. This type of action has always been seen and recognized as the ethical thing to do. Now it seems when a person does just that they are humiliated - even destroyed. Too often by spiritual zombies eager to defend their idea of the institution.

The United Church fights for human rights and justice all over the globe but needs to take a look at how our own clergy are treated. The significance of this ugly deed happening to the Brown family during this Christmas festival of the Prince of Peace should not be lost. Dickens could not have written a better modern version of his Christmas Carol.

K. D. "Casey" McKibbin (Rev.)
Metcalfe, Ontario

Protect your dogs during winter

Dear Editor:

The arrival of winter and winter weather means that numerous "outdoor" dogs will suffer as they are not adequately protected from the harsh elements. Howling winds, biting cold temperatures and snow, sleet and occasionally rain will adversely affect even the hardiest of outdoor dogs which are not appropriately protected.

Some people believe it is acceptable to keep their dog outside without shelter. This is not the case. Many dogs are not outdoor dogs. Some dogs can manage out-of-doors provided they have a good doghouse and they are acclimatized to outdoor weather when they are younger and during warmer weather.

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, all dogs are, by law, required to have adequate shelter. A doghouse should be large

enough for the dog to stand up, sit down, turn around and stretch out comfortably to the fullest extent of its limbs. It should be insulated, have an interior wind-break, exterior door flap and be elevated six inches off the ground, facing away from the prevailing winds. As well, the dimensions of the doghouse should be directly related to the size of the dog. This is important for the dog to keep warm in the doghouse with its own body heat. Outdoor dogs should always have access to fresh water in a non-spillable water container.

Besides inadequate shelter, another problem many outdoor dogs experience is a lack of attention from their family members. Dogs are social animals. They need love and affection. Unfortunately many outdoor dogs only see someone for the time it takes to place the animal's food bowl before it and give the pet a

"pat on the head."

If your dog is an outdoor dog, at least make sure it is comfortable. An appropriately constructed doghouse inside a fenced-in yard or dog run is a good start. As well, make sure the dog receives plenty of attention. Take it for frequent walks, play with it and groom it. Provide your "best friend" with plenty of love and attention and your kindness will be returned several times over by your faithful, canine companion.

If you would like a free pamphlet entitled Ideal Doghouse For Ontario's Outdoor Dogs, contact your local humane society or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Publications Dept., Ontario S.P.C.A. (Ontario Humane Society), 620 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4V8.

Sincerely,
N. Glenn Perrett,
Publications Coordinator.

Turner analysis misleading

Editor's note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Garth Turner,
MP for Halton-Peel
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Turner,
In many ways, I believe you have tried to represent the people of Halton-Peel and on some issues I have agreed with your stand and others I disagree, such as the GST, because there are alternatives which could have been explored, one of which is the "single tax" proposal.

However, your analysis of the cuts at the CBC as stated in your "Ottawa Report" of December 12, has been totally misleading. The cuts at CBC may be justified, or is this the same mode of attack

on public broadcasting here, to eliminate public broadcasting in Canada, as was used in the U.S. by the Prime Minister's mentor, President Reagan, to silence public broadcasts there. It is well known that any governing party objects to the criticism of a public broadcasting system. Would you expect it to be any other way?

Your statement, "There are more than 90 CBC reporters in the Ottawa press gallery, compared to 20 for CTV," does not give the scope of coverage. The CTV task is to provide coverage for an English speaking TV network. CBC is reporting for English and French TV, English and French radio, International radio, and English and French Newsworld. Was it not your Conservative government which in-

structed CBC Newsworld to provide French language coverage, even though it was not considered economical? Is it possible that each of the media requires their own announcer? I realize that politicians are very versatile, but there hasn't been one to my knowledge, that can speak English and French simultaneously.

What is required is an honest parliamentary debate on public broadcasting to clarify the position of the government on this issue. But let it be an open discussion, not like that of the GST when our representatives refused to listen to the public.

Yours truly,
F. Robin,
Georgetown.

Council congratulated

The Editor:

It is not my intention to enter into debate with Mr. John Sommer and I respect his right to voice an opinion.

I would be the first to uphold that right.

Having said that - his letter to the Editor compels me to reply.

I do not agree with his reasoning with regard to the incident that took place at the Royal Ascot condominium.

There are laws providing for payment of legitimate debt.

I feel sure Mr. Sommer is aware of the method used by banks or any business, or person - who holds a first mortgage on any property where the purchaser defaults on the required payments.

Yes, that's right - they repossess the property and put it for sale in the marketplace.

It's a matter then between the mortgagor and the mortgagee.

No one else is involved - especially bystanders in the process.

I do not blame our local government - Halton Hills council.

I do not blame the provincial government.

They had nothing to do with

making the elevator inoperable.

I realize that businesses are not charitable organizations.

I also realize that for any business to survive, they must have a saleable product or service to attract consumers if they expect to prosper.

There are a great many businesses that perform voluntary and charitable acts that they do not publicize.

In any case this situation developed over a claimed debt.

The people living in the building were innocent bystanders and I don't think they deserved that kind of treatment.

I know the situation caused deep concern for Mayor Miller and his council members.

I always believed in giving credit where it is due and I feel the council of Halton Hills worked diligently to resolve a disgusting situation as expeditiously as possible.

They can hold their heads up high. If it hadn't been for the Mayor and his council the situation might still exist.

It is not too often that I get the chance to tell a politician "well done."

Steve Emmerson,
Acton.

Stun dart suggested

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of letter I sent to J. Harding, Halton Regional Police Chief. I.e.

Dear Sir,

For a long time now I have been thinking of writing a letter to someone in authority to suggest an alternative to using a revolver and wounding or killing a person suspected of a felony involving crime.

Reading in the paper today (undercover officer puts 5 bullets into suspect armed with only a small knife), prompts me to further my contention that a stunning dart in many circumstances could be used in many a times to control a suspect without too much damage as is the case in controlling a wild animal. From experience a person doped up is not afraid of injuring himself or others and seldom listens to advice as they are unable to think rationally at the time.

Maybe our local police could

set a new world-wide first by arming officers with a small dart shooting derringer in cases where it could be used effectively in place of killing or maiming an innocent person by mistake as it at times happens.

Seems strange that an officer will risk his own life in an attempt to save someone's life at times and yet will shoot to kill on occasion feeling it was necessary as he had no alternative.

I am a senior citizen and recall times as a boy in Cabbagetown it was quite common for a policeman on the beat to prove he was tougher than the local hard guy by handing someone his helmet and tunic and going up a lane to beat hell out of him, no arrest.

As they say if my idea saves just one innocent life, it will not have been in vain. For what it is worth?

Yours sincerely,
Mr. Gordon D. Graham,
Georgetown, Ont.

Halton police thanked

Editor's note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.
Staff Inspector Kivell
1 District Commander
217 Guelph Street,
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 4A4

Dear Sir:

On Sunday, December 16, 1990, I awoke to discover that my late model snowmobile had been stolen.

I called Halton Regional Police at 7:00 a.m. and by 7:50 a.m., PC Peter Corner arrived at my home. Together we followed the tracks of my machine, and came upon another man who was doing the same. It turned out that his snowmobile had also been stolen. We continued down the first line just outside of Acton, and came across two youths - whom PC Corner subsequently charged. In fact it appears as though these same two "young offenders" had stolen three machines that night.

Sergeant Bill Henshaw and PC Angela Gaynor continued the search through dense bush and discovered two abandoned machines. Happily, one was mine. By 1:30 that same afternoon I had my damaged machine back in the garage.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Halton Police for a

job very well done. Further, I'd like to express my views to you regarding the excellent police work and professionalism exhibited by PC Peter Corner. His performance and dedication is a credit to your Force, and should not go unnoticed.

Yours truly,
Allan R. Foster,
Acton.

Volunteers thanked

To the Editor:

The Executive of the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society wishes to thank all the special volunteers - the drivers, Area Chairpersons, Area Captains, canvassers and sponsors of special events, who give of their time and talent, and the residents of Georgetown who, through their generosity, made our campaign year successful.

Your support is appreciated and necessary in our fight against cancer.

Good Health and Best Wishes in the New Year!

The Executive,
Georgetown Unit
Canadian Cancer Society.