

ASTOR COMMENT

Oil Slick

Most Canadians will support the move to crack down on the oil companies, because most Canadians believe in their hearts that the substance of the Combines Investigation report is correct. There is little reason to doubt that the multi-national oil companies have been exploiting the world energy situation to the utmost, gouging the public and earning enormous and unreasonable profits.

So whatever gouging is shown in the report is now many times more acute. The Government claims it has the goods on the oil companies and faced with the choice of taking them to court to face charges or keeping the whole matter under Government control by referring it to the Restrictive Trade Commission, the Government chose the latter course.

In a court of law, the oil companies would be found guilty or innocent. If guilty, they would pay fines and that would be the end. If innocent, they would walk away. By placing the matter before a Government Commission, the Government will get the kind of report it wants, that is, a report calling for more controls on the oil companies, calling for more Government intervention, more powers for Petro-Canada. This is what the Government wants and needs and that is why a report that has been on the shelf for years suddenly becomes of great importance.

This is not to say the oil companies are pure. If there is anything less pure than a multi-national oil company, we don't know what it is. At the same time, this should not blind Canadians to the political implications behind the Government strategy.

Hard to swallow

The \$30-million, six-point economic lozenge prescribed for this end of the province by the Smith brothers is ambitious, even imaginative. But the tablet is hard to swallow — first because of the rheuminess of the projected cost: second, because of the improbable sweetness of the proposals which apply to the Castor and close-by.

Included in the analgesic recommended by Liberal Doctor Smith and his seven Eastern Ontario campaign brethren, are a centralized provincial government building, a high-technology training centre — both for Ottawa — a road link from Metcalfe to Highway 417, recreational development of 4,000 acres near Carlsbad Springs, centres for the study of alternate fuels at Carlsbad and Kemptonville and an alcohol fuel plant in Edwardsburg.

When you consider today's inflated construction costs — and those of tomorrow — it is more than a guess that the price tag for the proposals would be more like \$50 or \$60 million. Double.

As for the 417 link from Metcalfe, there is already a connector being built four miles east of there. And study centres mean expanded bureaucracy, millions spent to tell people what they already know — that if they can get wood cheaper than oil then they're ahead of the game.

The Liberals are obviously trying to relate to the voters one-on-one and some of their proposals do appear viable. But if they are going to prescribe succulent antidotes, they should be certain the pill fits the ill.

But perhaps you have to risk untenable aspirations when the party in power supposes it need only continue doing what it has always done.

CASTOR REVIEW

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Editor,
Castor Review

I certainly hope that most readers of the Castor Review would have recognized Thomas Van Dusen's story, "A Pair of Mitts" as just that, a story. His ridiculous account of losing mitts in the snow on a moonlit night, lighting a fire with frozen hands and his ideas on wolf behaviour not only show a great lack of wilderness knowledge, but also make for pretty poor quality reading. It should be pointed out that numerous research projects and extensive searches for evidence have made it abundantly clear that normal, healthy wolves do not attack humans. They may follow tracks out of curiosity but they do not hunt humans.

The actual experience of having wild wolves on your trail is a wonderful one and one that many Canadians would greatly envy. The "hero's" treatment of the wolves — even in a story — was cruel to say the least. Even a "sportsman" would have at least finished the job! It seems to me that the best fiction is based on real experiences and sound research. I hope Van Dusen's next story uses more of both.

Yours sincerely,
David R. Gray,
Metcalf.

Van Dusen replies:

David R. Gray is entitled to his opinion. I was calling wolves on the shore of Lake Mer Bleu in the Gatineau at the age of twelve. The story was based partly on my experience and partly on someone else's. It was fiction, like Robinson Crusoe. Defoe was never shipwrecked on a desert island. Mr. Gray asserts that "normal, healthy wolves do not attack humans." How can you tell if the ones following you are normal, much less healthy? Maybe they are not aware of the reports saying wolves don't attack humans. To say that losing one's mitts in below zero weather, far from shelter is "ridiculous" is opinionated, to say the least. I suggest he read "The Last Match" by Jack London.

Editor,
Castor Review

Regarding the article of the holdup of the Russell bank in 1936, it was stated this was the one and only holdup. There was another holdup in the early sixties. Well I remember. I had just left the bank. Wishing you continued success.

Yours very truly,
Gerald R. Brunton,
Ottawa.

Editor,
Castor Review

Those of us who care about the subject will be glad to know that in the sleepy town of Russell the feminist movement is quietly thriving.

The local watering hole has in the past devoted numerous evenings to displaying a variety of women who have the unusual and tedious habit of departing from their clothing throughout the evening; while various and sundry menfolk either go gaga or sip their beer with eyes downcast depending on how the latter affects them.

The ERA would have been proud of the ol' watering hole last night. The place was packed — not a chair to be had. And the show was professional all the way. Top-hat, walking stick — and could HE boogie! Black is beautiful was never truer.

A. Nonnymus.
(Spectator)

Correspondence



Bruno Beefs

With Bruno Santilli

With the provincial election drawing ever closer, I wish to express my view to the undecided vote, the vote that like myself, has been too busy the past while to follow the issues, so that the decision to be arrived at will be realized with understanding and not with reliance on a well-placed advertising campaign by political parties.

Having had the pleasure to converse with the Liberal candidate, Don Boudria, whom I knew reasonably well a number of years ago, he has retained the qualities

which I liked; responsible, hard-working, and reliable; and added maturity, makes him an excellent choice.

However, the Liberal campaign trying to instill disillusionment and a feeling of helplessness to the voting public has not done anything to sway me from the belief that Ontario was and is the Province of Opportunity.

The Conservative government of Bill Davis has done its duty well, and it deserves to serve Ontario within a united Canada.

POETS OF THE... LOUGHEED SAVES CANADA

Pierre Trudeau, Joe Clark and Ed Broadbent
Took a Government plane and off they went
To Alberta to talk oil with Peter Lougheed
And double cross him with lightning speed
We will have to put on a real smooth show
So Peter won't get wise and not want to go
By making an inspection from up in the air
We may force him to give us a bigger share
Their plane wasn't very far off the ground

When their motor developed a peculiar sound
The Pilot will land if the others jump out
And the empty plane is worth more no doubt
We have three parachutes and four men to go
And it's a long way down to the ground below
Peter was smiling at the door of the plane
And he says poor Trudeau has jumped in vain
As I don't scare very easily and never brag
I have a chute and Pierre has my duffle bag.

J.A. Grummett,
Ottawa.

Knowledge

The Sunrise
Unhurried
The Wind
Brazen
The Mountain
Majestic
All of creation
except for men
follow a pattern
we make our own way
whether it is right or wrong
No path is strange to us
No perversion unknown.
Glorious the day
when we return to our maker

And he accepts us
No power ever measured
could equal the intensity
of the bond which will be shared.
Doors will open
Which will unlock
The secrets we once knew.
The banquet will be blessed
With all the choicest foods
Merry-making will abound
No longer will we be strangers
at Our Father's House
No longer will our quest
seem meaningless.

—Bruno Santilli

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