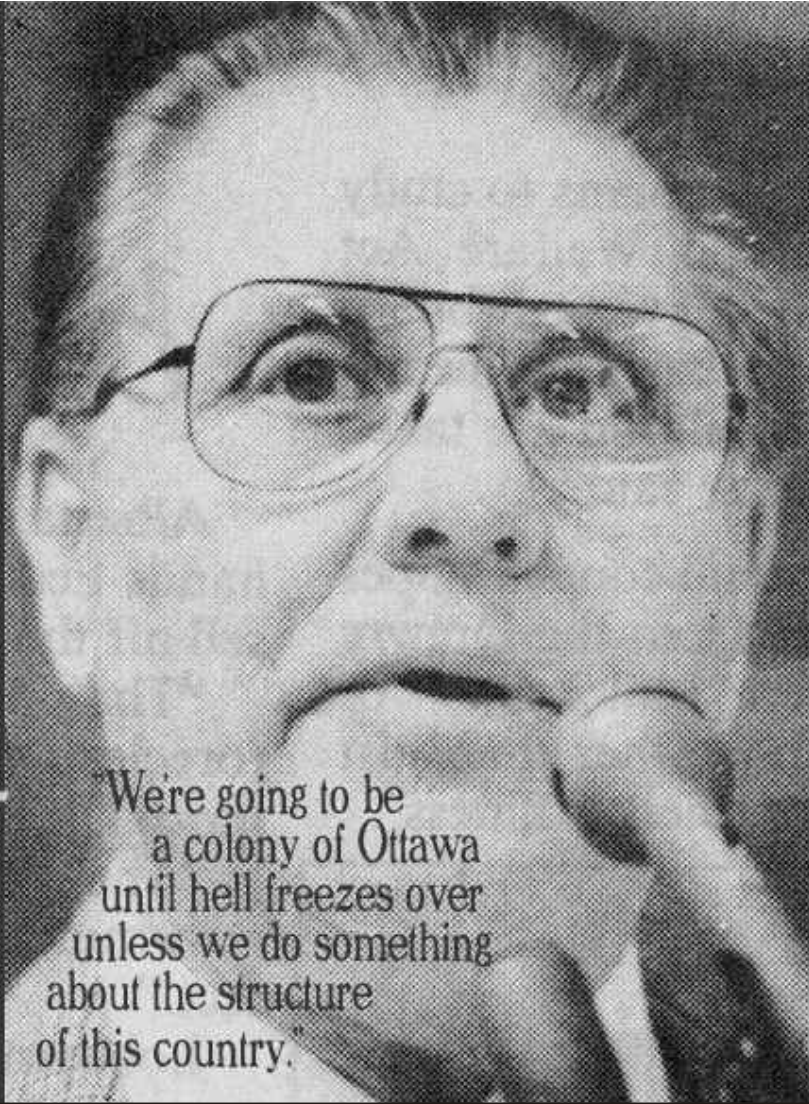


The Western Separatist



"We're going to be a colony of Ottawa until hell freezes over unless we do something about the structure of this country."

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"Separate or Surrender"

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Our cover: This month's cover continues our series featuring Western Canadian separatist folk heroes. While Elmer Knutson always made sure to specify that he was **not** a separatist, there is no doubt that his promotion of Western Canadian interests in his two organizations, Westfed and the Confederation of Regions party, had a huge effect on Western Canadian politics during the 1970's and 80's by educating the grassroots to the consequences of federal policies.

Prorogation Blues

by Richard McBride

Stephen Harper's prorogation of Parliament will not stand! Parliament serves the will of the people, not the convenience of parties! This shall not pass! To the barricades! ... *We interrupt this tirade for a message from Central Canada ...*

It's hard to see why there is so much fuss about the Harper government's prorogation of Parliament. The House of Commons,

which is not very well respected by either ordinary or informed Canadians when it is sitting, will now sit for three weeks less than it would have otherwise. Some useful government bills are going to have to be reintroduced. The Afghan hearings, into events of several years ago, will be delayed for a few more weeks. And that's about it ...

You feel yourself becoming sleepy, very sleepy. You are now under my control. And I tell you that there is nothing to see here. The Canadian system is the best of all

possible worlds. Change is not possible, nor is it desirable. When I snap my fingers you will awake, and you will think about nothing except the Olympics.

Thus spake Michael Bliss, professor emeritus of the University of Toronto, the tenured Pollyanna of Canadian public discourse, in the *Globe and Mail* January 29. Feeling better now? I'm sure you are. It's time to put this prorogation silliness behind us, and get on with the important political questions. Like Haiti v. Auschwitz.

Toronto Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj has chastised Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney for taking a “jaunt” to Auschwitz instead of attending a “summit meeting” in Montreal “to plan the rebuilding of Haiti.” Mr. Kenney’s spokesman, Alykhan Velshi, called Wrzesnewskyj “disgusting,” while the *National Post* charged him with a “blunder,” explaining that “Kenney was not present at the Montreal summit because he was representing Canada at another vital function — attending a ceremony at the Auschwitz death camp commemorating the 65th anniversary of its liberation in the twilight of the Second World War.”

I'm sorry, what country is this again? The Holocaust was an event of great importance, but—and this can never be said often enough—it didn't happen in Canada, and it didn't happen to Canadians. Haiti is a country of little importance to Canada, except that, for reasons that remain inexplicable in light of our own domestic problems, we have decided to import many thousands of people from there, where the consequences of its political system have made it one of the most poverty-stricken and crime-ridden places in the Western Hemisphere. Oh, and there's our Governor General, of course, who, before she was given the opportunity to sashay in Ruritanian military garb, was talent-spotted by Paul Martin in 2005 and translated from her vitally-important duties reading off a teleprompter before and after

documentaries on CBC Newsworld. Adrienne Clarkson, Michaëlle Jean, who's next? Rick Mercer? You laugh now, but ...

Rebuild Haiti? Might as well try and “re-build” Afghanistan. Wait a minute, we're doing that too, aren't we? Our leaders are as children, shaking their fists at the waves and redoubling their efforts to build the mightiest sandcastles.

But it's no good us shaking our fists at Stephen Harper and the Conservatives or [insert current leader here] and the Liberals. This is the way of Canada—and of every other multinational, multiethnic empire. Canadian leaders will always prefer posturing to foreigners to dealing with the problems of the citizenry, right here on Canadian soil. (Although it must be said that Jason Kenney's ongoing impersonation of an Israeli cabinet minister demonstrates a new low in this regard.) And so we have Stephen Harper posturing at Davos, promising more, more, more down the [insert current third-world nation here] drain. As if it was his to give.

And what's the role of Western Canada in all this? The same as ever: pay, pay, pay and remain ever grateful for the privilege. Despite what Harper says now, he will likely force an election soon. And there is a role, a significant role, for Westerners in this. You could vote for the Western Block Party. If there isn't a WBP candidate in your constituency, make sure you don't vote for the Conservative Party. Now that the Bloc has taken Quebec out of the mix, it is Conservative support in the West that maintains Canada as a blackmail-bribery scheme to rob the West for the benefit of the East. For the benefit of a class that has decided that Parliament, indeed liberty itself, is simply too tiresome to defend.

Three weeks more or less and “that's about it,” as Michael Bliss put it. Three weeks, three years or thirty years more in Canada and it will only get worse.

No Bread, Just Circuses

by Clive Edwards

Western Block Party Candidate

The Olympics is an opportunity for fluff and spectacle to dominate the public psyche. Nearly every reporter in every medium is writing with an Olympic Games angle. Many worthwhile stories are not being told because there is no Olympic Games angle. One such story is the Crown versus Bruce Montague.

Bruce Montague will be in the Ontario Court of Appeals in Toronto on February 18. On the surface this is a firearms case. Montague, a Dryden area gunsmith, decided to test the constitutionality of the Firearms Act and related statutes the only way anyone can: by getting arrested and charged with an offence. He was convicted of possessing firearms without a license.

Montague's case is like an iceberg. The firearms aspect is what is visible. The importance of the case is submerged from public view. Our right to own and possess property will be impacted greatly one way or another depending upon the outcome of this case. Just as importantly, our right to possess tools that allow us to effectively defend ourselves, our loved ones and our neighbors will be determined.

Everyone knows that specific guarantees regarding the right to property were left out of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A cursory reading of the Charter would seem to confirm that. A more focused reading would refer us to previous documents that are included, or at least not abrogated, by the Charter. The Canadian Bill of Rights was folded in to the Charter, and the Bill of Rights safeguards our property.

Unfortunately various levels of government play a shell game with our property rights. Now we see them, now we don't. Government gets away with this because most people read the

Charter, don't see property rights specifically listed, and assume they don't exist. Pronouncements from the government generally and the courts specifically keep us guessing.

Montague contends that if you buy something, thereby possessing it as property, but are then required to license that property or forfeit it to the government then the property really belongs to the government and you are allowed to borrow the government's property as long as you are licensed.

Please don't bring up the bogus examples of "we license cars and dogs" because you may possess an unregistered, unlicensed car as long as it stays in your driveway or you use a tow truck to move it. License and registration are only for use in public spaces.

Likewise, dogs only need to be licensed according to local bylaws and should you breach such bylaws you do not have your house trashed, computer and anything pet related seized and find yourself in jail. If you want to avoid such problems you can move to a rural area where bylaws regarding pets and large vehicles parked off street are not an issue.

Self defense is defined and allowable under the Criminal Code. At the moment of need, any tool available is legal to use. Depending upon one's circumstances the type of tool required can vary. Obviously the elderly, the handicapped and many women who lack strength, swiftness or dexterity will need some sort of a tool. The documented safest and most effective personal protection tool is precisely the type of small handguns that were specifically made illegal to acquire, possess or use by the same laws Montague is challenging.

A cell phone is no replacement for a firearm. At best a cell phone enables the user to call for the assistance of someone with a gun. At worst is expressed in the words, "when seconds count, help is only minutes away".

Montague is not fighting for a law to require everyone to possess a firearm. He is fight-

ing for our right to choose. We cannot allow government to make that choice for us.

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The Western Block Party is looking for candidates for the next federal election. If you are interested in running, or known someone who would like to try, please contact us at 250-727-3438.

Separatism Around the World

The following excellent article, a summary of the secessionist movements presently existent in the United States, appeared on the CounterCurrents.Org website in February 2010. It is republished in its entirety in hopes of “advancing the understanding of humanity’s problems and hopefully to help find solutions for those problems,” consistent with the fair use policy of that website. We hope that Western Canadian separatists will learn from the information presented herein.

The Urge To Secede: A Rebellion In Progress

By Greg Guma

20 February, 2010

CounterCurrents.org

At least 16 secession organizations are currently organizing throughout the United States and almost a dozen states have active movements. Even more state legislatures are

debating laws that could “nullify” federal actions in areas from gun control and health care reform to marijuana possession and overseas troop deployments.

In Alaska, the secessionist Independence Party has been influencing politics for years (Sarah Palin’s husband was a member and she publicly endorsed the party while governor), even though the State Supreme Court held in 2006 that secession is illegal. Hawaii’s sovereignty movement has won some victories, and Georgia’s State Senate passed a resolution in 2009 endorsing the right of states to nullify federal laws. If Congress restricts gun rights, that resolution added, the federal government will cease to exist. Well, at least in their minds.

In April 2009, Texas Governor Rick Perry threatened secession at a Tea Party protest. Afterward, a Rasmussen poll of Texans found that almost one third think the state has the right to secede – although, at this point, only 18 percent would back the move. Long before the Tea Party movement, a 2006 “national” secessionist convention in Vermont attracted indigenous groups, greens and Christian conservatives, libertarians and socialists, as well as the Second Maine Militia, Christian Exodus, the League of the South, and representatives of groups in Alaska, New Hampshire, Hawaii and Texas.

The idea of building a left-right coalition against the forces of centralized power and wealth can be seductive. In Vermont this was briefly attempted before in the late 1970s, with the two ends of the political spectrum finding common ground through the embrace of decentralism. Both factions preferred small scale energy production to mega-plants, widespread ownership of land and business, and removal of “government barriers.”

Things got sticky, however, when the discussion shifted to welfare, environmental regulation, affirmative action, and abortion – none of them trivial topics. The rub is that the same

arguments for decentralization and sovereignty that sound progressive in some cases can be used in support of isolationism, unfettered capitalism and discrimination.

In 2003, former Duke University professor Thomas Naylor founded the Second Vermont Republic, a secession movement that has since launched a newspaper, attracted national media attention, and begun to promote candidates and publish transitional plans. The aim is nevertheless to dissolve the United States and, in particular, return Vermont “to its status as an independent republic.”

Lincoln persuaded the public that secession was unconstitutional and immoral, Naylor has noted. “It’s one of the few things that the left and right agree on. We say it’s constitutional – and ultimately it is a question of political will: the will of the people of Vermont versus the will of the government to stop us.”

Most historical and legal authorities say there is no credible historical evidence to support the right to secede, in Vermont or any other state. But the hot issue at this point isn’t whether there is legal authority. It’s why millions of people across the country think this is a reasonable and attractive idea. A 2008 Zogby poll commissioned by the Middlebury Institute, a think tank studying “separatism, secession, and self-determination,” indicated that that 22 percent of Americans feel “any state or region has the right to peaceably secede from the United States and become an independent republic.” More than 18 percent told pollsters that they “would support a secessionist effort in my state.” That’s about one in every five people.

The agenda of the Second Vermont Republic leans strongly progressive, including political independence, human scale, sustainability, economic solidarity, power sharing, equal access, tension reduction, and mutuality. Running through it is a strong decentralist thrust. Secession advocate Kirkpatrick Sale de-

scribes decentralism as a “third way,” evident in bioregional movements, cooperative and worker-owned businesses, land trusts, farmers markets, and a variety of grassroots initiatives.

A related, predominantly conservative movement is pushing nullification. If the federal government fails to check itself, goes the argument, it’s up to the states to call a halt. This rebellion rests on the theory that the states created the national government. Therefore, they have the right to judge the constitutionality of federal laws and potentially refuse to enforce them. Nullification was used when American Colonists nullified laws imposed by the British. Since then many states have used nullification to limit federal actions, from the Fugitive Slave Act to unpopular tariffs.

Recently, several states have either passed or proposed legislation or constitutional amendments designed to nullify federal laws in the areas of firearms, medical marijuana, and healthcare. Many who support this approach cite the Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Attempts to discredit nullification activists by branding them as extremists, wingnuts and “tenthers” haven’t dissuaded them thus far. In fact, several state legislatures have introduced 10th Amendment resolutions that serve “Notice and Demand to the federal government, as our agent, to cease and desist, effective immediately, mandates that are beyond the scope of these constitutionally delegated powers.”

They can point to some limited successes. After the REAL ID act was signed by President Bush in 2005, more than two dozen states passed laws or resolutions denouncing it or refusing to comply. In response, the feds postponed its enactment. In Wisconsin, groups like the Grandsons of Liberty have lobbied

lawmakers to nullify health care reform by amending the constitution so that the state can opt out. According to the John Birch Society-backed magazine *New American*, activists in 28 states are involved in similar campaigns.

Concern about guns rights has also fueled the movement. The Firearms Freedom Act (FFA), which challenges the federal government's authority to regulate firearms, has been passed in Montana and Tennessee, and is under consideration in at least 11 other states. The bill says that firearms made and retained in-state are beyond the authority of Congress under its constitutional power to regulate commerce. The federal position is that such laws are unconstitutional. The Department of Justice has filed a brief in federal court against the FFA.

Another strategy, especially if the federal government tries to block nullification efforts by threatening to withhold funds, is a proposed State Sovereignty and Federal Tax Funds Act, which has been introduced so far in three states. The objective is to place state governments between federal tax collectors and individuals. The goal? Stop the flow of money to the feds before they can use it to intimidate the states. But before things get that far, nullifiers calculate that just the threat of such legislation could be enough to make the feds back down on any threats to cut off funding. We shall see.

It might be convenient to write off the entire thrust of anti-federal government rebellion as a GOP tactic. But it's not so simple. There are also nullification campaigns to decriminalize marijuana and bring National Guard units home from wars overseas. "Bring the Guard Home" legislation, for example, would require a state's Governor, and/or the legislature, to evaluate the legality of orders for Guard deployments and give them the chance to allow or deny the deployment.

Progressive educator Ron Miller attempted to define the difference between pro-

gressive and conservative activists who favor decentralism and secession in a 2009 article in *Vermont Commons*, the state secession movement's house organ. In Vermont, he wrote, supporters of secession are motivated by opposition to war, exploitation, and government violence. These "liberal decentralists" support equality, human and civil rights, nonviolence and multiculturalism. "Conservatism decentralists," in contrast, are usually free market libertarians who are hostile to cultural change. The former welcome some aspects of the Obama presidency, the latter view it as a deadly threat to liberty and identity.

Left-leaning decentralists face a dilemma, he admitted. Expansion of the federal government had led to social progress in the past, "but always at the cost of siphoning off local, state and regional sovereignty." There is also the risk that bad leaders will do appalling damage, or that progressive reforms spark such an extreme reaction that civil dialogue is impossible. The federal government hasn't resolved most conflicts, he wrote. It has merely papered over deeply held but divergent values.

His solution is to have Vermont or a confederation of progressive states break away and "become a model of enlightened governance." What about conservative, "red" regions? Since past progressive reforms have failed to transform southern culture or conservative populists he suggests leaving them to "live by the values they prefer."

But isn't that a way of saying it is acceptable for almost half the US, or half the world, to live under repressive regimes and various forms of fundamentalism? Dilemma indeed. And could secession actually happen? Not according to at least one US Supreme Court Justice, the conservative Antonin Scalia. In 2006, he responded to a letter from screenwriter Daniel Turkewitz, who was developing a script about a secessionist movement in Maine. He wrote to all of the justices but only Scalia replied. And the message was that a legal show-

down in the Supreme Court could never happen. “If there was any constitutional issue resolved by the Civil War,” he said, “it is that there is no right to secede.”

Be that as it may, the Court’s refusal to revisit the issue isn’t likely to quell the anger roiling across the country, or stop various secession, independence and nullification movements from rallying their bases with the hope that they can keep an “evil,” or just morally and economically bankrupt, federal government from seizing more power. Maybe even roll it back. Part of what unites these diverse upsurges is clearly anger; another part is distrust and disbelief. They simply don’t believe in most political institutions anymore, especially “big” government. “Fool me once....”

On the other hand, the left and right are culturally polarized, disagreeing passionately (sometimes even violently) over moral issues, racism, abortion, immigration, climate change, and controlling the distribution of wealth as well as power. In fact, they often perceive very different “realities.” One side believes Obama is a hardcore socialist, maybe even a Muslim Manchurian Candidate. The other thinks he is at best a political sell out, and in some ways just doubling down on the mistakes of the previous administration. One side thinks “global warming” is a hoax and the government should institute literacy tests for voting. The other thinks ecological (or economic) catastrophe is just around the corner, guns should be strictly controlled, and states should seize public resources as “trustees” of the commons.

There is at least some common ground, perhaps beginning with the idea that in the face of oppression (however you define it) withdrawal of consent makes a difference. Disengagement, whether gradual or sudden, is preferable to sticking with the team, staying the course, remaining faithful to a system in which you no longer believe. Even resistance is justified when necessary. Anti-war protestors often use civil disobedience tactics and generally em-

brace the philosophies of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Tea Party activists have taken selected pages from the same play book, but seem to reject the basic message of tolerance and peace.

Maybe the so-called “extremes,” a disparate collection of “outsider” subcultures and “alternative” movements, can shift what the media like to call the narrative – aka mass perceptions – and work together long enough to sell the idea that it’s time to deconstruct the empire. Game over. Bring down the curtain.

Who Knows? Maybe now is the time, now that the empire is almost out of control and headed for disaster. Imagine the meetings.

Freedom’s Voice

“Many politicians are in the habit of laying it down as a self-evident proposition, that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story, who resolved not to go into the water till he had learned to swim.”

Thomas Babington Macaulay

“Do not lose your knowledge that man’s proper estate is an upright posture, an intransigent mind, and a step that travels unlimited roads.”

Ayn Rand

“Liberty is one of the choicest gifts that heaven hath bestowed upon man, and exceeds in value all the treasures which the earth contains within its bosom, or the sea covers. Liberty, as well as honor, man ought to preserve at the hazard of his life, for without it life is insupportable.”

Cervantes

“Fame is proof that the people are gullible.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

~Join the Western Canadian Independence Movement~

Western Canada Concept, Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8V 2G6; Or by fax: 250-479-3294

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___ I wish to join/renew my membership in the **Western Canada Concept**, and enclose my membership fee of \$15.00, per person, per year. This includes a free subscription to the Western Separatist Papers. Please make cheques out to WCC.

___ I wish to join the **Western Block Party** (a federal political party dedicated to promoting Western Canadian Independence) and enclose my membership fee of \$10.00, per person, per year, made out to the Western Block Party.

___ I enclose \$ ___ for ___ **bumper stickers**.

___ I enclose a **donation** of \$ _____ to help promote the idea of Western Independence. See note below about tax deductibility.

___ Please send **information** about the Western Canadian movement for Independence to the following people (please print clearly):

I want to help as follows: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Important Note: B.C. Residents only who donate to the **WCC** will receive a tax deduction of up to \$75 on a \$100 donation, from their income tax. **All residents of Canada** who donate to **WBP** will receive a tax deduction of \$75 on a \$100 donation. You could receive 2 separate tax receipts for 2 separate donations, if you are a resident of BC and donate to both WCC and WBP. **Please make separate cheques in this case.**

*Western Canada Concept, the Movement for Western Independence!
Advocating Western Canadian Independence since 1974*

www.westcan.org

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