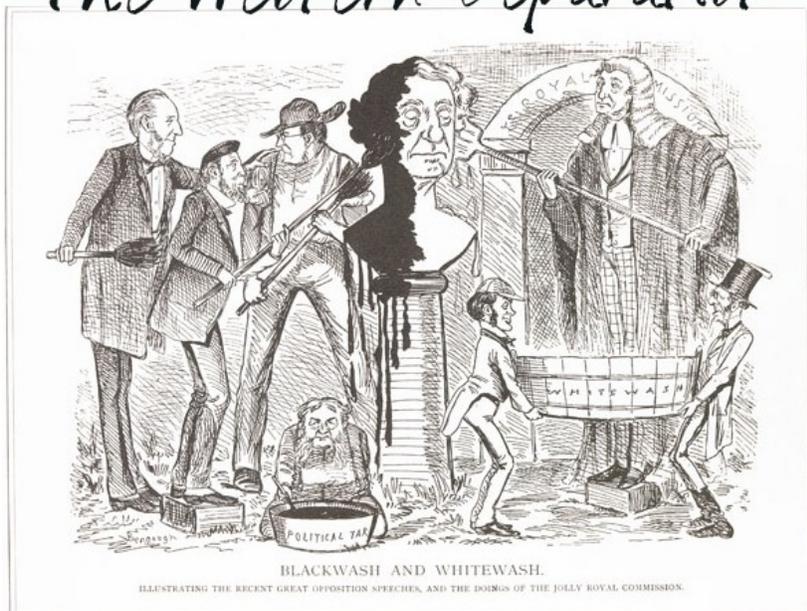


The Western Separatist



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“Separate or Surrender”

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Our cover: This month's cover is a cartoon from Bengough depicting a scandal in the time of John A. Macdonald. Canada has always had such scandals, but some commentators think that the current Schreiber scandal is the biggest ever.

A Separatist Speaks

The Sad Case of a Corrupt Canada

Some people like to believe that Chretien and Mulroney are really just brief aberrations in a series of paragon Prime Ministers. But the story is as old as Diefenbaker who used to speak of the first visit from a Quebec delegation of fixers who came to ask him for favours for Quebec. When he said he couldn't promise anything special, they threatened to destroy him politically. Within four years, they had made good on their promise.

This we should face as a symptom of a deeper disease, the reality of the corruption we repeatedly see, and especially in the present events, as revealed in the answers from Schreiber that are spread over all Canadian newspapers of late.

Mulroney needed money to get to power and he knew once there, the end would justify the means. Chretien was always possessed of the political skill to grease the squeaky wheels in Quebec and Alfonso Gagliano is smart enough to take the fall alone. Crossing Chretien was always a dangerous business, as Conrad Black has found out. But

are we to believe this was all just a brief interlude of corruption in a sea of virtue? That would be very naive. Canada is rather a sea of corruption with interludes of internecine political war.

The Canadian system has created in the office of Prime Minister unlimited and absolute power. He can dictate all major government purchases and hence reward the Quebec block or any friend he chooses with a lucrative government contract. Who would not succumb to such a power of patronage?

He can appoint every judge to the Supreme Court of Canada and all lower courts in every district above a provincial court. That includes all Superior and Appeal Courts of a province and all judges of the Federal Court, trial and appeal divisions. With such power over the judiciary, what Prime Minister could resist rewarding his friends and punishing his enemies?

He can appoint all the heads of Crown corporations, every cabinet minister, who he can fire at will and every federal board and commission from the National Parole Board to the Human Rights Commission and all the tribunals which control aeronautics, the Wheat Board, the railway systems, the broadcasting system through the CRTC and the whole of the communication system. He can even appoint the head of the R.C.M.P. or the armed forces and determine what direction the military will take and where they will go. He is an elected dictator for five years with opportunities to buy more time by rewarding his friends.

In short, there are no checks and balances and delivering on promises for bribes is always possible. Few who hold office in the so-called "free world" have more power over all aspects of life. Even grants, locally and federally, are subject to his influence. By contrast, the president of the United States has far more limits to his power. Checks and balances do not exist in Canada.

So as power corrupts, is it any wonder the office of Prime Minister has been corrupted by the two most effective Prime Ministers of modern time, Mulroney and Chretien? Trudeau achieved similar effect, but he was more ideologically driven by his leftist beliefs.

For Mulroney and Chretien it was simply money for power and power for money. Both have been revealed only by the political infighting which has become rather brutal of late as the behemoth Liberal and Conservative parties inform on each other in the struggle for the ultimate prize -- power. Anything to get it. Anything to keep it. Without it, you are nothing. Nothing else matters.

In principle, we have a democracy. In practice, we have a five-year dictatorship which rewards the dictator with the power to remain forever and discredit his opponents with media he buys and friends he rewards with pieces of power for their loyalty. It all comes to a shallow, venal conclusion when exposed to the truth of their opponents, blowing the whistle. But this rarely happens. Only when the struggle becomes too intense. Otherwise, it is lies, mutually agreed upon. The irony was Mulroney accusing John Turner of patronage and saying he "could just say no."

Bad government doesn't need to be our legacy. But corrupt power is so entrenched in Canada that it will never be removed unless fundamental change occurs. This change will only take place when the average person realizes that changing the label on the dictator and the dictator's party, achieves nothing.

The system must be peacefully, legally, democratically changed by a referendum for Independence in each Western province, with the creation of a new country of Western Canada with a new constitution where referendum, initiative and recall are present constitutional reality and no one person or office has the power to make absolute decisions over all matters.

A new constitution for a resource-rich West with a regionally elected senate and a common language would solve most problems. The prime minister should be more directly elected. The approval of the senate and the commons should balance each other. The judiciary either directly elected or appointed by ratification votes of all three levels, are some ideas for a system not subject to the influence of patronage.

Referendum, initiative and recall should be always available where reasonable numbers demand at all levels, and on all issues. By such means, and only by such means, would corruption be checked by a fair distribution of power. A common language would make double-speak and deceit less readily available. The unity of the West could be achieved by a balance of interests which Canada will never have.

We either bear those ills we have, or stand for solutions which we know will serve us. The ills we have are only tolerable because Western resource wealth renders failure in Canada a virtual impossibility no matter how deep the corruption, at least for now.

But resources are finite and the patience of taxpayers is exhaustible. We must have a better solution to our governmental woes before apathy leads to despair and corruption breeds anarchy and violence. A peaceful solution and a rational rearrangement of our affairs is still legally possible. The results would be so vast an improvement we would wonder why we waited so long in the shadow of such venal and self-serving men.

Cowardice makes silence, and ignorance makes fools of us all. But soon the failure of waiting for others to solve our bad government will be obvious and the inevitable dissolution of the corrupt nation will be seen as the only universal solution to our problems.

Bilingualism in Review:

Some Interesting Quotes from the Past

“My role as Secretary of State of Canada is first and foremost to ensure that my French compatriots in Canada feel with deep conviction, as I do, that this is their country and that it reflects their image.”

“I too had some difficult years as a politician; I’m still having them, in fact, because everything we undertake and everything we are doing to make Canada a French state is part of a venture I have shared for many years with a number of people.”

“You know the idea, the challenge, the ambition of making Canada a French country both inside and outside Quebec — an idea some people consider a bit crazy, is something a little beyond the ordinary imagination”. - Serge Joyal, Secretary of State, now in the Senate.

“Unilingual Anglophones will be sentenced to a lifetime of job immobility” - Pierre Trudeau.

“The separatists’ Bill 101 is a brilliant piece of legislation” - Stéphane Dion, Federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (2001), President of the Queen’s Privy Council and newly appointed watchdog over official bilingualism.(2001) Presently leader of the Liberals.

“If Québec separates I will go with it, my loyalties are with Québec” - Pierre Pettigrew, Federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (2001).

“The Canadian community must invest, for the defence and better appreciation of the French language, as much time, energy, and money as are required to prevent the country from breaking up” - Pierre Trudeau, Page 32, “Federalism” (1968) also quoted in Farewell The Peaceful Kingdom by Joe Armstrong.

“Given these facts, should French speaking people concentrate their efforts on Que-

bec or take the whole of Canada as their base? In my opinion, they should do both; and for the purpose they could find no better instrument than federalism”, Pierre Trudeau, Page 31 “Federalism” (1968)

“We are never entirely satisfied and we want to promote bilingualism (French) even more than we do now.” Lucienne Robillard, President of the Treasury Board, 2001.

“The French language is mandated for use by government and its agencies throughout the country’s capital in an effort to promote the French language, therefore there is no longer a career for Anglophones in the federal civil service in Canada.” Dr. Marguerite Ritchie, President of the Human Rights Institute of Canada, during a panel discussion in 1995

“I cannot swear it but I think we were thinking to ourselves,... we are a small group, Trudeau, Pelletier, Marchand, Lalonde, Chrétien, myself and a few people in the civil service, say 50 all told...we were bringing off a revolution. We held the key posts. We were making the civil service bilingual (French), kicking and screaming all the time.” Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, 1970.

“Canada is going to be a French speaking nation from coast to coast and any body opposed to this is opposed to the best interest of Canada.” Leo Cadieux, speaking to French National Assembly, 1973.

“Bilingualism in truth was nothing less than a social revolution...no one in Ottawa in the later 1960’s let on that a massive change was about to happen... Trudeau knew this all along. He lied about it as a necessary means to an end.” Richard Gwyn in his book *The Northern Magnus*.

Dr. Jim Pankiw, Canadian Alliance MP for Saskatoon-Humboldt, stood up in the House of Commons on April 6th, 2001 and asked the Liberal government the following questions:

Question: “Mr. Speaker, Treasury Board statistics confirm that for every increase in the number of federal public service jobs designated bilingual, there is a corresponding decrease in the participation rate of Anglophones in the public service. I should like to know what steps the government is prepared to take to end the systematic discrimination against English speaking Canadians with respect to hiring and promotions”.

Response: “Mr. Speaker, this is probably the most insulting question I have ever heard in the House of Commons.” Don Boudria, Liberal house leader.

Question # 2: “Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government’s application of forced bilingualism is costly, discriminatory and a source of national divisiveness and disunity. Notwithstanding, I ask the Justice Minister why she intervenes on behalf of Ontario Francophones but does not request intervenor status to protect Anglophones in Québec. She is prepared to defend the interests of French speaking people in Ontario but she is not prepared to defend the rights of English speaking people in Québec. Why the double standard?”

Response: None

“Canada is going to be a French-speaking nation from coast to coast.” Leo Cadieux, Canadian Ambassador to France, 1973.

“There is no way two ethnic groups in one country can be made equal before the law...and to say it is possible is to sow the seeds of destruction.” Pierre Trudeau, 1966.