

# Editorial

## Tough times for NDP

What to make of the Peter Kormos affair?

What to make of the New Democratic Party as it prepares to take its fledgling flight in the stormy and threatening skies of Ontario politics?

What to make of NDP leader Bob Rae, now that chinks are beginning to show in his 'White Knight' suit of armor?

These questions are intertwined and depending on the answers forthcoming from Mr. Rae and his NDP cohorts, the self-proclaimed 'social democrats' might only get one kick at the proverbial can in terms of ruling Ontario.

Kormos, the former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, was fired by Bob Rae Monday because, according to Mr. Rae, Kormos "wasn't a team player." Mr. Rae also called into question Mr. Kormos' judgement when he added, "I had hoped that his political judgement would be exercised with a little more discretion and care upon assuming a cabinet position."

Excuse us, Bob, but aren't you the man who appointed Peter Kormos to the cabinet? And aren't you the man who demanded that NDP candidates be of a high standard?

Especially, when you attacked Liberal Premier David Peterson when you were leader of the opposition and are quoted in Hansard as saying, "It's a question of what the Premier's standards are."

This could just as easily apply to you, Bob.

That Mr. Kormos posed as a 'Sunshine Boy' for the Toronto Sun or that one of his top policy advisors was once convicted of assault on a female has no bearing on the real issue here. Nor even does the fact that Kormos has admitted he once worked in a Yonge Street bookstore which sold pornographic material, when he was attending university. Even that he was once convicted of failing to file an income return.

What is at issue here is Mr. Rae's standards and indeed, Mr. Rae's judgement.

The New Democratic Party knew of Mr. Kormos' background before it allowed him to stand as a candidate for political office. So did Bob Rae.

Knowledge of Mr. Kormos' somewhat maverick background, however, did not stop Mr. Rae from appointing the Welland-Thorold MPP to cabinet.

Despite the fact that at present, and in general, politicians are held in low esteem by the public, there still is the perception that politicians are a bit of a cut above the rest of the masses. This perceptual view is about the only thing politicians have going for them right now and this, more than anything else, led to the firing of Peter Kormos.

Mr. Rae blew this one from the word go and should admit his mistake rather than pussyfooting around the issue looking for the nearest exit.

"As I See It"

by Colin Gibson



The New Democratic Party hold a majority of seats in the Ontario legislature. It should also be noted, however, that 62 per cent of Ontarians did not vote for the NDP.

Those who did were wooed by Mr. Rae's 'Agenda for People' and all the promises of change for the better made during the last provincial election campaign.

Those election promises are now being tossed aside, like an unwanted lover, and the NDP is scrambling to make excuses for the excess of unrealistic promises made during the election campaign.

In fact, during the election campaign, the NDP was running for second spot, didn't expect to win and didn't expect to be called to task for promises the party knew it couldn't keep.

So how does Bob Rae handle this situation? By looking for a scapegoat and by promising further study of the issues.

After Treasurer Floyd Laughren announced Ontario's deficit as \$3-billion with the possibility it could raise even more, Mr. Rae blamed the former Liberal government for the situation and stated his government is still feeling the aftershocks caused by the David Peterson regime.

It was left to the Treasurer and not Mr. Rae to go public with what is obvious to all and sundry. Mr. Laughren was quoted as saying, that "keeping our promises and living up to the Agenda for People, will take longer than I thought it would when we ran on that program back in the summer of 1990. I think that everybody understands that now."

Fine and dandy, but couldn't Ontario's Premier, Bob Rae, admit the same thing publicly? Of course not, bad for the image.

Mr. Rae should chuck his 'White Knight' suit of armor and admit it is of no use in the cold, harsh political climate of Ontario.

Get a suit from a discount store, Bob, come back to the ordinary man's level and be honest with the people. Believe me, we can take it.

If you don't you will add veracity to another of the ousted Mr. Kormos' charges when he hinted there was an air of "intellectual totalitarianism" within the NDP.

You will also hear resurface the old cry, used to describe your political party, 'No Damn Policy.'

As I see it, anyway.

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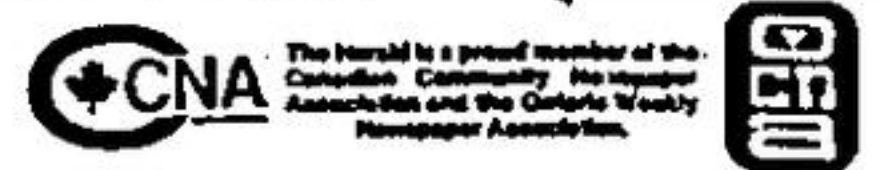
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## Skeptic about Reform Party

To be honest I've been a little skeptical about the Reform Party of Canada.

For starters, I'm kind of dubious about some of their policies. Besides, it's hard to feel entirely comfortable about any political party that would name itself after a school for wayward youths.

All the same, I have nothing but applause for the Reform Party's most recent initiative. Party leader Preston Manning has announced that prospective candidates will have to fill out a 40-page questionnaire before being allowed to run for the party in the next election.

Among other things, the questionnaire will ensure that candidates are highly successful in their own fields, that their closets lack skeletons, and that they do not have any relatives who are likely to prove embarrassing.

Well, this clearly stamps the Reformers as a party unwilling to compromise their high principles. And possibly as a party with few hopes of fielding very many candidates.

It's always easy to be cynical, of course. It's easy to remember the famous observation of Groucho Marx, who once said that he wouldn't be caught dead belonging to any club that would have him as a member.

But given the sort of esteem in which politicians are currently held, you have to admit the Reformers are onto something.

Politics, it is said, is the art of the possible. But when you look at a lot of the people involved, you have to conclude that it's also the craft of the improbable.

Any party that neglects to screen its candidates runs a risk. Indeed, it may even leave itself open to sabotage.

Back in my days as a

Weir's World  
by Ian Weir  
Thomson News Service



newspaper reporter, a few of us actually concocted such a scheme after deciding we were all peeved at the party in power. The plan was fiendish in its simplicity.

Basically we decided that one of us would seek a nomination for this party, taking great pains to seem sober and respectable. As soon as he was nominated, he would hit the campaign trail in a polyester leisure suit, burping frequently and drinking wine from a paper bag.

Unfortunately, this plan had one fatal flaw - which lay in the difficulty finding a newspaper reporter capable of looking sober and respectable in the first place.

But I digress. We were discussing the wisdom of circulating questionnaires for prospective political candidates.

The big question, of course, concerns the sort of questions that ought to be asked. So if I could hazard a few suggestions...

One. Are you capable of chewing bubble gum and evading questions at the same time? If not, are you willing to swear off gum?

Two. Is your motivation A.) the desire to serve; B.) the desire to save the country; or C.) the pension plan? if you answered A.) or B.), were you able to do so with a

straight face?

Three. Do you believe your actions as a public servant will ultimately be judged by a Higher Power as A.) God; B.) the Party Leader; or C.) Barbara Frumm?

Four. Do you have skeletons in your closet?

Five. Do you have bats in your belfry?

Six. Do you have any objections to party policy which could not be offset by the possibility of an appointment to the Senate?

Seven. Should the party win the next election, MPs will of course be called upon to defend its economic policies. When confronted with proof that these policies are utterly ruinous, is the proper response: A.) "This government is determined to stay the course; B.) "The people will come to perceive the wisdom in our position; or C.) "How 'bout them Blue Jays"?

Eight. Are you truly, genuinely committed to a career that will enable you to help people serve the country, and hold your head high at the end of each day?

Nine. Then why on earth do you want to get into politics?

### Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.

## Poets' Corner

### BLOOD RED SKIES

As the sun goes down,  
I move around  
Keeping to the shadows  
Life hangs by a thread  
And I've heard it said, that  
I'll not see  
tomorrow.

If that's my destiny, I'll  
have to be  
So I'll face the future  
Running out of time  
and I'm on the line

But I'll go down fighting.  
by Phil Landriault, Acton

### NEW FALLEN RAIN

The fallen rain  
Draining from the sky above  
Never lasting too long.

The quiet movement  
White faces imitating  
To entertain you.

The evening sky above  
Covering the gleaming moon  
A single star falls.

by John Bousfield, Acton