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THURSDAYS OF EVERY MONTH****EDITORIAL**By Stewart Smith, co-editor of the  
Cardiff Courier/Bancroft Courier

During both the last Federal and Provincial election I have heard references to the financial crisis which brought New Zealand to its knees and forced a major change in New Zealand policy.

I am shocked to read, "Shooting the Hippo," by Linda McQuaig, in the April, 1995, Canadian Forum, and excerpted from her published book of the same name.

She alleges that the New Zealand financial crisis is a gross exaggeration, concocted to feed false impressions to the Canadian people.

Her story is about Eric Malling a television personality ("Fifth Estate" and then "W5") with a decided, personal, political agenda and set of beliefs. She adds, "The kind of policies he actively pushes on "W5" - deficit reduction, social spending cuts, less government - are notions that, to say the least, find favour with many of those who actually do run governments, corporations, and no doubt, even TV stations." She refers to them as "Bay Street's political objectives."

Eric Malling felt the need to show to Canada a country that had "hit the debt wall." Linda McCuaig writes, "Of course, there were third world countries that could be said to have 'hit the wall'...What was needed was a real industrialized, Canadian-type country in crisis. Unfortunately, none existed."

Using as his base a short-term financial problem in 1984 ("some boring run on the currency that was over within minutes of devaluation"), "Malling left the clear impression that New Zealand had gone broke and was no longer able to borrow on international markets. But the real situation was quite different."

"It is simply not true that New Zealand has ever gone broke. And it is not true that we reached the limits of our borrowing capacity" said Jonathan Boston, associate professor of public policy at Victoria University in Wellington."

Malling had a show produced, but "seemed somewhat disappointed when he arrived in New Zealand and learned about the bleak results."

But he carried on - not only producing his version of events, but airing a panel of carefully selected citizens, showing them his tapes of the alleged New Zealand crisis, and then passing them off, on a famous "W5" television show, as typical Canadian citizens. "Whatever the intent of the

**FLO ELLIOTT WRITES FROM WILBERFORCE****GOING TO THE DENTIST**

When we were young, and just had to go to the dentist, it was a major deal. You had to travel for miles over rough, hilly roads, and it seemed that every jolt went right at the sore tooth.

We only went when the pain got so bad that the dentist started to look like a kindly old gentleman. And believe me! That was bad!

I'm not only talking about children either. Grown men would turn pale and wide-eyed with dread at the thought of that drill! Most dentists never even thought of freezing the tooth; and that drill seemed the size of a diamond drill bit whining inside your mouth. You held on to the chair with all your might, certain that at any moment he would hit a nerve and send you screaming through the ceiling.

A person would go to almost any lengths, even wishing for a sudden, painless death, rather than go through this torture. Of course the dentist was well aware of this and would try to do all the work at once, while you were trapped in the chair, because it was next to impossible to get a patient to return at any time in the near future.

There was no music to help distract you; no joking office staff; no kindly, understanding dentist; no gentle examination - none of that. What there was, was this scowling man, who might or might not speak to you but who would sit you down in his chair and get right to work.

It seemed to me that most of them had been trained in the Army, and you were expected to be a good soldier. It didn't matter that you were so scared you couldn't see straight. Why

is it that the thought of someone poking round inside your mouth terrifies you? It does me, anyway.

When I would come out of there, happy that I had lived through it, the day would seem bright and sunny, whatever the weather. I was sure that nothing could ever be that bad again.

The reason that people hated to go to the dentist years ago was that it usually hurt like the devil. You did not get much sympathy either.

When my 8 year old nephew had an abscessed tooth, of course he was in great pain. The dentist just lanced it: no pain killer, no words of care, just a rip-down the gum. It hurt so much we cried right along with him. I couldn't stand the sight of that man ever afterwards.

My husband told me when he was working in a lumber camp, miles from anywhere and in the dead of winter, one of the men woke up in the night with a dreadful toothache. It was so bad that he woke some of the other men and asked them to pull it for him. One got a pair of pliers and the rest held him down. And they yanked out that tooth. Before it was over he begged them to stop, but they could not leave it half out so they had to keep going. It was such a terrible experience for him that he got up in the morning and walked out of there and never came back again.

Dentists have come a long way since those days. They are kind, and they try to be painless and make things just as easy as they can for us.

Even so, I don't think there is anyone whose heart doesn't give an uneasy flutter when it's their turn to sit in that dental chair.

**LETTERS****WORKFARE****WHO PAYS FOR  
WORKFARE ?**

In Ontario about 1.2 million people are on Social Assistance. Of these about half are children, and some are disabled. That leaves perhaps half a million people who could be working.

Mike Harris has the right idea: put these people to work. No one can disagree that able-bodied Welfare recipients should have jobs.

But how can this happen? Since we are coming out of a Recession jobs are scarce, and there certainly aren't half a million vacancies.

Perhaps Welfare recipients could pick up garbage along the side of the road, cut grass, clear snow. But don't we have people working for MNR and MTO and the municipalities doing these jobs? What happens to them? Do they become unemployed?

Even if it were possible to find some form of work for these half million people, who would supervise them? How many thousands of bureaucrats would it take to supervise worksites for half a million Welfare recipients?

The idea of providing jobs for

show's creators," Linda McCuaig protests, "The effect was to distort reality on a crucial political issue....In a sense, it was the ultimate distortion."

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**Bovine Growth Hormone**

Recently I read that the Bovine Growth Hormone (B.G.H.), which is only used in the U.S., may be allowed into Canada. "Monsanto", who brought us Agent Orange to defoliate Vietnam, and P.C.B.'s to cool our transformers, has developed this

product to increase the yield of milk from dairy cattle. It also apparently increases the IGF-1 in milk which may cause breast and colon cancers. For more, read "Canadian Forum", May 1995.

Monsanto has offered two million dollars to Health Canada for permission to take over the Canadian market without further trials or studies. The decision may be made 1st July, 1995.

This is the same spirit as the Mulroney law that fast tracked immigrants that had \$50,000 or more, without too much scrutiny of where the money came from.

The rest, as they say, is up to you. Can you be bothered to write a letter? Or maybe several letters?

-Paul Whittaker,  
Gilmour, Ont.

Welfare recipients is great. But who would lose their jobs to make it happen? What taxpayer would willingly pay the cost of this new bureaucracy?

W. Hobson,  
L'Amable.

**Apsley O.P.P.**

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westbound on Hwy. 648 on a motorcycle when he entered the ditch after swerving to avoid hitting a ground hog. As a result Mr. KALKA sustained minor injuries. There were no charges