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Parliament Hill report

Positives and negatives in government

There are things I don't like about politics. At the top of the list is what I'll call extremism. That's when one side - like government says life is great, and when the other side - the opposition - says the country is in deep trouble.

The worst example of this is Question Period in the House of Commons - 45 minutes a day of pure theatre, when the Liberals and NDP say Canada is a complete failure and the Conservatives react by saying this is the best country in the world.

Well, I sit in my seat, and I listen to both sides, and I wish we could have a better system. I know when I drive around Halton-Peel that there is good, and there is bad. Life is not lived in absolutes. People



Tooth Chatter **ALEX** TRENTON, Denture therapist

LOWER **DENTURES**

If you are a denture wearer, you will experience some kind of discomfort during the life of your dentures. Lower dentures usually cause more trouble than uppers. Because bottom dentures have little suction to hold them in place, they are more likely to move around, therefore causing various forms of discomfort. Also, poor ridges cause dentures to move easily, because the denture has little to hold on to for stability. The tongue constantly moving as you talk and chew also interferes with the lower denture. Because of all these factors that effects the function of the lower dentures, most people do have trouble at some point. In fact, many people don't wear their lowers. They divorce them from their upper denture mates by tossing them in the most unlikely places! Some seek refuge in bottom drawers, bottom of the bed, under the bed, amongst lipsticks and combs in ladies' handbags, lunch pails, back pockets, and if they get lucky, they are left forever soaking in a denture bath or cup of water!

SOLUTIONS

There are different techniques that can be used to improve the fit of the lower denture, such as a soft-liner insert. This is a permanent liner that will stay soft and give added comfort and stability. For more information, contact our office.

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Garth Turner MP Halton-Peel

lose their jobs. The value of their houses goes down. It gets hard to keep the kids in decent clothing.

But at the same time, in this area, there are streets of new houses being built, rows of new cars pulling onto the 401 each morning and additions being built to hightech industries in places like Bolton and Burlington.

Personally, I believe the future will be brighter than the present. But not for everyone - and that's where politics fails. National leaders tend to lump everyone into the same boat. The prime minister says we're doing okay; the leader of the opposition says we're a nation of unemployed and food banks.

My job as an MP is to make sure that the government in Ottawa knows what the real picture is, so we get the help we need. One day that may mean introducing a new company in Caledon to the services provided by the industry department, so they can get help in selling to a client in Australia.

Another day, it means visiting the Job Finding Club in Georgetown, where a group of unemployed people help each other develop the skills to find new, and better, work. The club is funded by the federal government - but there's never enough money - and it now operates just every other

The morning I visited, I found an atmosphere of positive energy - the dozen or so people there were upbeat, determined and obviously feeding off each other. They told me that being together had made all

Just In

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the difference in their personal out-

A couple of days later, eight of them sent me a letter, which said; "The club is run using the team environment approach. One can feel this approach solidify after the first day. It certainly boosts one's confidence and motivation. It turns uncertainty into certainty to look

nities suitable for each individual." I told the people there that I'd lobby Ottawa to find the money to have this club funded full-time, and I will. It's something positive the government can do to help people get back on their feet.

for, and find, employment opportu-

But, of course, there shouldn't be job finding clubs. The economy should be strong enough that everyone who wants to work, has work. It doesn't matter if the economists say the recession is over, if you don't have a job.

And for the rest of us, who watch the weak real estate market, who have wages frozen when the cost of food and cars is going up, who have some trouble paying for new snowsuits and field trips - life could be better.

It's not perfect in Canada these days, for sure. But compared to most other countries - the U.S. included - we're not doing so badly. I watched President Clinton on CNN the other night pledge to have every American child vaccinated against diseases like small pox and measles. He said only Bolivia and Haiti have worse vaccination rates than the United States.

Of course, in Canada, we take this for granted. We have universal health care, when 35 million Americans have none. We live longer than most of the people on the planet. We have what the UN says is the best plan to protect the environment. And we've created more jobs than were lost in seven of the last seven months.

But it's still not perfect. And it's not a disaster. On balance, let's just hope it gets better, bit by bit.

If I can help it happen - which is my job - then I hope you will call. My home number is in the book: (416) 873-8745.

Turner in town

Halton-Peel MP, Garth Turner, will be available at Oxbow Books this coming Saturday at 2 p.m. to sign copies of his recently published book, 'Garth! Just What the Hell is Going on in Ottawa?"

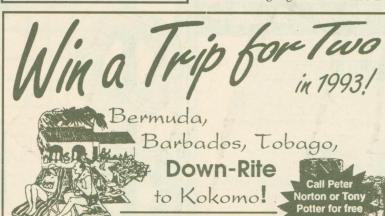
Constituents and the curious are welcome to visit with their Ottawa representative.



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