



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

She condemns board report

Dear Editor:

Like most people, I don't like to pay property taxes. However, I realize that to live in a pleasant, safe and educated community, I am obligated to pay these taxes and do so faithfully even though I object regularly to increases. When I opened my property tax bill, the usual flyer accompanied my bill and I examined the literature. Imagine my surprise when I read the Chair of the Halton Board, trustee Dave Whiting, named and used a report from two elementary school children from Acton to report to taxpayers on the budget process!

Presently I pay almost \$6,000 annually in property taxes, of which nearly 60 per cent is allocated to the Halton Board of Education and the Chair of the Board, trustee Dave Whiting, has two kids "edit and rewrite the report from our business staff" so that taxpayers might have a better understanding of the "implications" if they could "read it through the minds of our students".

In my opinion, Chair Dave Whiting might consider reporting on the "budget process" himself if he believes the "budget process" needs explanation in a tax bill.

As a former educator for the Halton Board of Education, I find this use of our talented students most objectionable.

While entirely inappropriate in a tax bill, such a report could only be justified as a classroom assignment or as a project assigned by a teacher if it was part of the elementary curriculum.

What will trustee Chair Dave Whiting have the taxpayers read next "through the minds of our students" in our elementary schools ... the \$285 million dollar budget?

Yours truly,

Marianne Hawthorne, Oakville.

Reader's wish list

Dear Editor:

I am writing to object strongly to the (now defeated) bill the NDP Party proposed to change the status or definition of the family and of spouse. I reject "Same Sex Benefits" and equivalence to traditional marriage. They did not have the mandate of the people in proposing this radical legislation.

I would prefer that the NDP spent its time in office pursuing what a majority of the electorate consider to be worthwhile goals and objectives. I am tired of democracy by special interest group. It is beyond me how an unpopular party in power grasps at straws of support by catering to lobby pressure.

Premier Bob Rae has shown himself pragmatic in reversing some of his party's political positions by a better understanding of the economy and how it works and I applaud him for it. I am sure that when he made the decision to change these positions he did so based on a better understanding of the situation and common sense.

The federal Progressive Conservative Party is an excellent example of a party gone wrong which felt the public wrath. I suggest the NDP fate will be the same unless they listen to the people who elected them. Less government is better, democratic governments should be listening to

the people. The party's opinion or policy relative to any one subject is subordinate to that of the people who elected it.

My opinions are as follows:

Pro human rights, pro universal medical care, pro gun control, pro life, pro serious job training European style, pro small government, pro business small and large, pro police, pro judicial reform, pro democracy, pro capitalism.

I am a lobby group of one but there are millions of Ontarians who would express similar views.

Please get on with what counts, Msrs. Rae and (Halton North MPP Noel) Duignan. Pick something from my list and champion that at Queen's Park.

Yours sincerely,
Lyndon Smith
Milton

That's personal Pat, she says

Dear Editor:

Patrick Kelly's comments regarding the lack of religious morals in our provincial government's policies ("NDP amends 'Ten Commandments'", Canadian Champion, June 3) clearly illustrate why the complete separation of church and state is so essential to a free and democratic society.

Mr. Kelly was careful to mention only those commandments which would seem to support his theory of universal traditional values.

Yet he neglects to mention that the first two commandments listed in the Bible specifically prohibit the worship of any God besides the Judeo-Christian-Islamic God. Does this

mean that he would encourage our government to invoke these commandments against the thousands of Hindus, Buddhists, Taoists, Confucians and others in this province who are currently practicing their respective faiths without fear of retribution? Or does he merely wish to inflict those Biblical injunctions which support his own prejudices and don't interfere with his golf game?

Mr. Kelly is free to worship however, wherever and whenever he pleas-

es, so long as his religious practices do not interfere with the freedoms of others. That is the essence of civil liberty in this country. He is also free to disapprove, but unless the activity he is disapproving of is actually interfering with his own rights, then that disapproval must remain a personal one and not be made a matter of government policy.

Yours truly,
Jennifer Smith
Milton

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7—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, July 6, 1994

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