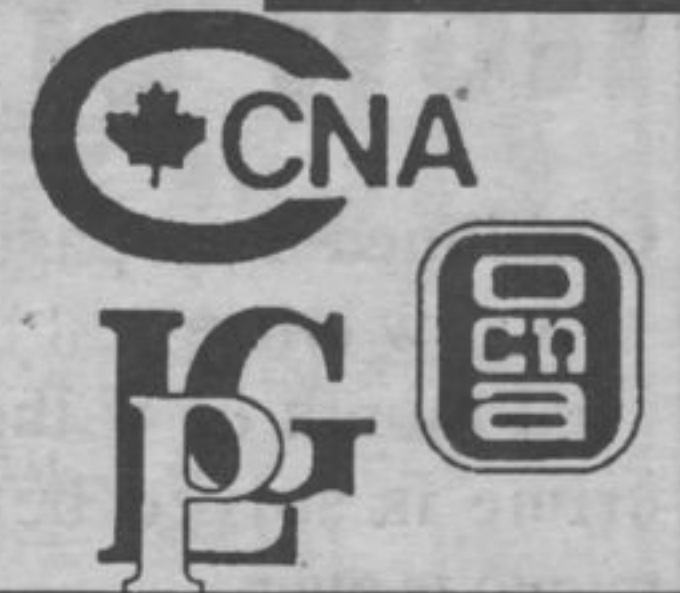


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Conversation will be short at thirty below

While Brian Mulroney speaks about preserving national unity out of one side of his mouth he has been giving directions to ensure national fragmentation out of the other.

The demise of the rural post offices is only one of many policies, including the Via rail and CBC cuts, that seem designed to reduce communications between the citizens of this country - between the residents of Terrace Bay and the people they know and deal with across Canada.

The trains are gone and now the Terrace Bay Post Office is on the block. Public Works Canada, regardless of any reasons it might give, is divesting itself of the building at the direction of the Mulroney government.

Canada Post is pointing the finger at Public Works and promising Terrace Bay they will continue to provide postal service in one form or another - a retail outlet or community post boxes.

It will be difficult to find a retail outlet in Terrace Bay with the space necessary to provide the services of the current Post Office. Space will be needed for 100 commercial/industrial post boxes and 930 post boxes for residential customers.

Space will be needed to process all mail, handle 100 priority post envelopes each week, 700 money orders each month and close to \$170,000 in stamp sales each year.

Some method of stocking and distributing Income Tax, Social Insurance, Family Allowance, Old Age Security, Canada Pension, Passport and U.I.C. forms, all of which are currently handled by the Terrace Post Office, will have to be found.

You can all look forward to shorter conversations with your neighbors when you trudge out to the snowed-in super mailbox in - 30 weather.

So you see, Mulroney has once again managed to reduce communication between Canadians.

Robert A. Cotton

No profit in sale of Petro Canada

Dear Editor:

You're getting ripped off. And not just by the GST.

As 1990 came to an end, new reports focused on the hated GST, the threat of war in the Gulf, a government-sponsored recession, cuts to the CBC and countless rips in the fabric of the nation.

Few people noticed that the Conservatives had used their majority in the House of Commons to shut off debate and sneak through a law to sell Petro-Canada.

Once this law passes the Tory-stacked senate, Petro-Canada - our national, publicly-owned energy company -- will be gone. It won't reappear after the next election; Petro-Canada will be gone forever.

Canadians are losing a vital energy policy tool. No future national government will be able to use Petro-Canada to help keep foreign oil

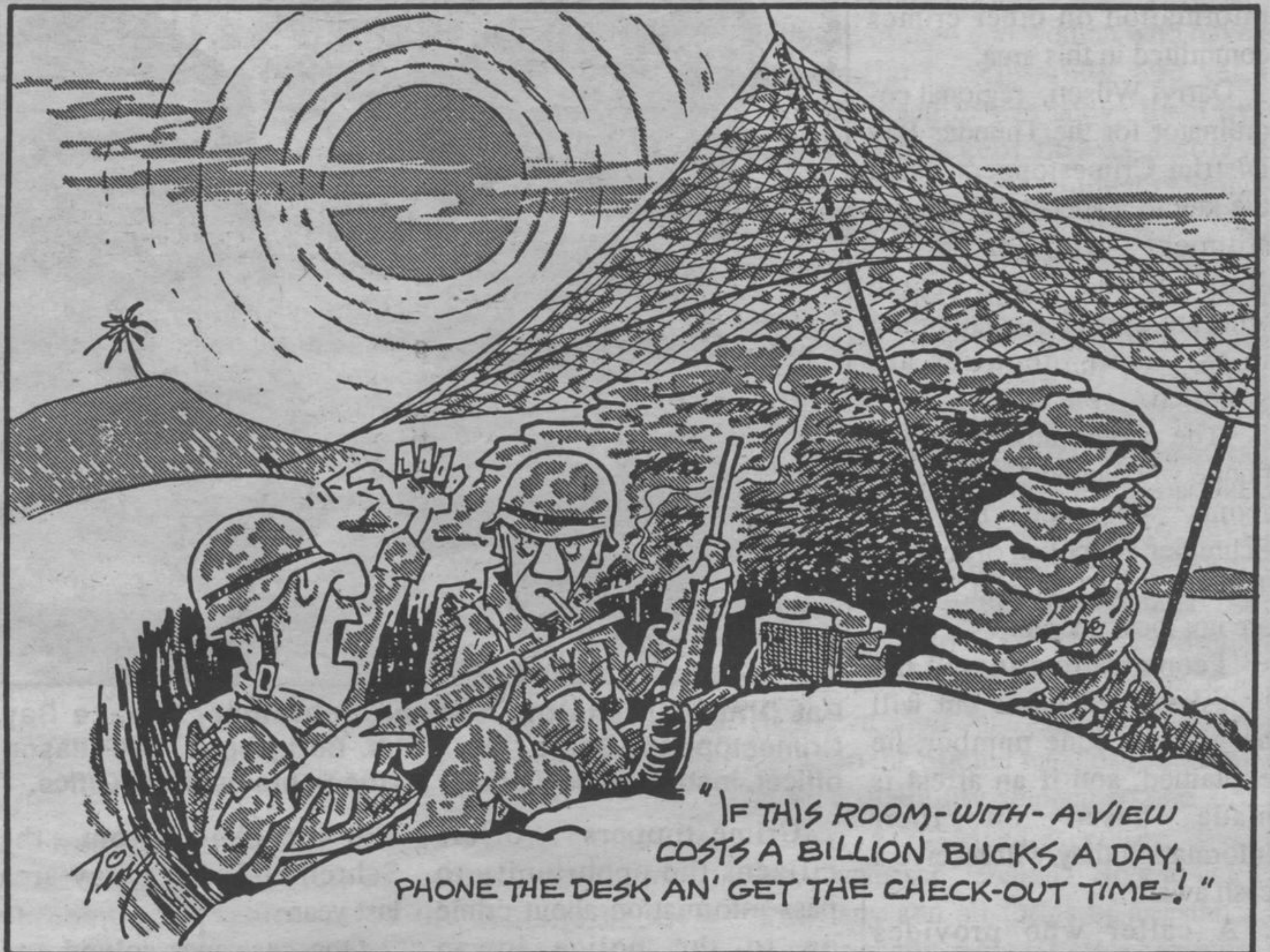
companies honest by being the one company we can trust not to gouge us at the gas pumps.

Petro-Canada can never be used to help keep energy profits in Canada for reinvestment here.

And Petro-Canada can never be used to help move us towards a 'greener' energy future by taking the lead in actively promoting conservation and alternative energy sources (even such modest steps as collecting, recycling and selling used engine oil help tremendously.)

Canadians will also lose billions of dollars on the sale. A Calgary investment dealer appearing before a House of Commons Committee studying the bill agreed "absolutely" that the people of Canada are going to take a bath on the sale, the only question is how deep is the tub.

Continued on page 12



Guns used to get coats

Remember Jim Brady? Probably not. He had his fifteen minutes of fame ten years ago on the steps of the Washington Hilton.

You knew who he was then. Remember the day a love-struck loonie by the name of John Hinckley tried to blow away U.S. President Ronald Reagan? Jim Brady was the guy still lying on the sidewalk after the smoke had cleared. He was President Reagan's press secretary. He'd taken one of Hinckley's bullets in the brain and wasn't expected to live.

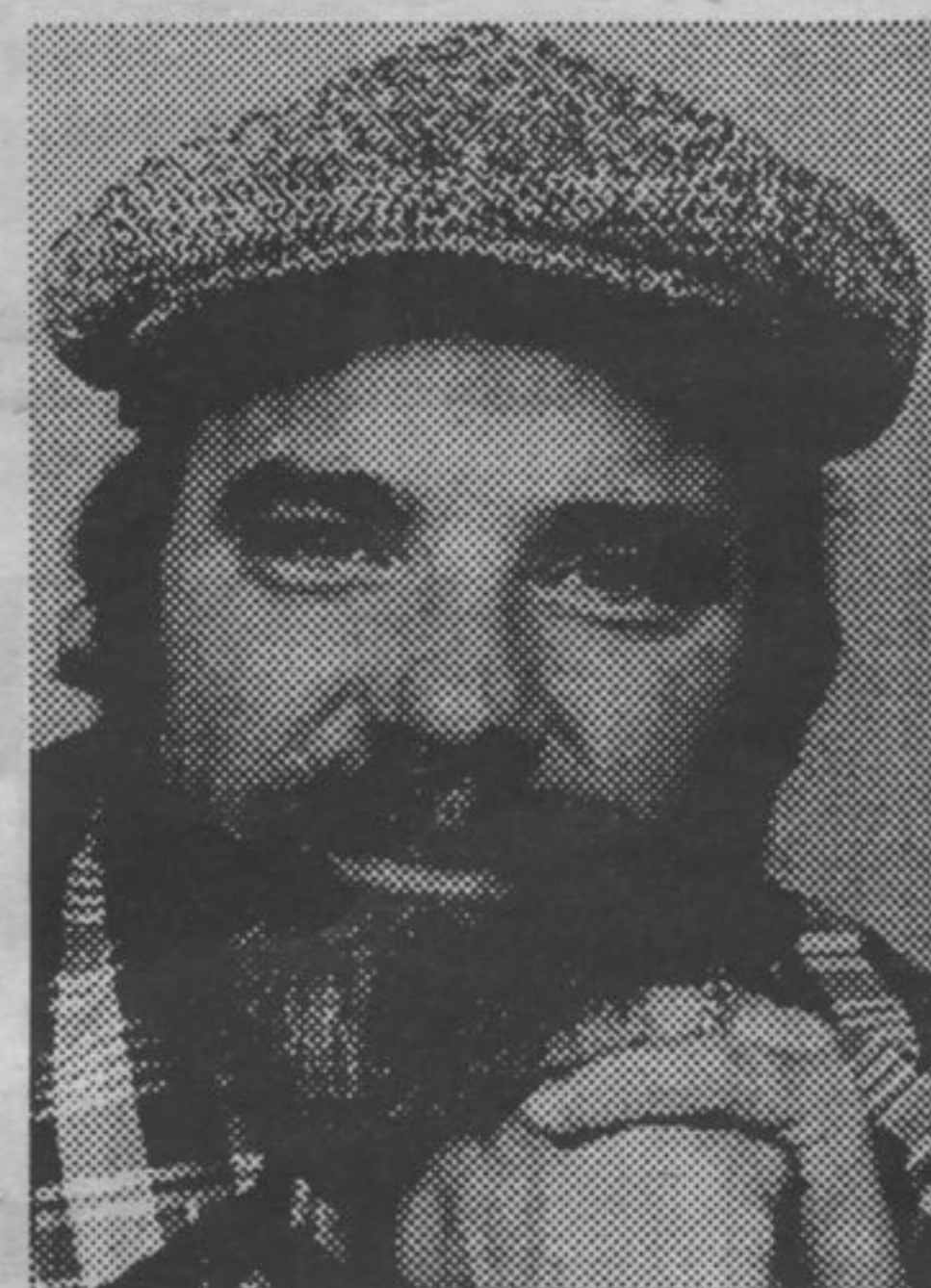
But he fooled us all. Jim Brady is alive today, if not kicking. He can't. He's in a wheelchair for the rest of his life, thanks to a tiny slug of lead fired from a concealed weapon by a deranged person who should never have been able to buy it.

But if he can't kick, Jim Brady can still fight, and one of the things he's fighting for right now is passage of the so-called "Brady Bill" -- a piece of legislation modest to the point of pathos, that would require people buying handguns to wait for seven days before picking up their purchases.

The idea is that a week would give the cops time to find out if the would-be gun owner is a Mafia hit man, a Libyan terrorist or a John Hinckley wannabe.

Meanwhile, the American love affair with the gun blazes merrily on. The National Rifle Association, which is the chief opponent of the Brady Bill, is currently trying to encourage Congress to make it legal for

every American to own and operate as many machine guns as he or she wants. The principal of an elementary school in Monrovia, Indiana has received permission from his school board to pack a pistol to and from the office and to keep it in his desk during working hours.



Arthur Black

It's hard to say just how much the average American loves his right to bear arms. You can't measure that sort of thing on a graph or a chart.

We do however have some hard data on the results of the love affair. Here in Canada, where we have no constitutional right to bear arms, handguns killed eight people in one year -- 1988.

In the same year in America, 8,915 people were killed by handguns.

And so far this winter six New Yorkers have been shot and killed for their coats.

That's right -- for their coats. It's the latest rage in Gotham. If you plan to visit the Big Apple

this winter it would be a good idea to lean towards the shabbiest outerwear in your closet -- polyester and plaid if you can manage it.

You especially want to avoid mink, sheepskin or those trendy leather jackets with the number 8 embossed on the sleeves and a big red stop sign emblazoned on the back.

Apparently New York thieves are using those stop signs for target practice.

"There seems to be an unusually high number of people being killed for their coats" mused a New York police spokesman, "but in the past we've had people killed for their sneakers or gold chains."

Ah, but New York wouldn't be New York if it didn't respond to this latest Kill for Clothes fad. It has. A Manhattan company called Guardian Group International has come out with an all-new line of designer T-shirts, vests, jackets and coats.

What's different about the Guardian product line is that all the clothes are bulletproof.

And they're all for children.

Yep, American parents can now send their toddlers off to school in sassy, trend-setting body armour, secure in the knowledge that their kids have a better-than-average chance of surviving an encounter with a fellow citizen exercising his constitutional right to bear arms.

How are sales? Swell, thanks -- even 'though kiddie Kevlar clothes are only a sideline for the firm.

Guardian Group's main business is helping people acquire gun permits.