

Opinion

The Reform Party must be viewed carefully

EDITORS NOTE: The Halton Hills Herald is pleased to welcome a new local columnist to the fold. Carlo Testa, an Erin resident and Georgetown businessman, will be providing his column, 'Another View' on a regular weekly basis in the Herald weekend Outlook. Born in Italy, Mr. Testa was educated in Germany and the United States and worked for the United Nations in both the Middle East and Central America. He has resided in 11 countries throughout the world. The Halton Hills Herald is pleased to present, 'Another View' for its readers.

The appearance of the Reform Party in Ontario has been greeted with fear and scorn by politicians and scepticism in the media. This notwithstanding, hundreds of Ontarians have happily joined the ranks of Preston Manning's fans and, as some are people we well know for their integrity and reputation, it is difficult to ignore the movement.

I must add that, at this time, I still find it difficult to come to grip with the program of the

Reform Party. There are ideas there which smack of unreconstructed racism and others which make perfect sense, together with others which are downright revolutionary. There is extreme naivety in some economical matters (eg.: eliminate the national deficit in three years) and some good common sense.

We have certainly been led down the garden path by politicians of every color, from those who go to Ottawa charged with reformist zeal only to come back weeks/months later with their tails between their legs announcing that having seen the light and they must live with their Party policy.

We have seen those who go to Ottawa and disappear in a kind of social black hole from which they resurface at the next election. And we have seen those, blissfully free of any shadow of knowledge or commitment, busily work for re-election from day one of their career.

But we also have the honest, capable, hard-working MP who



Another View
by
Carlo Testa

tries his best and fights his battles against an obtuse bureaucracy and an even more obtuse Party.

Unfortunately, the end result is the same: the public is fed-up with the political game and willing to jump at any alternative which promises a different game.

I guess my negative gut reaction to the Reform Party is because I do not believe in this instant "better" politicians. Political life is for most, the fastest way to moral bankruptcy

and only exceptional people manage to bend the political law of the jungle to honesty and intellectual creativity.

Somehow, it is hard to believe that a new Party will escape this inflexible rule. Also, and this is the European in me speaking, too often "new" Parties have turned out to be just a means to authoritarian rule, see Fascism or Nazism.

The traditional Parties may be sleazy, the new ones....!

Feelings aside, would the Reform Party be beneficial to Canadian politics?

In a way yes, if it would attract the rightist wing of the Conservatives, letting the more "liberal" wing gain the upper hand. However a "moderate" Conservative Party would be difficult to differentiate from the moderate wing of the Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party is such a confusing and confused institution that, in order to gain a semblance of a sense of direction it needs to shed its left-wing elements to the NDP. End result

of this game of political musical chairs?

A right wing party (Reform), a centre party (moderate Conservatives and Liberals), a left wing party (NDP). Should the Reform Party force such a re-alignment of Canadian politics, it would deserve the gratitude of all citizens.

There is nothing morally wrong in being a right- or left-winger (there may be something substantially wrong intellectually, but...). There is definitely something very wrong in parties who try to be progressive-conservative or liberal-socialist.

Contradictions are nice in debates, fatal in leadership, as the sorry state of Canada demonstrates. We certainly need to rebuild our political structures, not just the constitution, but the very way we run our affairs.

It could well be that the coming on the scene of the Reform Party could be the force for an overdue review. Many major ventures have been initiated by even more unpromising tools.

People's Forum

Politicians must wake up and face reality

Dear Sir:

I am responding to Mr. Turner's letter, published in your paper June 5, 1991. He feels the GST along with all politicians are going to reduce the deficit! Everytime a new tax is introduced, sure more money is collected,

but it never ends up where it is supposed to go. It usually goes into covering the expenses politicians create. They say that the manufacturer's tax was unfair to businesses and made their products uncompetitive. It wasn't the manufacturer's tax but all the

other taxes combined and high wage demands by unions. In the years gone by, we have had numerous taxes added to fight the national debt. We have had PST added to services and now GST also is added. We had sales tax increased, builders have to pay ridiculous land taxes before they can build. Homeowners pay taxes and GST on utilities, high property taxes, income taxes, taxes on everything you buy, taxes and more taxes. The more taxes that are added, the more you have to think about whether you are going to buy that item or wait a bit longer. The more taxes that are added, the less spending power the ordinary person has. This ordinary person is what Canada is all about and the greedy politicians have forgotten this. So to reward us, the Government inflicts more taxes on us and hope and that we will get used to the idea and continue life as usual. So when these politicians say GST is going to reduce the deficit, give me a break ... In the meantime more companies are going bankrupt or moving to the USA because of free trade (wait til Mexico is part of this deal, you haven't seen nothing yet!!!), and more people are becoming unemployed and guess what? These people are not spending, they are collecting unemploy-

ment and Welfare, and then there is a drain on the money that should have been used to reduce the deficit. So you are back to the drawing board, and it's time to invent a new tax.

He also stated, that all governments should always buy Canadian first, within reason. It is easy for him to say that when they are using the taxpayers money and they don't have to look for bargains, shop for specials or clip coupons. No wonder people flock to the USA to shop. The government has made it impossible to shop in Canada. They increased tax on cigarettes, liquor and gasoline, not because they wanted to help the manufacturers, but because they didn't want to lose their precious taxes. A large 60 oz. bottle of liquor in the USA, including exchange, duties and taxes cost approximately \$20.00 Canadian. As of January 1991, the Government invented a new tax called the Government Liquor Fee to be added on top of the exchange, duties and GST. Now that same bottle that had cost \$20.00 Canadian in 1990 now costs \$65.00. That same bottle in the liquor store here costs \$46.00. So basically, they don't care if Canadians don't buy in Canada, as long as they don't lose their precious taxes.

Why can't the politicians,

whether local or nationwide, wake up and face reality. People want to shop and spend money, it is a natural function. But the government has taken everything away. If taxes were lower, people would have more money to spend, and the government would have more money in taxes coming in to them and it would also create more jobs. Also, why not have Sunday shopping? It had increased more jobs and people spent. Companies have to pay rent for seven days of the week, so it should be up to them if they want to open. Opening businesses in tourist areas is a crock, who can afford to shop there except politicians!!!!!! Common pause day If you don't want to shop on Sunday, don't!!! But many people do and many feel that on Sunday if they want to shop unhurried with the family then they can.

So, Mr. Turner, when Mulroney wants to know what is wrong with the general feelings with Canadians, tell him. Lower the taxes ... because he is killing this country ... and put Canadians back to work. This country was born with pride and willingness to work and succeed. But, he has given it away and created discontent

Ms. J. Podlesny,
Georgetown.

Let the kids play

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

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Spectator:

I am writing this letter in response to your comments made in last week's People's Forum. I am not a soccer fan and I live in Georgetown but your letter really caught my attention. I find it very hard to believe that you are not writing this letter with sour grapes in your mouth due to the games outcome.

Take this from someone who knows. When you win big like the red team they have a very little chance of looking good to their just defeated opponents. Sportsmanship is definitely a big part

of kids activities and I support that notion. But what happens on the field of a kids game should be left on the field. Lets remember they are only 10 years old.

But one thing I feel very strongly against is the way a grown adult can publicly attack two 10 year old children. I find that even more childish than what went on on the field.

I hope you realize what you have done and learn to leave the game to the kids. To no's. 6 and 8, don't let that spectator's letter phase you because there may always be one adult in the crowd ready to ruin a kids game.

Yours truly,
Scott Vandevalk,
Georgetown.

'Forgotten Park'

To the Editor:

This letter is written about "Forgotten Park." I had a friend out from Toronto to visit for the Highland Games and we walked over but had to pass by the park and she remarked what a sad looking park.

There have been flowers planted but have never been watered and the weeds are doing great. The little piece of fence that is there is in need of paint or

should be removed. By the way the Chamber of Commerce fails to recognize this park on their maps that are printed.

This "Remembrance Park" should be a pretty park for everyone to notice especially when it does honor our veterans. So please someone who is responsible take care of "Remembrance Park."

Mrs. M. Howat,
Georgetown.

Thanks for support

Dear Sir:

The Bruce Trail Association wishes to thank the Herald for your generous support of the second annual Bruce Trail Yard Sale held this June 8th. We also wish to thank the many local residents who donated items to the sale. We raised over \$400 for Trail improvements.

We are already planning next year's third annual BT yard sale:

save up all those pieces of "junk" that you would like to donate to a worthy cause: items not sold in the yard sale are donated to local charitable groups.

Please call Chris Walker at 877-8913 or Frances Walker at 877-9162 for pickup.

Sincerely,
Bruce Trail Association.

WEED (wēd) n. - AN UNDESIRABLE ORGANISM THAT INTERFERES WITH FLOWERING PLANTS

STAIHER
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