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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. Dick Collver rebuilt the Saskatchewan Conservative Party enabling Grant Devine's great victory in the early 80's. Collver then started a party advocating that the West join the U.S. hoping Saskatchewan would become like North Dakota. He eventually left Canada for Arizona, and politics for business.

What I Know About Politics

By Richard McBride

Everything I needed to know about politics was vouchsafed to me when I was 12 years old. But it took me decades to figure out what I'd been given.

It was 1968 and Trudeaumania. PET, as he was known at the time—seriously, I'm not kidding—was treated by the media as Jack Kennedy combined with Mick Jagger.

That he was actually a pockmarked 49-year-old who still lived at home and had never had a job until he had been anointed by Lester Pearson three years earlier were not facts anyone cared to dwell on. It was 1968, after all. So don't blame me for affixing a Trudeau sticker to my jacket. I was young, ignorant and taken in by a mass hysteria perpetrated by adults who should have known better.

PET's representative in my riding of Burnaby Seymour was the late Ray Perrault, a man I'd admired for some years. Perrault

had been the leader of the BC Liberal Party and had been tossed from the Legislature many times for protesting WAC Bennett's habit of forcing the legislature to stay up all night in order to force through his legislation. I regarded Perrault as a hero for standing up for the rights of parliament against a bully. His opponent was the incumbent, that old eugenicist Tommy Douglas.

Despite his latter-day rep as "the Greatest Canadian," Douglas was a rather pathetic figure by this time, a Saskatchewanian forced to move ever westward to find ridings that would elect him, travelling in an ancient, battered schoolbus, his campaign resembling a 1930s revival meeting. Even so, he was the heavy favourite, and I felt very much as representative of youth versus age and the future versus the past as I buttonholed every adult that would listen to persuade them to vote for Perrault. I even inveigled my friends into helping me pull up the huge Liberal sign at the corner of Lynn Valley Road and Mountain Highway repeatedly knocked down by Douglas supporters.

Who knows, my efforts might have made some small difference. The ballot was so close there were multiple recounts, including a judicial one, and Perrault won by just over a hundred votes.

I met Ray Perrault again in the fall of 1969. I was a member of my high school's UN club, and he was the dinner speaker at that year's mock UN assembly. I had a bone to pick to him. Just about the first thing Trudeau's government had done was to pass legislation gutting the rights of MPs to delay legislation, enabling him to act just as WAC Bennett had done. I told Perrault all this, with all the disappointed idealism I could muster. He looked deep into my eyes, to the very depths of my soul, and intoned mournfully, "Well Richard, what you don't understand is..."

What it was I supposedly hadn't understood I couldn't say. I was more impressed by the fact he'd called me "Richard," which I ascribed to his remembering our earlier meeting at the Lynn Valley Shopping Centre. My schoolmates reminded me, with much mockery, that we were all wearing nametags.

My enthusiasm for Trudeau and the Liberal Party was shortlived. By 1974, I was old enough to vote. I would have voted for the Conservatives, only Robert Stanfield was promising wage and price controls, and I wasn't going to support that nonsense. So I spoiled my ballot. Guess what, the same Trudeau who'd excoriated Stanfield over this gave us these same wage and price controls in 1976. Retroactively, I might add, stealing \$75 a month from my paycheque and \$525 from my bank account.

(Old American joke: "They told me that if I voted for Goldwater we'd be in a land war in Asia. Well, I voted for Goldwater, and sure enough, we're in a land war in Asia.")

The world was teaching me a lesson, but I wasn't willing to listen.

Fast forward to 1993. The Mulroney Conservatives were dying, and I was in broadcasting. Junior cabinet minister Jim Edwards was being assailed by listeners who accused him of selling out the West. His response: "Well, what you don't understand is..."

So what was it that I and everyone else still didn't understand? I'm ashamed to admit it only came to me after I'd been disappointed, yet again, this time by Stephen Harper. Everything I needed to know about politics was this: we don't elect politicians to represent us; we elect them to represent themselves. They are all members of the same party, the Government Party.

Replacing Tweedledum with Tweedledee will never make any difference. Fool us once, shame on you; fool us 17 times, shame on us. So long as the liberal elite remains in power,

nothing will ever change. Our leaders all go to the same schools and all believe the same things. We need leaders who believe different things.

Candidate's Commentary

by Clive Edwards

The Tree of Liberty Lies as Cord-Wood

Rights. Freedoms. Laws. Words. Meanings. Ideas. Most people, if they think about such things at all lump them together with much overlapping and fuzzy boundaries, like a *mélange* or *aspic*. This is not a naturally occurring confusion. It is the result of our disintegrating culture and the conscious and pre-meditated failure of those institutions designed to perpetuate our culture.

Our ethical framework is upside down. Laws constrain Freedom for no purpose other than control. This is a symptom of fear, hate and greed and speaks to the failure of secular society. The idea of Rights disassociated from the fullness of the expression "birth-rights" leaves us with only those mutable freedoms allowed us by our fellow man.

As I look at Canada today I see a society where only that which is officially sanctioned by government may be regarded as real, the elephant in the room of course being God given rights, birth rights, immutable rights, natural rights, basic rights or by any other term the rights that define us as self-directed and responsible individuals.

Collective rights are the oxymoron of our time, as much as a forest without trees begs the definition; cut down the trees and the forest ceases to exist. Individual rights belong to all; collective rights belong to none but magically evaporate before the outstretched hands of all.

"...That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

- Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence, 1776

Governments have no rights, only duties. The moment government creates laws that speak to mythical collective rights corruption is in the air. Governmental power is delegated power derived from the individuals it serves. When governmental power is exercised for the benefit of one group or another rather than all citizens individually and equally it has become a corrupt government and is no longer an ethically constituted body.

When government becomes a machine for feeding one group of people on the enterprise of another under authoritarian rule it must rightfully be abolished. Once such a state is established it is never self-correcting. Elections become a farce, with the maintenance of the abusive system the job if not the goal of all political parties and those whose wealth depends upon the status quo.

Government contracts should be rare and viewed as public service rather than ubiquitous and viewed as an opportunity to raid the public treasury. Unfortunately, there are other ways to raid the public treasury. Tax breaks for select groups, by definition not for all are a sly way to give public grants to the well connected.

Taxation is not only about raising money needed to run the government. If it were, a system such as the Fair Tax Alternative (www.fairtax.org) would have replaced our myriad income taxes, payroll taxes, capital gains taxes and others hidden from general view by a flat consumption tax. It is a vastly more efficient system. It would raise the same amount of money as all our current taxes, and would capture the black market economy and visitors and tourists who pay no income taxes.

The politicians and the bureaucrats would have to give up control over we, the public as well as the graft and corruption that goes with such control. Fewer tax collectors, no tracking tax receipts for individuals, no paying accountants to do your taxes or wasting days or weeks

doing your own. The beginning of freedom from an overbearing bureaucracy and the social engineering that goes with it.

Income and payroll taxes discourage productivity. Individuals don't work overtime because of the higher tax bracket that puts them into. Employers don't hire employees because of the payroll taxes that take away the incentive to hire. Consumption taxes, on the other hand, encourage overtime and hiring more employees and result in more taxes being paid in the end, thereby permitting overall taxes to be lower.

Freedom from income and payroll taxes is another Right we should consider a birth-right. As a sage once said, "Man is born free yet is everywhere in chains." The tax system is the most important chain to break if we truly want to regain our freedom and dignity.

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The Cost of Confederation

Quebec and Greece comparison hits home with Western Canadians

An article by Canwest journalist Licia Corbela, widely published on May 11, 2010, entitled "The disturbing similarities between Quebec and Greece," must have hit a tender nerve in Western Canada, causing it to be repeatedly circulated on the internet as well as by paper hard copy probably to far greater numbers than could ever be achieved just by Canwest News Service. This is one of those classic cases where a story by a mainstream journalist describes perfectly what a huge

number of people are thinking, so that they adopt it and pass it on, causing it to "go viral" in an underground, political manner.

Ms. Corbela begins with a comparison of the Greeks and the Germans, who are currently helping to bail out or "equalize" with the Greeks, then continues with a discussion of our equalization.

We pick up Ms. Corbela's article here:

Dysfunctional? You bet. Canadians would never stand for such a thing, right? Think again.

Equalization in Canada was established to ensure that "have-not" regions could enjoy the same programs as "have" regions and most Canadians wouldn't quibble with that. But that has not happened. In fact, the reverse has occurred. The have provinces have fewer services than the have-nots.

According to a Dec. 2009 report by the Institute of Statistics of Quebec, Quebecers' average age of retirement is 62 whereas in the rest of Canada it is almost 65. While the Quebec Pension Plan and Canada Pension Plans are identical and carry the same penalties for collecting your pension earlier than 65, those who stop working earlier are less productive and contribute less to Canadian society in terms of income and taxes.

In light of the fact that Quebec received \$8.6 billion in equalization payments in 2010-11 out of a total equalization pot of \$14.4 billion, it's safe to say that citizens in Canada's "have" provinces — British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario — are paying for Quebecers' early retirement, as theirs is the only province which has such a generous, early retirement benefit.

In other words, equalization is not very equal. What's more, Quebecers can take advantage of \$7-a-day daycare, whereas, in most other provinces, \$7 wouldn't even buy you an hour of daycare.

Quebec has a generous pharmaceutical program unlike any other in the country, and Quebec university students pay considerably less for tuition within Quebec than students from elsewhere in the country.

To attend McGill University in 2010, Quebec students pay \$3,475 for tuition and fees. An out-of-province student attending McGill pays \$7,008, or \$3,533 more than a Quebec student — more than double. Five of the six cheapest universities in Canada are in Quebec — but they're only the cheapest for Quebecers. Those same universities are among the most expensive in Canada for non-Quebecers.

Sherbrooke has the lowest university tuition and fees in the entire country — but again, only for Quebecers, who pay just \$2,381. To attend the same university, a non-Quebecer, from Alberta, for instance, must pay \$5,914 or \$3,533 more than his Quebec colleague. When that Alberta student works through the summer in Alberta to save for tuition and living expenses, the taxes he or she will pay helps subsidize the Quebec student's tuition.

Lately, Quebecers such as Conservative MP Maxime Bernier have criticized Quebec's overreliance on equalization, saying Quebecers are "spoiled children."

That's got Quebec's provincial government fighting back. In its 2010-11 budget document, the Jean Charest government is arguing that it should receive even more equalization than it's getting because Alberta's oil industry is keeping the Canadian dollar high, which in turn harms Quebec's manufacturing sector. This is not a joke.

"A rise in the world price of a barrel of oil favours provinces that have that resource," states the budget document in Section E. "However, the rise in the Canadian dollar that accompanies the rising price of oil hampers the exports of the other provinces.

"An adequate equalization program can mitigate this phenomenon by increasing the revenues of provinces that are negatively affected by the rise in the dollar, without reducing the revenues of provinces that benefit from the higher price of oil."

In other words, Quebec, which received \$8.6 billion of the \$14.4 billion doled out in equalization this year, is arguing that it's not enough. It wants more and it blames Alberta's oil industry for its troubles. It's a curious argument since it can be argued that Alberta's oil industry is fuelling Canada's economy and largely provided the money was sent as equalization to Quebec.

In 2007, the last year Statistics Canada figures are available for all provinces, B.C., Alberta and Ontario were the only provinces that paid more into Confederation than they received. Alberta paid a total of \$37.064 billion in taxes and transfers to the federal government and the feds returned \$17.567 billion in services and programs, meaning that Alberta contributed \$19.5 billion net to the rest of Canada.

But Charest, who complained in Copenhagen that Alberta's oilsands industry "embarrassed" him, is making the argument that despite Alberta's largesse, it's to blame for the trouble Quebec is in.

In short, it's all Greek to Quebec — and that's frightening. *[end of excerpt]*

A Separatist Speaks

by Douglas Christie

The Success of the Powerful in Duping the Ignorant: Several Recent Examples

It appears clear that the Conservative government is doing exactly what the Liberal government used to do, and that a Western Conservative party is no different than an East-

ern Liberal party in the way it conducts itself in Ottawa.

In 2009, the government introduced 1617 pages of legislation. The Budget Implementation Bill currently before the House of Commons contains 880 pages, more than half of the entire workload of Parliament last year. It is in fact being put forward as a budget bill, meaning that it requires strict party discipline, and to defeat the government on this bill, will in effect bring about an election. The Liberals being unready and the NDP equally unsupported, are unwilling to agree to have an election on this, or any other bill, but Bill C-9, an act to implement certain provisions of the budget and other measures, includes the following acts or measures:

1. To allow Export Development Canada to open offices outside of Canada
2. To regulate the National Credit Card Payment Network
3. To give the financial consumer agency of Canada a broad or oversight rule
4. To give the Minister of Finance new powers to fight money laundering and terrorism financing
5. To permit letter exporters to collect letters in Canada for delivery abroad
6. To amend the Bank Act to allow credit unions to incorporate and continue as banks
7. To give cabinet the right to sell all or part of Atomic Energy of Canada
8. To eliminate the need for an environmental assessment for certain

federally-funded infrastructure projects

All of these are wrapped up in one budget which will be run through the House of Commons without dissent, or significant debate or analysis.

All of this demonstrates that be it Liberal, Conservative, or NDP, Ottawa corrupts. It demonstrates a sort of imperial lifestyle. Power corrupts, and is not self-regulatory except in rare cases. Referendum, initiative and recall are vital to democracy.

In addition, the recent moves by the federal Conservative government to establish a national securities commission to replace all of the provincial commissions, further demonstrates a centralization of power in Ottawa, which is repeatedly controlled by the members from Ontario and Quebec. This is the method by which provincial jurisdiction is being transferred to Ottawa in larger and larger chunks.

We will see also in British Columbia and Ontario, the elimination of Provincial Sales Tax, and the substitution of a national sales tax called the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). The HST is harmonized with the government of Ottawa's appetite for tax dollars. All of which will eventually bankrupt the housing market, put restaurants out of business, and transfer more and more wealth to Ottawa for redistribution in Quebec and the Maritimes.

All of this is being done by a so-called Conservative from a so-called Western riding, namely, Calgary, by a man called Stephen Harper, who is not acting like an Albertan. It is obvious once again that the lust for power has converted the Conservatives from a western base where they were originally seeking senate reform, calling themselves "Reform Party," then "Alliance," then "Conservative Party," all of which has come around in a big circle, ending up the way it always was, with Ottawa in control, and the west merely a useless append-

age from which resources and wealth can be extracted for redistribution in central Canada.

If the foregoing was not sufficiently demonstrated, the recent circus in Ottawa which is being conducted at a cost of merely a billion dollars in hosting the G-8 and G-20 Summits, will demonstrate once again that Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have become just as much interested in spectacles and events as their Liberal predecessors. It is supposed to make us feel great pride when Barack Obama, Nicolas Sarkozy, and perhaps Mr. Cameron, all converge on Toronto for a few days to solve the problems of the world. The security costs alone, the majority of which will go to the RCMP, are estimated to be \$833 million dollars. I suppose if you were in the RCMP, it would seem like a good idea. The same was true of the Olympics which were held in Vancouver. The great national euphoria celebrated in the media with strains of "O Canada" played in the background. The sad fact is that the taxpayers are left to pick up the bill. The estimate of the costs of security for the G-8 and G-20 Summits is \$3600.00 per second. It will be one week of gab fests among those seeking photo opportunities with each other.

This demonstrates the new internationalist elite. The internationally protected persons who will manipulate the wealth and power of the world, very much accomplishing what has been observed so far about the crash of the economy. It has been stated that the crash of the economy which was created by the huge debts established by government borrowing and spending, are going to be solved by the very people who created the problem. It is in effect, a ridiculous situation where those devoid of principle have become the primary movers of the process. One can never underestimate the sophistication and guile of those manipulating Parliament and the Conservative caucus, seeing themselves as international statesmen, photographed with other statesmen.

Recently at the unveiling of Jean Chretien's picture, Stephen Harper complimented Mr. Chretien on his longevity when he said: "You won three back to back majorities." In this he is tied with William Lyon Mackenzie King, bettered only by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir John A. Macdonald. It didn't hurt that his opponents were fighting among themselves. Nor that, in governing, he may have occasionally appropriated their best ideas as his own. How then is Stephen Harper any different?

The recent portrait of Jean Chretien unveiled on Parliament Hill on May 26th demonstrates the appearance of one of a cynical, opportunistic, and very powerful nature. He would make a very interesting godfather, which in fact, he may have been to many who looked upon him for their life, wealth, and livelihood.

As a final observation, upon the conduct of affairs in Canada, it would be unfortunate to ignore the recent decision to not prosecute Michael Bryant for killing Darcy Sheppard, a bicycle courier. Mr. Peck, the B.C. defence lawyer turned crown counsel, says the decision not to proceed with the charge was "mine and mine alone." I suppose it could be argued that Mr. Bryant could not be convicted of the deliberately killing Mr. Sheppard in view of Mr. Sheppard's aggressive attitude toward Mr. Bryant and his car. However, is there not such an offence as leaving the scene of an accident? And why wouldn't that be possible to proceed with? Small as it might be, it would still be some indication of disapproval of killing a bicycle courier by driving him into a fire hydrant, in a wild chase that allegedly lasted 28 seconds. Whatever the outcome in this event, it doesn't add much to the sense of appreciation of the administration of justice when one has certainly seen more dubious cases go to trial and end with convictions. Impaired drivers should ask for a "Jaffir" plea: \$500 and go, or raise a Bryant defence: fear of an aggressive bicycle courier with bare hands. Killing? What killing? The law looks somehow biased.

One that comes to mind is the recent conviction for income tax evasion by Dr. Jack Klundert, who after all, was acquitted twice by juries for the same offence, and only on the third trial where he was denied the opportunity to explain the origin of his intentions, was a jury able to convict him.

Those of us who pay attention to these things and observe the arrogance of power and the growth of government are extremely apprehensive about the imperial style that emerges top-down from Ottawa.

The recent decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal could not have dismissed Bruce Montague's claims about the rights of gun ownership with any more contempt than was done by the court. They have so little regard for the rights of self defence that they have made it impossible for anyone to have a firearm in a situation where defence in an emergency is possible.

After all, it is becoming increasingly apparent that in Canada, everyone is expected to rely exclusively on government as a solution to every problem, the source of every benefit, and the fountain of all authority and truth. Such a state of affairs denies the vital principles upon which Western Canadian culture has always relied. Those principles are self-reliance, independence, and individual integrity, founded upon the principles of honesty, hard work, and respect for the rights of others.

If Western Canada is ever to return to its roots, maintain its culture, and avoid the imperialistic style of the corrupt powers in Ottawa, it is essential that independence be achieved as we move quickly down the path that Canada has always followed towards centralized power and authoritarian elitism. Thus, we see why Western Canadian independence is more than just about money. It's about freedom, personal integrity, cultural survival, and the preservation and enjoyment of our great, bountiful, natural environment.

Those of us in Western Canada who see far into the future can observe the dangers of doing nothing and therefore, we are doing everything legally within our power to achieve independence and the building of a great new nation of Western Canada, where the corruption and abuses that we see around us today will be a thing of the past.

Fighting the HST in BC

For the first time in history, a province-wide initiative petition has reached success. All the ridings in B.C. have reached the 10% Elections BC requirement for signatures of all registered voters in all ridings in the province and only 3 are below the safety margin of 15% set by the committee initiating the petition to repeal the Harmonized Sales Tax.

The treachery of the Liberal government could not be impeached in any better way. Though they vowed not to enact a harmonized sales tax in the election last spring, they were already secretly in the process. They chose to sell the voters of BC into a federal tax-grab for the payoff of \$1 billion for their budget. That is equivalent to the cost of a two-day G8-G20 summit in Central Canada, as we now know. For this paltry sum, they handed over every taxpayer in BC to the Ottawa mandarins.

So I joined the fight to save what's left of our provincial rights and it has been encouraging indeed. The NDP are clearly enthused about the HST petition for their own short-term goals of defeating Premier Campbell. But direct democracy as been a WCC or Western Block platform plank since 1980. Referendum, Initiative and Recall was our basic premise both for separation and for good government. The power brokers hate it because they can't control it. The people, however, love it.

Our party can take credit for being way ahead of the rest by creating and advocating this concept decades ago.