

Canada gets stuck with the carrot

Dear Editor:

The real winners in a free trade deal with the U.S. will be the multinational corporations who will have almost complete control over Canadian federal and provincial government and Canadian workers.

Multinational corporations will be able to use the "carrot and stick" approach by mov-

ing jobs to the U.S. if Canadian governments and workers don't offer them the best possible deal. There will be no tariff wall to block the multinationals from shipping their more cheaply made goods into Canada. Canadian workers will have to take wage and benefit cuts or face unemployment. Canadian governments will be powerless to protect our workers or they will be "beaten" by the

multinationals moving jobs to the U.S. If our governments and workers co-operate then we will get the "carrot" of jobs.

The final result of free trade will be bigger

profits for the multinationals and lower wages and benefits for Canadian Workers.

Richard Austin
Elmvale, Ontario

Thanks to every donor

Dear Editor:

Our 1986-87 Fund Raising Campaign is now history. Although we did not reach our objective of \$21,000 we did receive in donations an appreciable amount in the sum of \$13,000.

We write to thank each and every donor for their thoughtfulness. This would not have been possible had we not received the

valuable assistance of you and your staff.

Donations received up to Dec. 31, 1987 will be eligible for 1987 income tax purposes.

On behalf of the Huronia District for the C.N.I.B. we wish to sincerely thank you.

Yours truly,
Tom Hawkins

Campaign Advertising Committee

Shop at home

It is high time that we showed some loyalty to our local merchants. We demand of them all year long: to support campaigns and charities, to give freely of their time and money in the community interest.

But sadly, we often forget the local merchants at Christmas. Well, that same argument which tells merchants to support their community should also tell that community to support its merchants.

You probably won't save that much money on most items if you leave town to do your shopping.

Sure, there are some things you won't be able to find in town. But there are many other things which you will be able to find.

Anyway, the cost of gas makes the trip prohibitive.

Yes to free trade

Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis was in the area over the weekend to deliver an address on free trade.

He was in Penetanguishene two weeks ago to talk to students at ESPSS.

The subject of both lectures was free trade.

It's a topic that demands a position. Free trade is the only solution to a country which is fractured by regional resentment and disparity.

Free trade offers the only positive economic path for Canada. We cannot become a smug nation of protectionists without becoming a poor nation of peasants.

Canadians can compete. Those who say we can't want to see us all sitting in the mud growing soybeans.

Autarky is dead. Nations who wish to live must trade freely with others. There is no national economy anymore, there is only an international economy.

Should we have an election over free trade? Ultimately, we will have to. We will have to decide whether we desire serfdom under socialist protectionism or liberty under free trade and free enterprise.

MP is challenged to free trade debate

Editor's note: This is an open letter to Doug Lewis, M.P., Simcoe North.

Dear Doug:

I am confident that I voice the sentiments of the 75 or more Simcoe North residents present at the open forum held at the Midland Civic Centre on Dec. 12, in expressing our appreciation for the opportunity you gave us to initiate some public discussion in this region of Ontario on the forthcoming Mulroney/Reagan part, dealing with the subject of trade matters between Canada and the U.S.A. and due to be signed in Washington on Jan 2.

It was abundantly clear from the comments and questions raised at this open forum that there is serious concern among Simcoe North residents over the proposal that is about to be signed. Not least of these concerns is the fact that the official version of the pact, containing some 2,500 pages, was only made public on Dec. 11.

In order to give further opportunity for rational consideration of the pros and cons of the proposed Mulroney/Reagan deal, I hereby challenge you to a public debate on the issue, to be arranged at our mutual convenience and under any reasonable guidelines that can be worked out with the media. Knowing each other as we do, I am sure that such a debate can be carried out with a minimum of ran-

cour and a maximum of straightforward argument as to the pros and cons of the issues involved.

I make this challenge first as a concerned Canadian but also in my roles as a Chartered Accountant and Management Consultant, former Member of Parliament, Chairman of the House of Commons Energy Committee and Parliamentary Secretary to both Finance and Consumer and Corporate Affairs Ministers, the Liberal candidate in the 1980 and 1984 Federal elections in Simcoe North, and as the current President of Simcoe North Liberal Association.

Looking forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely,
Alan G. Martin

Penetanguishene, Ont.

Party a success

Dear Editor:

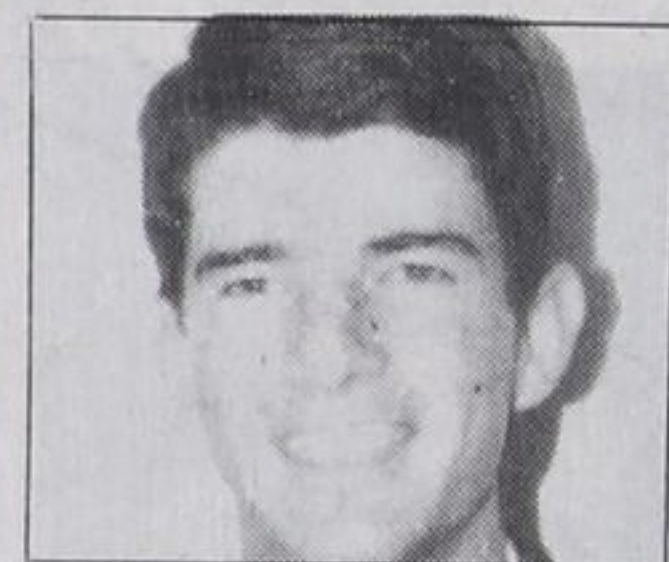
On behalf of the Huronia District Hospital Children's Christmas party, I would like to thank French Dry Cleaners, U Bag It, Voortman Cookies and Versa Foods for their contribution in making our party a success.

Karen Patchell
Chairperson
Children's Christmas Party

As I See It

by David Krayden

A confusing ideology



I recall being told once that ideologies were "19th century fictions." In other words they were lies. There was no substance to political creeds; all ideology is merely rhetoric to justify the use and abuse of power.

I'm not sure if I fully believed it then, but I'm beginning to now.

Never have I seen a political world so vanquished of purpose.

I think of what's happening in American politics right now. If you haven't been watching, don't worry. The American electoral system, with its primaries, leadership campaigns and endless commercials, is often a wearying process to observe so it's best to not start too soon.

There are eleven months of campaigning ahead and as conditions demand an election in Canada, the keenest political observer will

collapse from an overdose.

What is interesting about the Americans right now is that it has become increasingly arduous to distinguish the Democrats from the Republicans in this election. We have one Presidential nominee from the Democrats who dresses like George Will, speaks like Herbert Hoover and wishes he had the looks and brilliance of William F. Buckley.

The first "Meet the Candidates" debate ran about two weeks ago. It was worth watching just because it is always enjoyable to watch people from the same party threaten each other.

The Republicans were as vicious to one another as the Democrats were. They also seemed as confused.

It seems that Ronald Reagan has been rejected by the conservatives and any

Republican candidate who desires the support of this eclectic crowd is beginning to distance himself from the President.

The Reagan Presidency has become something of an enigma. Contrary to what the left-lib hacks are saying, the latter events of the Reagan Administration are not a confirmation of Reagan's supposed bankrupt ideas.

But we are certainly not witnessing a leader retiring in style.

What we are left with is a void. Ideology has been so twisted into so many configurations during the past 25 years that no one is quite sure what shape it is presently in.

Hence we see the potential Presidents line up and try to define untenable positions: Democrats who want to cut taxes and increase social spending, Republicans who

want to raise taxes decrease defence spending.

It's almost as if the candidates are saying, "What will the people believe this year?"

What sort of sham is coming are way now?

There hasn't been a living piece of ideology in Ottawa for many years. Washington is beginning to look the same. No one wants to ask, "What is right?" No one dares to answer.

We have always witnessed politicians trying to justify their management of power through the skillful manipulation of largely empty ideas.

Now we are witnessing governments searching the skies for new myths, uncertain that they will find anything convincing enough to sell to a jaded, cynical, embittered public, tired of being served the same stale rations of food.

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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