

People's Forum

Turner accused of not fulfilling his role

This letter was released to the Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Turner:
Re: Your Ottawa Report of May 4, 1991

Democratic government requires, if I may borrow a term from our southern neighbors, that our MP's form a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." In our opinion, you, as our elected representative, are not fulfilling this role very well. We will not be voting for you at the next election.

In the article, you state "These are my goals" but we believe the goals should be those of the majority of the people in your riding.

You state that income taxes could not be reduced. We believed that your government (not ours unfortunately) said that the GST would be used exclusively to lower the deficit so why could personal income taxes not be lowered?

You say one of your goals is to reduce spending. We agree with that goal, but not with the methods you mention to achieve it. Many pensioners are living from one pension check to the next now. Would you dare make their living standards even lower by reducing their pension cheques? You also want to lower the family allowance. Many needy families require that family allowance cheque to help cover the high cost of raising children nowadays, especially with the GST added on now.

To reduce spending, we suggest

the following government costs should be the first items to be lowered:

(1) free handouts to people illegally in our country eg. Mr. Ng in B.C. and Ms. Benbenek in Thunder Bay, who are using our laws and our money, to protect themselves from the laws of their own country

(2) politicians using government planes for business trips rather than regular flights like the rest of us

(3) politicians taking unnecessary trips

(4) politicians taking their families on trips at our expense

(5) buying GST pins for people who helped to get that despicable GST act through (Isn't that a bit much since the vast majority of Canadians did not want the GST?)

(6) having plush, over-stuffed, over-supplied offices in Ottawa for our representatives where many items, eg. desks, computers and cabinets are never used

(7) giving money to foreign individuals and countries eg. Mr. Mandela when we do not know how it will be used (perhaps to buy Russian guns to shoot his fellow Africans who do not agree with him politically) while we have thousands of our own Canadians going hungry because there is not enough in the food banks to feed them!!

(8) cutting back by half the number of MP's in our federal government

(9) buying "Canadian" instead of paying foreigners to make

things for us eg. an American being paid a huge amount to design our dollar coin

(10) starting government pensions for politicians at sixty-five years of age like regular pensions and penalizing those that start sooner just as our Canada Pensions are lowered for the rest of us if we take them before we are sixty-five

(11) taxing should be done by the level of government closest to the people that provides the services for which we are being taxed.

We tentatively agree with some of your ideas but we would have to see them in detail before supporting them definitely! For example, we agree that making the tax system fairer is desirable but we would like to see a minimum tax for people with a gross income of \$60,000 and up annually as well as a minimum tax on all businesses. Also, a Family Care Credit sounds fair but is this benefit not being recognized already by allowing some income tax deductions for a wife and

children etc. now? Allowing volunteers to deduct minor expenses sounds alright but what minor expenses are we talking about here?

We agree that some of our institutions need reforming. We believe that the senate should be abolished now as it has recently been shown that the ruling party can control it by simply appointing more members who will vote as the government of the day prefers. Your idea to make government "more equal" sounds good but the way you want to implement it leaves a lot to be desired. People in sparsely populated provinces must feel that they can affect policy in some slight measure.

We would be interested in hearing from you regarding our questions and comments.

Yours sincerely,
Jim and Betty Kennedy,
Kay Bentley, Jane Moffatt,
Ken Nash, Bob Reynolds,
Stan Gurak, Jean McMullen and
Ken McMullen.
Georgetown.

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Councillor's motives are questioned

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Ben Dummett for his entertaining, in-citeful column and for not being afraid to call it like he sees it.

In "Subtle hints indicate election campaign has begun," he points out that some councillors are starting to conspicuously promote themselves in ways that they haven't over the past three year term.

Recently, residents in Ward 3 were treated to a newsletter from our Regional Councillor, Pam Johnston. A very good way to keep constituents informed, you might say. However, this was the

first newsletter from Johnston that we have received in six years! Other Ward 3 residents that I have spoken to also claim that they haven't received one before.

Predictably, Johnston comes out on all the politically correct sides of issues - for road safety (who isn't?), against the dump, concerned about homes for her four sons, etc.

Maybe, Ben, I too am cynical. But I don't think we're the only ones. It certainly is, after all, an election year.

Yours sincerely,
Michele Fisher,
Georgetown.

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.

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CARRIER OF THE WEEK BOYS - GIRLS

A Grade 7 student at Stewarttown Middle School, 12-year-old Peter has been delivering the Halton Hills Herald for 3 years.

He delivers 90 papers on Wednesdays and Fridays.

For the last several years he's been depositing his cheques straight in the bank but this year, he intends to pay his own way on a school trip to Quebec.

Peter enjoys figure skating and playing soccer and plans to be an architect when he's older.

For his efforts, Peter will receive a large pizza, courtesy of Pizza Hut in Georgetown.



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