

Editorial Page

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Government propaganda right here in Canada?

Government propaganda. It was used during the war years and it must have been at that point in time that governments realized the effectiveness of such campaigns.

Although we may not currently be at war, the propaganda continues.

Take last spring for instance. Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson announces his budget and claims the federal debt suddenly came out of nowhere. In order to make Canadians think the "sudden" crisis must be handled by increasing taxes, the government established an advertising campaign to let Canadians know how serious the situation was.

Truth of the matter was that the debt has been around for years - there was nothing sudden about it. But the government felt Canadians wouldn't swallow the increase in taxes without the campaign.

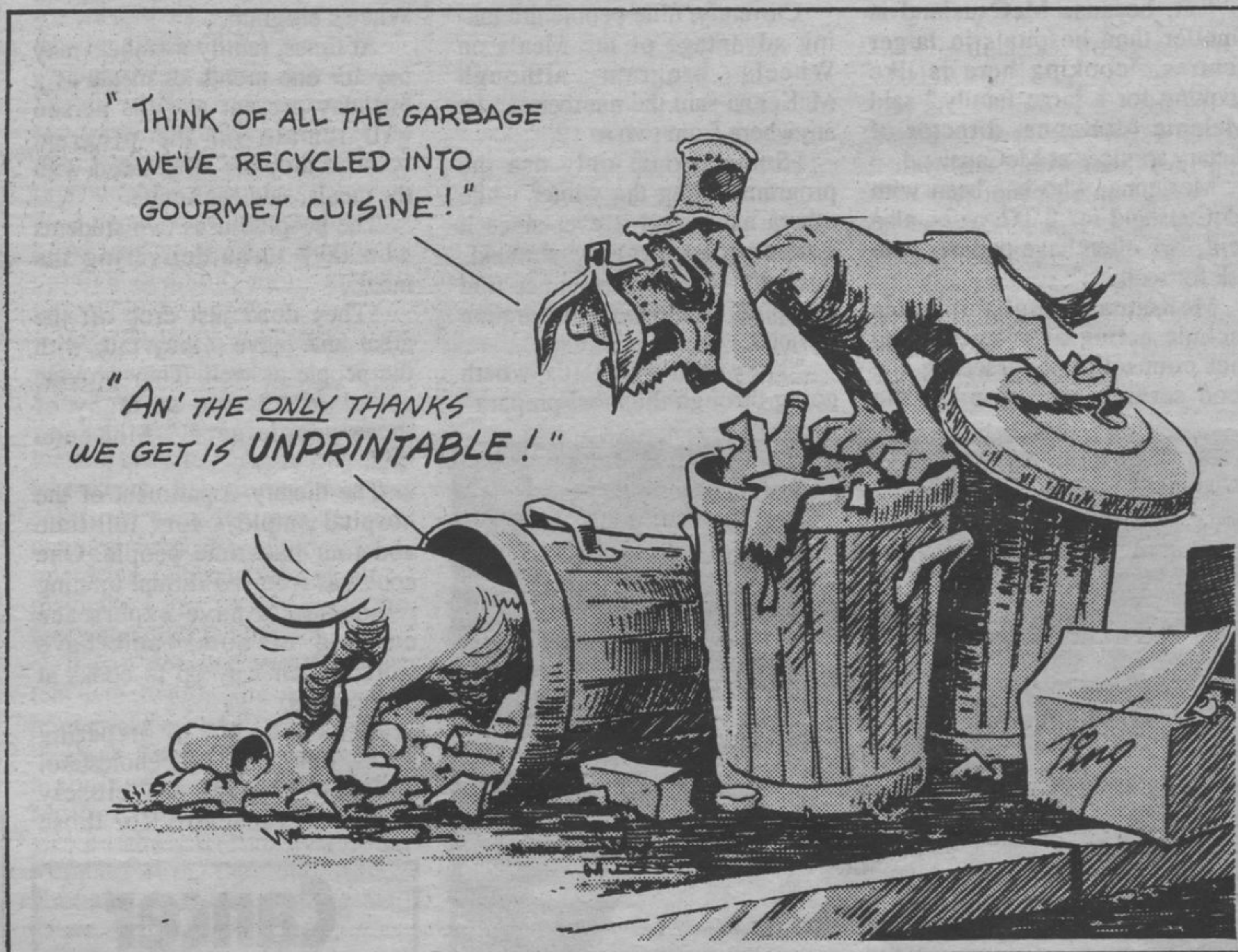
Then came the controversial Goods and Services Tax. Once again, Wilson and his cohorts blitzed the country with another advertising campaign to let us know how good it will be for us.

Of course, Meech Lake is still up in the air so don't be surprised if you see more ads announcing how important it is to appease Quebecers by giving them additional rights and privileges to keep them in Confederation.

And, just this week what did the government send me? It was a report by the author of the Task Force on Northern and Isolated Areas. You remember - the report that eliminated over 2,000 communities across Canada from receiving certain tax benefits - 75 of those towns in Northern Ontario alone.

And what did this man have to say you may ask? Well, under the guise of a letter to the editor, Mr. Rene Brunelle said the task force "is pleased with the positive comments made by many people towards our recent report. We sense a growing appreciation of the philosophy that forms the basis of our recommendations to the Minister of Finance."

I couldn't believe it and had to read it over several times to



be sure of what he was saying.

In case you haven't heard, politicians in communities that are no longer eligible for the benefits, and those in towns that feel they should qualify - at least for a portion of the benefit if not all of it - (i.e. Marathon, Terrace Bay, Schreiber) - are up in arms over the report.

It just goes to show you that the government truly isn't listening to Canadians and feels by putting forth propaganda like this they can pull the wool over our eyes. I guess we won't know if they're successful until the next election.

Just be ready for more propaganda during the campaign and be sure to read between the lines, take it with a grain of salt, and then try to figure what the real truth is.

The News welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Feel free to express comments, opinions or anything of public interest. There is no charge for this service. Write to:
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Terrace Bay/Schreiber News
Box 579
Terrace Bay, Ont.
P0T 2W0
So we may verify authorship, please sign your letters.

Not all loonies are Canadian

I don't remember precisely when I snapped.

Perhaps it was when I read the interview with Saudi Arabia's official executioner who cheerfully talked of his career total: more than 600 decapitations and 60 hand amputations performed by sword on citizens convicted of various offenses. He told reporters that he feels "delighted and satisfied" because he is enforcing "the law of God".

Not that it's purely a religious high, performing sate sanctioned murders. "I always look forward to the opportunity to chop off more heads so that I can earn more money" he said

Or it might have been the story about the Bangladeshi immigrant Abdul Malik.

Malik is a devout Muslim who moved to England in 1952 but never quite accepted his new country's culture and mores.

Thus when his daughter announced that she had decided to become a Jehovah's Witness, he did the devout thing.

He slit her throat. She staggered outside to the sidewalk and died.

But I'm not even sure that

was the straw that broke the camel's back of my tolerance.

It might have been the story about the Egyptian Muslim leader who announced that all Aids patients should be left to die.

Or the news that in Sudan, they are trying to shut down a charity that looks after felons who have had their limbs wacked off by the State.

Officials prefer that the amputees suffer. Otherwise "the punishment of amputation is pointless".

There's a fistful of current news stories that might have led to my conversion -- take your choice of any of dozens of Muslim-inspired and executed bombings, hijackings, hostage takings or murders.

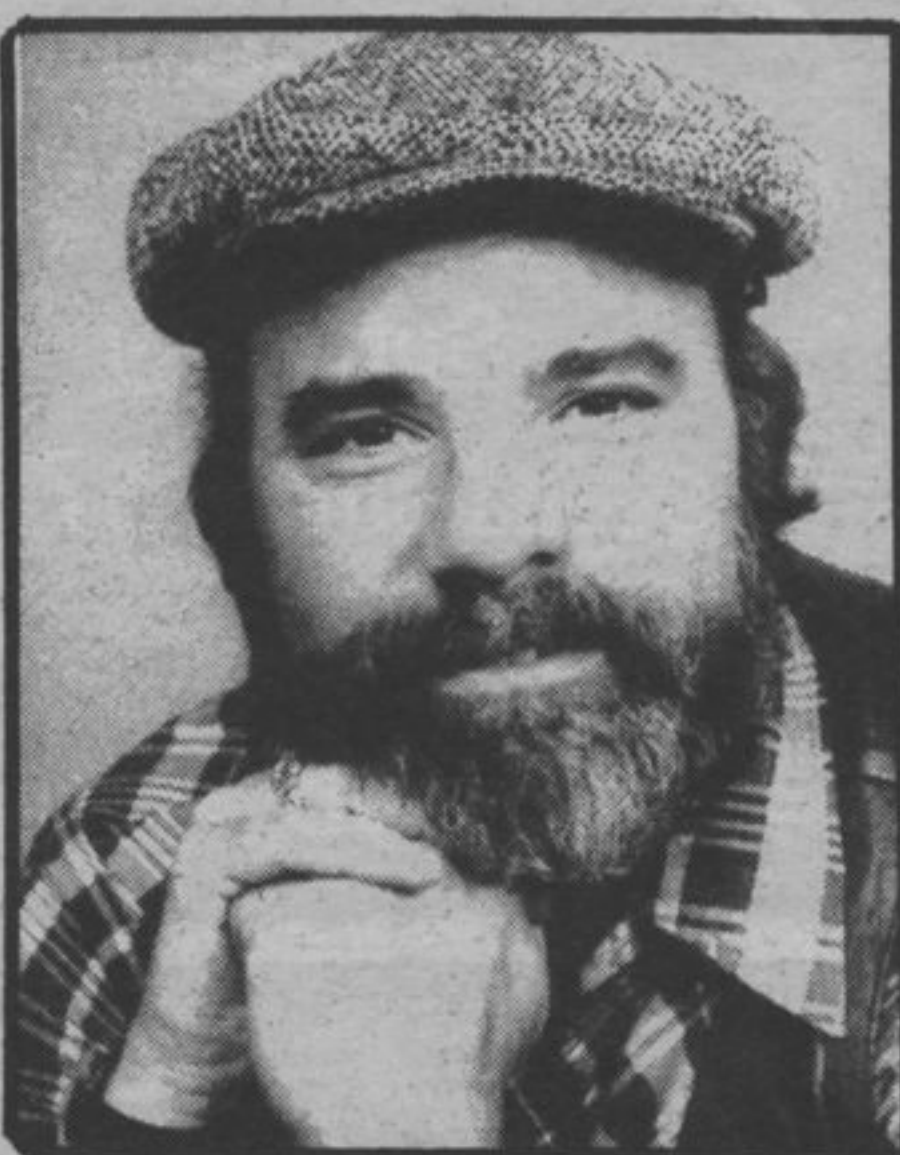
But somewhere along the blood-stained line I put my paper down, looked out my window and asked myself:

"Why are we dealing with these brutes?"

Do I mean all Muslims? Well, I don't know. There are 860 million Muslims on this planet, but I did not hear a single one of them raise his or her voice in protest when a senile

maniac by the name of Khomeini ordered the murder of Salman Rushdie for writing a book the Ayatollah hadn't even read.

I haven't heard any Muslim disagree with Ali Akbar Rafsanjani who, last spring



Arthur Black

asked an assembly in Tehran "Why don't you hijack planes in order to swap prisoners...or blow up factories in Western countries?"

Mister Rafsanjani also told his followers they should strive to kill five Westerners for every

Palestinian who dies.

"It isn't so hard to kill Americans or Frenchmen" he told the congregation, "they're all over the globe."

This was in a prayer sermon, you understand.

Mister Rafsanjani, besides being a religious leader, is President of Iran.

And still we in the west are being urged not to be hasty, to practice tolerance and understanding.

Last week in Frankfurt, publishers from all over the world beseeched Iran to lift the death sentence hanging over Salman Rushdie.

"We would like Iran to take part in the Frankfurt Book Fair again" a spokesman said.

In the name of God -- anybody's God -- why? Parleying with Iran at this dark and evil moment in its history is like asking a rabid pit bull to shake a paw.

And not just Iran. Mohammad Gadhafi, the Middle East's most infamous two-legged pit bull, recently offered a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He thinks Jews should be sent to Alaska.

Or the Soviet Baltic states. Or anywhere."

Let them go to Alsace-Lorraine" the Libyan lunatic declared, adding airily "We...cannot accept Jews on our land.

"I repeat my question: why we even thinking of dealing with these brutes?"

Clearly a major infestation of insanity has invaded the Muslim faith and perverted whatever life enhancing principles it once stood for.

Muslims have entered a black hole in their historical development, not unlike a blight called Naziism that gripped a Christian nation called Germany not so long ago.

What should we do? Wait, I suppose. Pray, if you can.

Personally, I intend to mail a small donation to the head thugs of Libya and Iran along with a personal note:

"Dear Colonel Gadhafi/President Rafsanjani: Here is a brand new Canadian loonie. Why don't you give us a call? In a couple of centuries."