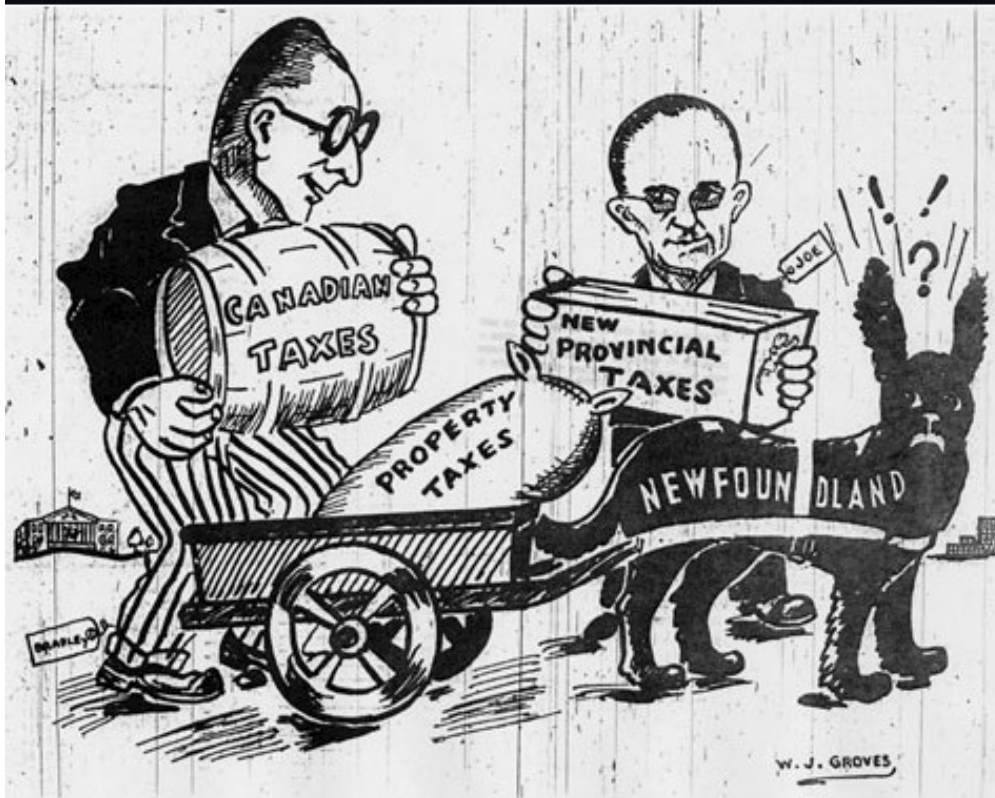


THE Western Separatist



Our cover: This cartoon demonstrates that Union with Canada was often regarded by Newfoundlanders as a solution to existing problems rather than as a desirable end in and of itself. As well, Newfoundlanders could observe no clear benefits for the Maritime colonies that had joined. "Taxes Under Confederation" © W. J. Groves

Source: *The Independent*, April 5, 1948, p. 1.

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Letters to the Editor

A Strange Common Theme this Month: Western Block and Bloc Quebecois, Together?

To the Editor:

Why don't you combine the Western Block Party and the bloc Quebec that could form something like "Canada Separation Party" or "CSP"?

The main goal of that party is the Separation of Quebec and the Separation of Canada western provinces with northwest province to form a new country. Ontario and atlantic Canada can determine their own fate.

This would work for you and Quebec as Quebec has greater chance of succeeding as well as Western Canada as well. Because they are all working together and voting for the same thing, 50 or so seats would

automatically belong to CSP from the bloc, support would increase in the west of Canada. It would work to combine votes, resources, and attention.

--Trevor C. (by email)

To the Editor:

Please Note: I am neither a member of the Western Block Party or the Quebecer Bloc. While we do know that both parties have common goals, defending the interests of their respective provinces in the House of Commons, repealing the Clarity Act, and, of course, achieving the independence of our respective provinces.

However, I looked through the Bloc's platform and your party's platform and there may be benefits if both the Quebecer Bloc (led by Gilles Duceppe) and the WBP united their efforts so we can achieve our independence. And I know both parties are criticized for being the parties of evil separatists. Or the cons would outweigh the pros of uniting these efforts?

I.Y. (by email)

The Western Separatist welcomes your letters to the editor. Please send them by email to: [kzubko\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:kzubko(at)shaw.ca) or mail them to: WSP, Box 101, 255 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3G6, or fax them to 250-479-3294.

Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before

By Richard McBride

Karl Marx once wrote that history tends to repeat: first as tragedy, second as comedy. Well, I must have lost track of the number of times we've been subjected to the "Are the Conservatives really conservative?" debate, because I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

Let's review the bidding, shall we? Conservative Stephen Harper runs up a massive deficit, tosses new powers and ton of new

money at Quebec, loves massive immigration, multiculturalism and apologizing for Canada's history and has no problem with taxpayer-funded abortion on demand, gay "marriage" and the "soft totalitarianism" of human rights commissions.

Harper sneers at his right-wing critics, while his flacks bleat in unison, "What, do you want the Liberals back in?"

Now, where have we heard this before? Oh yeah, Brian Mulroney. That time around the right didn't listen to the warning, Reform destroyed the Conservatives, and we ended up with Jean Chretien. The horror! The horror! Trouble is, Chretien's government was just like Mulroney's—except that instead of deficits, we got balanced budgets.

And so Reform became the Alliance, which became the New! Improved! No Longer Progressive! Conservative Party—Stephen Harper, proprietor. Which just happens to govern exactly like Mulroney's Old Progressive Conservatives, only more so.

Before he copped to taking \$300,000 (or \$225,000, depending on whom you believe) from an indicted German bagman, Brian Mulroney was front and centre as an adviser to Harper. And not without good reason. Because say what you like about Lyin' Brian, he knows a thing or two about Canadian politics. Well, he knows one big thing, which is that the Conservatives can never win a majority government if they write off Quebec's 75 seats.

Mulroney was the last (and quite possibly final) Conservative leader to win a majority government; in fact, he won two. Mulroney led Canadians to believe he was right-wing, but he knew that right-wingers don't win in Canada, not least because being right-wing precludes, among other things, enabling Quebec's permanent welfare culture. So he governed as a Conservative-Liberal. Just as Harper does. And as the Liberals move ever more left-wing, so do the Conservatives, Progressive or no.

As mentioned previously, Quebec has 75 seats in the House of Commons. Ontario has 106. Together, that's 181. There are 308 total seats in the Commons, and a majority requires 155. Do the math. Any party that dominates Quebec and Ontario barely needs support from any other parts of Canada.

Ontario and Quebec tends to vote left, while the West tends to vote right. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba together have 92 seats in the Commons. That's 63 seats short of a majority. Where are these 63 seats going to come from? From the Atlantic Provinces? Only if you agree to enable *their* permanent welfare culture. From Ontario and Quebec? Only if you agree to not to be right-wing, because Ontario and Quebec are not right-wing. And so we see that the right, concentrated in the West as it is, can fully take power in Canada only if it agrees to reject everything it supposedly stands for.

Which takes us back to Stephen Harper and the sterile, tiresome argument about whether he is sufficiently "conservative." Harper is doing exactly what any reasonable person would expect him to. So he comes from Alberta. So what? So was Joe Clark. Alberta has 28 seats. Quebec has 75. Ontario has 106. Do the math.

The Western Block Party is a popular front. It is neither right-wing, nor left-wing. It is reasonable to assume, however, based on historical example, that a Government of Western Canada would tend to be right-wing. There are no guarantees, of course, but on the other hand, we know that the chances of a right-wing government in Canada from sea to shining sea are a little less probable than the chances of Stephen Harper acting on philosophical principle.

So if you're right-wing and live in the West, you can join and support the Western Block Party, or you can learn to love the enduring tragicomedy that is Confederation. It's your choice.

Freedom's Voice

"I apprehend no danger to our country from a foreign foe ... Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. — From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence, I must confess that I do apprehend some danger. I fear that they may place too implicit a confidence in their public servants, and fail properly to scrutinize their conduct; that in this way they may be made the dupes of designing men, and become the instruments of their own undoing. Make them intelligent, and they will be vigilant; give them the means of detecting the wrong, and they will apply the remedy"

— *Daniel Webster, 1782-1852, American Senator*

"Government does not cause affluence. Citizens of totalitarian countries have plenty of government and nothing of anything else."

— *P.J. O'Rourke, (1947-) US humorist, journalist, & political commentator*

"By far the most numerous and most flagrant violations of personal liberty and individual rights are performed by governments. The major crimes throughout history, the ones executed on the largest scale, have been committed not by individuals or bands of individuals but by governments, as a deliberate policy of those governments, that is, by the official representatives of governments, acting in their official capacity."

— *John Hospers, (1918-) Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Southern California, author*

"If Big Brother (of Orwell's 1984) comes to America, he will not be a fearsome,

foreboding figure with a heart-chilling, omnipresent glare as in 1984. He will come with a smile on his face, a quip on his lips, a wave to the crowd, and a press that (a) dutifully reports the suppressive measures he is taking to save the nation from internal chaos and foreign threat; and (b) gingerly questions whether he will be able to succeed.”

— *Michael Parenti (1933-) Source: “Inventing Reality” (1986)*

The Cost of Confederation

Is the Power Really Shifting West? The following article demonstrates a question that is continually posed whenever the West becomes particularly affluent, and those who argue against separatism repeat the federalist mantra: “See, it’s not necessary!” We maintain this is not possible, within Confederation, and examine the article’s fallacies:

Power shifting west

By **ROY CLANCY** (Canoe.ca, March 12, 2009)

Preston Manning once rallied support for the Reform Party with the battle cry “The West wants in.”

Now, 15 years later, the West is in, and not just because we have a PM from Calgary.

“Canada is changing,” says Jack Mintz, chair of public policy at the University of Calgary.

“There is definitely a shift of power to the West.”

In the past, the attitude was that Ontario and Quebec were the centre of Canada’s universe and everything else was the hinterland, Mintz says. But that attitude has changed because of the wealth now being created in the western part of the country.

“The population size of B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan is as much as Quebec. Its GDP is bigger than Quebec now, so you are talking about a very significant region.”

That’s one of the reasons this internationally renowned economist and tax expert is excited about setting up a new School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary.

“It’s really important to create a school that’s going to have an impact on public policy in Canada,” says Mintz, who was born and raised in Edmonton.

“Given the way Canada is changing, it’s important to have that strong voice coming out of the West.”

You’ve likely seen Mintz’s name in the news a lot lately. He was a member of the economic panel that advised Finance Minister Jim Flaherty leading up to the federal budget.

The lone academic on the panel with 10 CEOs and a former B.C. finance minister, Mintz says he initially feared the effort could have been “window dressing,” but was pleased the group was able to focus strategically on ways to move ahead through a tough economic reality.

“Crises are often the time to make Canada stronger in the future as we try to deal other things right now.”

He gives the Tory budget the thumbs up for focusing on short-term spending on infrastructure.

That approach is designed to prevent a long-term structural deficit that could lead to a repeat of the debt-ridden days of the ‘80s and ‘90s. Stimulus spending alone isn’t going to end the recession in Canada, he admits.

“This whole crisis didn’t happen because of what Canada did. It’s a world crisis. We’re having negative growth worldwide for the first time since the Second World War. What happened in the financial markets in the U.S. and Europe is not our doing. In fact, we’re viewed

as the great regulators now in financial markets.

“The U.S. and Europe have to fix up the problems in their financial sectors.” Until that happens, there’s not a lot Canada can do.

In fact, Mintz says, had the Tories not been pressured by the opposition coalition to ante up an added \$15 billion in deficit spending, it likely wouldn’t have made much of an impact one way or another.

The biggest issue now facing the government, he says, is creating confidence in the markets and helping older workers who are losing jobs which might never come back.

Mintz also earned plenty of ink when he chaired a financial and investment policy advisory commission for the Alberta government, which the provincial Tories famously sat on until well after the election, presumably because they weren’t keen on its advice to build a bigger nest egg from resource revenues.

That was before the economic storm swept energy prices into the toilet.

“It’s hard to save right now, because you’re not going to close hospitals and schools to save money,” he says, but insists the government must still come up with a long-term savings strategy to help stabilize Alberta’s economy in the future.

Mintz may have a lot on his plate, but its clear his passion lies with the new school of public policy, which he hopes will attract the best and brightest from Alberta and elsewhere.

The school will hold its official launch May 13 with a gala dinner featuring former U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice making her first public appearance in Canada since leaving office.

“We’re going to have a school that I hope is going to be the flagship for the country,” Mintz says.

“More than just Alberta issues or energy issues, it’s going to be based on issues that are important to Canada as a whole.” [*end of article*]

Commentary:

The political power is never really shifting. There was a moment, perhaps two years ago when the population was growing, but this is changing once more. Declining prices for oil and gas have demonstrated that the West is still a “boom and bust” economy and population will begin to decline in Alberta as it did in B.C. during the oil boom. We all know that the political system in Canada depends on population, the entrenched population of Quebec and Ontario. Unless long term population increase occurs, and is stable in the west, the political power will remain with Ontario and Quebec. Why would we want huge population growth anyway? What about our environment?

Where political power is, there too will be economic power which, due to government regulation, subsidies and direct spending rewards with contracts, the areas where political power can be achieved by bribes. The short term prosperity of Alberta and Saskatchewan can be taxed away in both individual income taxes, GST and equalization payments so Quebec and Ontario will retain their dominance.

Political power is never given away and economic power follows political power; economic power does not always lead to political power, especially in Canada because of the fundamental structure of the Canadian federal system. Politics is the art of many taking the wealth out of the productive for the popularity of its redistribution.

The self-serving propagandists who believe that by saying “the West is in” makes it so, have never considered the effect of the long-running extraction process which Ottawa performs for Quebec and Ontario. The popula-

tion boomers before the first World War had similar delusions and look how that turned out! Nothing in Canada will be allowed to shift power west until the people (never their leaders, provincial or federal!) choose to separate.

Mr. Mintz, speaking of his school of public policy in the article above, has revealed his true agenda when he says in the last line: “More than just Alberta issues or energy issues, it’s going to be the flagship for the country. . . important to the country as a whole.” For him, and for all ambitious westerners, it’s not enough to put Alberta first. If they want to go anywhere, they have to put “the country” (i.e. Ontario and Quebec) above the West.

Canadian Rift Lives On

Official bilingualism has always been a very noticeable symptom of the fundamental flaws in Confederation. Lately, we have noticed more evidence that the divide continues:

In an article that appeared in the National Post of March 16, 2009, entitled “Quebecers ‘illiterates’ on English, Tory MP says,” Mike De Souza, wrote: “A backbench Tory MP from Quebec City has done it again by describing Quebecers as a bunch of “illiterates” when it comes to the English language. . . . “Whether in elementary or secondary , English is practically swept under the rug ,” Mr. Petit, 60, said last week at the House of Commons official languages committee. “At the university level, it’s even worse. We have illiterates of the second language.”

Of course there were immediate refutations, however, the thought lingers on in many Western Canadians’ heads that there is a clear double standard about each region adopting the language of the other. The money that this fruitless program has cost the English-speaking community to keep Quebec within Canada, also continues to rankle. There are endless examples of this rift and its effects on confederation. That should mean something to people who are paying attention.

News From the Western Block Party

Doug Christie on YouTube

The advent of the Internet and with it, such sites as YouTube and Google Video, where videos can be posted has truly made the free communication of ideas possible. In the past, it would have been impossible to produce a video (or film, or radio ad, or newspaper ad) without spending huge amounts of money to have it reach huge numbers of people. Those days have drastically changed.

Lately Doug Christie has been recording video commentaries on current events and they have been posted to YouTube. Some examples of recent topics include the controversy over Newfoundland Senator suggesting that province might develop a separatist party, or discussing reasons for Western Canada to separate.

The most gratifying result has been that we are getting increasing numbers of people “discover” Western separatism and the concept of a new nation of Western Canada. It is extremely encouraging to be able to reach new people in this manner.

We urge you to check these videos out, and to advise of your ideas for topics that should be addressed. We are also planning to post videos of particularly educational meetings or meeting excerpts. We are interested to hear from anyone who has old video footage of past meetings of the Western Canada Concept.

Comments from viewers of the videos:

(on the Newfoundland & Labrador commentary:)

“A M E N ! ! Canada is a dysfunctional country that will only be fixed by breaking

apart. My best to you, Mr. Christie. - An Alberta separatist”

(On the video about bailouts to Ontario and Quebec manufacturing:)

“Ontario and Quebec have no right to demand that Western Canada support them and bail out their dying industries. It is ILLEGAL for Western Canadian farmers to sell their products to the buyers of their choice. Eastern farmers can sell to whomever they choose. Everything in this country is centered around getting votes. FREE THE WEST.”

A Separatist Speaks

by Douglas Christie

The Prime Minister’s Office of Stephen Harper sent an ultimatum to the Liberal caucus in the House: They must expel Senator George Baker of Newfoundland from the Liberal caucus. What was his crime, that demanded such universal condemnation? Had he raped a parliamentary page or assistant? Had he robbed a bank? Had he tried to accuse Stephen Harper of smiling? No, he had dared to “muse” about Newfoundland separatism!

When Mr. Baker was suggesting Newfoundland would be better off on its own, with the oil revenues it could keep, rather than the shifting level of welfare Ottawa deigns to offer, he committed the ultimate sin. He dared to suggest a province could leave the happy home of Canada for the rough seas of Independence. He must be silenced; he must be ostracized; he must be publicly humiliated. What a typical Canadian response: don’t discuss the matter fully, hearing all sides in a public forum, with respect and careful attention. Instead, silence the dissident!

After all, every parliamentarian of every party has a vested interest in maintaining the illusion that Canada works, and works fairly to

all parts of the country. Separatists threaten all our MP’s pensions, job security and power.

But truth has a way of emerging. Historically, Newfoundland has always remained independent in spirit. Newfoundland has never benefitted from Confederation in any healthy way. When Newfoundland referred the matter of offshore oil to be decided in the Supreme Court of Canada, all the judges were federally appointed by the party who won the litigation. After all, there was a lot at stake! This is how the system really works.

So what can the Western Block Party do for Newfoundland? First, win hearts and minds. We can bring arguments to the people to permit them to vote for change. This is our hope of effective organic change. We can hold meetings to educate Newfoundland to the value and reasons for Independence.

I am, and our party is dedicated to liberating through peaceful political means, Western Canada and such other regions as Newfoundland and Labrador, from Ottawa thralldom. We need to bring our message of hope to all the regions of economic slavery to Ottawa and the federal system.

As the empires of the world collapse under the weight of their own hubris and corruption, our task is to encourage the development of smaller, autochthonous political entities which protect and foster the unique cultural gifts of their own unique ethnic identity.

We have seen the disastrous effects on the economy and environment of these megalthic super states as they collide and challenge each other. The future belongs to the harmonious interdependence of smaller homogeneous states whose identity and purpose is self-defined. The relations of a peaceful world depend on our initiative in defining and achieving our local goals inspired by intelligent design of our own better political institutions while we extend the same respect to our neighbours to define theirs.

~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

Western Block Party, 810 Courtney Street, Victoria, B.C. Western Canada V8W 1C4; Or by fax: 250-479-3294

___ 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

www.westernblockparty.com