

Opinion

Senate cynicism

By TERRY O'SHAUGHNESSY

It's an amazing thing to watch our unpopular federal government at a time when there's still more than two years to go before the next federal election.

It is as though the federal Progressive Conservatives are counting on the Canadian general public to come down with mass amnesia between now and the next election. What else could explain the Tories' behavior in this, their second term?

The country is still reeling from the Meech Lake circus where Prime Minister Brian Mulroney performed his high-wire act and lost his balance while rolling the dice. It has yet to accept Dr. Michael Wilson's prescription that the GST is a good tonic for our ailing economy. And more than a few Canadians wondered where the prime minister was as the Canadian Army and Mohawks squared off in Quebec. And of course there was his total lack of leadership (not even a wave of goodbye) when our servicemen and servicewomen boarded obsolete warships to head off to the volatile and dangerous Persian Gulf region.

If all that wasn't enough to chew on, then came the icing on the cake - John Buchanan's appointment to the Senate.

Symbolism, which political pundits, PR types and other insiders readily agree plays an enormous role in how the public views its leaders and political parties, has been dreadful in the Buchanan Senate appointment. The naked cynical act where Nova Scotia Premier Buchanan was rescued from his scandal-plagued swamp and dropped into a Senate sinecure with cushy life-long benefits served up the worst kind of symbolism. It dripped with the "public-be-damned" message which has become a trademark of too many governments for too many years. And with some three years to go in his own term of office, Buchanan himself didn't appear to have any qualms about grabbing hold of Mulroney's offensive offer to take an appointment that he has been rumored to have been coveting for longer than it takes this country to build a frigate.

Yes, it is true that no wrong doing has been proved concerning the mess swirling around Buchanan. And yes, he won't be the first sickening example of political opportunism and outrageous choices to land in the Senate.

But there is something which we believe our politicians from an overall standpoint have been missing for a long time, and that is the general public has come to their limits of tolerance. The 1990s are a few and different era. People want straight talk, and they can smell manipulation a coast away. For any political party or government to count on an epidemic of amnesia before any upcoming election would, in our view, be a trip through the Looking Glass. Canadians are not stupid, but they certainly are long suffering. However, for politicians to confuse Canadian patience and tolerance with indifference and stupidity is a mistake that they will discover when they next go to the polls. If there is any doubt about this, just ask former Ontario Liberal premier David Peterson.

CFIB Feature Service

Scouters want old uniforms

To the Editor:

Boy Scouts of Canada, Oakville District are participating in the Halton Regional Conference '90 to be held in Milton on Saturday, November 17, 1990.

As our contribution to the Conference, which is a training course for adult members, we are putting together a display of old scouting uniforms.

If you have an old uniform which you would be prepared to lend us for the weekend, please contact Mr. Scott McDonald at (416) 844-3113 and he will arrange for pick-up and return of your uniform.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Janjevich
Administrative Assistant



A empty beach in autumn

First farm price increase since 1988

To the editor,

Let's clear up some confusion about retail milk price increases in Ontario.

Ontario consumers were faced with higher retail milk prices in September and the Ontario Milk Marketing Board would like to make sure there is no confusion about the part of the increase that is going to farmers.

The price that farmers get for fluid milk increased by 2.5 cents per litre effective September 3. This increase would represent 10 cents per 4-

litre bag. Increases beyond this amount are accruing to other members of the marketing chain. The price charged by retailers to consumers is determined by market forces and not regulated in Ontario.

The 2.5-cent rise, which is an increase of 4.6 per cent, is the first farm price increase since May 1988. Inflation over the two-year period rose twice as fast—more than 9.6 per cent.

Yours truly,

Ken Smith, Director
Board/Industry Relations Division

Reunion: 50 Years On The Goose

Dear Editor:

Since 1941, hundreds of thousands of military and civilian personnel have lived for a time in Goose Bay, Labrador. 1991 will be the golden anniversary of "the Goose" and we're extending a special invitation to all former GOOSE-ITES to come back for a visit. We're sure your newspaper has former GOOSE-ITES among its readership and we'd like to tell them about our party through your medium.

The Town of Happy Valley - Goose Bay will be hosting REUNION '91 from July 19 to August 5, 1991. Two weeks of activities will include the North West River Beach Festival, the Canadian Armed Forces Airshow, the Labrador Canoe

Regatta and lots of opportunities to reminisce with old friends and re-explore the area.

Former GOOSE-ITES are encouraged to let us know if they're thinking of coming. We're building our mailing list and have information to send about events, how to get here, where to stay, registration, and more. We'd like to hear from them soon to give us an idea of how many visitors to expect at REUNION '91.

Please write: REUNION '91, Station A, Happy Valley - Goose Bay, Labrador A0P 1S0 or call Carolyn Maybee, Tourism Coordinator, (709) 896-5431.

Yours sincerely,
Carolyn Maybee,
Tourism Coordinator

Seeking Scout and Guide badges

Dear editor,

I am writing to you in the hope that I might be able to put a letter in your paper with a request to your readers.

I have been involved with the Boy Scout movement for more than 50 years, and during the past few years have been trying to put together a collection of Scout and Guide badges from around the world. I have recently found that many of the older badges are disappearing and have been told by people that they have simply thrown them away because they have no further use for them.

Many of these older badges were small pieces of felt or ribbon with the name of the district on them and they did not have any Scouting insignia. Others were the proficiency badges which were

round and had Boy Scouts or Girl Guides on them. Many of these badges were sewn onto blankets or jackets as well as uniforms. An example of a "lost" badge from the Acton area would be Georgetown which became part of the North Halton Region.

The collection of badges that I have is put on display at many Scout camps and other Scouting events and this gives me a chance to talk to boys about Scouting in the past. My request is that if anyone has any badges for which they have no further use, they might send them to me for my project.

Yours sincerely,
Edward C. Cutler,
Box 1365
Ridgetown, Ont.
N0P 2C0

THE GEORGETOWN INDEPENDENT /
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WEEKEND

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