

Editorial

Au revoir, Jean

Whether or not former federal Finance Minister Paul Martin was pushed or jumped from Jean Chrétien's cabinet doesn't really matter.

What is important is that the governing Liberals are facing their first real crisis since sweeping to power in 1993. Amazingly, opposition parties have had nothing to do with in creating this turmoil. In fact, they are like the rest of us: spectators of an uncivil war within the Liberal party.

What is equally amazing is the hypocrisy and arrogance of our prime minister who says he demands loyalty from his lieutenants then shows little in return. First the PM told leadership hopefuls they were free to start organizing their campaigns to replace him while hinting he would likely step down in the near future. Then, with little warning, he declared he will stay on until 2004, maybe (heaven forbid!) even into the next election and that the hopefuls better shut down their campaigns or risk being fired.

Politicians are masters of double-speak but Chrétien has taken it to new levels.

Martin, who received well-deserved credit for wrestling the country's \$40 billion deficit to the ground, is not Chrétien's top choice as successor and has realized his only way to go forward is to take a step back now and launch an all-out assault for Chrétien's job next February when it comes under review.

Ontario Liberals, the power brokers in federal elections, are squarely behind Martin (six of 10 Liberals would like to see Chrétien quit) and the Canadian public (seven of 10 want him gone by the next election) also prefers a change at the top.

The PM, like many dictators, er, leaders, simply hasn't learned to quit when the quitting is good and is likely only to exit via an overthrow. The sooner the better.



Letters to the editor...

MP Reed taken to task for Kyoto column

(This letter was originally sent to Halton MP Julian Reed. A copy was made available for publication.)

Dear Mr. Reed,

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

Mail or drop off

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I read with interest your column of May 8 in *The Independent & Free Press*. I would, however, like you to clarify a few points.

(1) You state that you had the "honour" to address an ethanol conference in Dawson Creek. I wonder how much "honour" you felt at the news of \$100 million being wasted on the unnecessary purchase of two new Challenger jets for the convenience of the Liberal cabinet, instead of investing said funds in research and development of alternate clean power sources to the benefit of everyone?

(2) The Kyoto Accord deals with greenhouse gases and their effect on climate change. Greenhouse gases are only a component of the contaminated air that costs Ontario \$1 billion per year in health care. The ratification of Kyoto will reduce greenhouse gases, therefore, reduce, but not eliminate, air pollution. You lead people to believe Kyoto will save Ontario \$1 billion on health care, the medical association says no such thing. I would like to know what the direct health care savings would

specifically relate to Kyoto?

(3) Jean Chrétien has indicated Canada will not ratify Kyoto unless we get credits for clean fuel exports to the United States. Your party has had years to determine the economic effect, to consult with provinces and affected shareholders, and present a solid case for Kyoto to the public. When evoking closure in the House of Commons various ministers of your government have stated that it is the duty of the government to shut off debate and pass what they consider to be good legislation. It follows that certain factions of your own party are hesitant to ratify Kyoto. Given all this, how do you justify blaming (Alberta Premier) Ralph Klein and (Ontario Premier) Ernie Eves for your own government's ineptitude and lack of will in ratifying Kyoto?

Finally, in two years or so you will come knocking on our doors saying, "Trust me, trust me I deserve your vote". After reading your column, why should I believe you?

Ed Ford, Georgetown

Murr tourney nets \$40,000

Dear editor,

We are pleased to report that, despite the inclement weather, the annual Paul Murr Golf Tournament took place as scheduled and once all funds are in we expect to raise more than \$40,000.

This amount will be donated to the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society and brings our 18-year total to more than \$385,000. We had record numbers in both participants and sponsorships as well as generous merchandise donations for our raffle, silent auction and prize table.

Next year's event is scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2003 at Blue Springs Golf Club.

Allan Hall, Tournament Chairman

Departing physician will be sorely missed

Dear editor,

On behalf of my family, and the community of Georgetown if I may, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and excellent care that we have received as patients of Dr. J. Chong.

During the time that he has served our community, he gave us confidence in his knowledge and skill as a physician. Competent, sensitive, physicians like Dr. Chong are the jewels of the medical profession!

Though we wish him well, we are saddened by the knowledge that Georgetown Medical Centre and the residents of Halton Hills are losing an exemplary physician.

Thank you, Dr. Chong, for your commitment to service.

Darlene Kocsis and family, Georgetown

The Independent & Free Press

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