

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Rick Day's joke not so funny

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to an item in "Council Briefs" in the Feb. 23 edition in which Councillor Rick Day is quoted as shrugging off a man murdering his wife as not a crime.

I'm distressed that the exchange with Mr. Dills resulted in "a big laugh." Thankfully, some eyebrows were raised. Jokes about violence against anyone, not just women, are unacceptable, especially from paid officials. Do the same people who laughed at this "joke" find racist and denigrating jokes funny?

We are confused that reporter Brad Reaume found this newsworthy. Hopefully, it was not his own insensitivity, reporting on what he himself found funny.

If his motivation was to bring to our attention the decorum sometimes found at council meetings, maybe we should all endeavor to attend some of these meetings prior to the November election and form our own opinions on the behaviour of our elected officials.

Lorraine Campbell
Milton

Canada won't gain in the long run

Dear Editor:

Prime Minister Jean Chretien seems to understand the economics of tobacco but not the economics of job creation.

He has decided to cut high tobacco taxes because they depress the legal sale of tobacco and sustain a flourishing black market. In the case of tobacco, he understands that if you tax something you get less of it. Astonishingly, however, he can't seem to make a similar connection between higher taxes on investment and job creation. If he did, he clearly would not be considering an increase of the capital gains tax.

Capital gains are the rewards for making successful risky investments. Investments create jobs.

The plain fact is that if Chretien increases the capital gains tax, he will be increasing the tax on job creation. That means fewer jobs.

We hope the Prime Minister makes the connection between investment and jobs and doesn't hurt both through increasing the capital gains tax burden.

David Sommerville
President,
National Citizens' Coalition

Promises, promises

Dear Editor:

So much for Liberal election promises.

During the last election, the Liberals campaigned on a platform of jobs, jobs, jobs. Well, to date they have yet to create any new jobs. As a matter of fact, they have done just the opposite.

Cancelling the Pearson Airport deal and the helicopter contract without presenting any replacement programs cost the province 5,500 jobs, and by closing four military bases — two here in Ontario — another 16,000 jobs will be lost. That's 21,000 jobs lost after only four months of Liberal government.

During his recent budget speech, Finance Minister Paul Martin forecasted that the unemployment rate would remain in the area of 11 per cent for several more years. That was the same statement made by

former Prime Minister Kim Campbell during the election campaign, after which she was attacked by the Liberals as being uncaring and not offering any hope to our unemployed.

At that time, the Liberals stated that an 11 per cent unemployment rate was "unacceptable." What has changed in only four months that now makes an 11 per cent unemployment rate acceptable?

Also during the campaign, the Liberals attacked the Reform Party's deficit reduction plan. Now MP Bonnie Brown and her fellow Liberals stated, "Never would a Liberal government attempt to fight

the deficit on the backs of the poor, the unemployed, or the elderly."

Well the recent budget did just that. They have attacked those "rich" seniors earning \$26,000 a year, which by the way is less than what an MP receives as a yearly tax-free expense allowance.

They have also attacked the unemployed by reducing unemployment benefits. The Liberals, to quote now Prime Minister Jean Chretien after the Tories did the same thing in 1992, "are attacking the people who are not working."

Another Liberal at that time stated that the reduction of benefits was the "most cowardly measure ever in

the history of Parliament." What do you say now, Ms Brown, to those unemployed and to those seniors who believed you and what you promised them during the campaign?

Finally, the Liberals have decided to reduce the meal deductions from 80 per cent to 50 per cent, thereby hurting the restaurant industry, small businesses, truck drivers, real estate agents, and commissioned salespeople.

They say that this is being done in order to bring fairness to the tax system. What is fair about a system that grabs more tax dollars from a truck driver earning \$35,000 a year, but continues to allow MPs who earn in

excess of \$67,000 a year to receive an additional \$27,000 a year as a tax-free expense allowance?

After watching the performance of this Liberal government over the past four months — and I have not mentioned the Jag Bhouduria affair — I now understand why Liberals are so vehemently opposed to the "right of recall."

Richard Malboeuf
Milton

Editor's note: Mr. Malboeuf was the Reform Party candidate for Oakville-Milton in the last federal election.

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