

Out at the Ranch

with Bill Ellis

THE TRUST

A regular meeting of the Downtown Brain Trust was recently convened, to continue discussions on the political silly season.

A Trust member immediately arose and stated - "God help the poor Russians" B.M. the P.M. is sending them technical assistance to get their market economy going. If this type of technical assistance is the same that the P.M. has applied to the Canadian market economy, the Russians would be wise to say -- "Thanks -- but no thanks!"

The Trust Committee following the Tory leadership race proceeded to put forth suggestions for Garth, when it comes time for him to admit to indiscretions from his past, which seems to be a requirement of the race. Kim Campbell has admitted that she smoked pot (but did not inhale, mind you). The Chairman admonished the members -- "Don't laugh, this is serious stuff!" Mr. Charest also admitted smoking pot, but left us up in the air as to whether he inhaled or not. "Members - stop that laughing!" A member noted that if he didn't laugh -- he would have to cry over such drivel. Forging ahead, in spite of the member's disbelief, the Committee Chairman suggested that Garth could admit to buying a copy of Playboy magazine, but state that he only read the articles. Or he could admit to purchasing a bottle of whiskey, but state that he only smelled the cork. A member pleaded -- "Give me a break! Stop the comedy!"

One of the Trust members wondered if the Downtown Brain Trust should put forth their own candidate for the Tory leadership. He listed off the staff that the Trust would require for such a venture. A spin doctor (to turn every negative into a positive) A press secretary (to make certain that the dumb media got the spin

doctor's story right) A social secretary (to line up the BBQ parties to keep the staff fed) A bag man (to collect monies to pay the staff) A confidential memo leaker (to make certain the media always had the inside story) A poll translator (to make certain the media always got the proper slant) The boys in the back room (to set policies and platform planks for the candidate -- and await their Senate appointment.)

After much discussion, it was agreed that the only talent available in the Trust were the boys in the back room, of which, the Downtown Brain Trust had many!

The Chairman noting that not one Trust member had been named to the Senate as yet, urged all members to keep practicing main streeting, holding doors and admiring babies. He advised that Brian could beckon at any time, and Trust members must be prepared and ready.

A member lamented the plight of Premier Bob. It seems that Premier Bob and/or his cabinet members have alienated just about everybody in the Province. First it was business. Then it was labour, then the professions. What is left? Watch for the news -- pictures at 11:00! We know he can do it!

A thoughtful member then made some observations about Mr. Mulroney's farewell tour of friends in the U.S.A. He felt that even Brian must have been a bit embarrassed by some of Ronnie Reagan's tributes. Without a program you might not know who Ronnie was talking about. The member allowed as that was what friends were for. A friend will pay tribute to you, while everyone else is throwing stones at you.

As reported to me, he concluded by saying "there endeth the lesson for today."

Bill Ellis is an Associate Broker with Canada Trust Realty, Georgetown.



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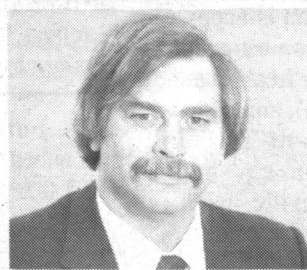
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