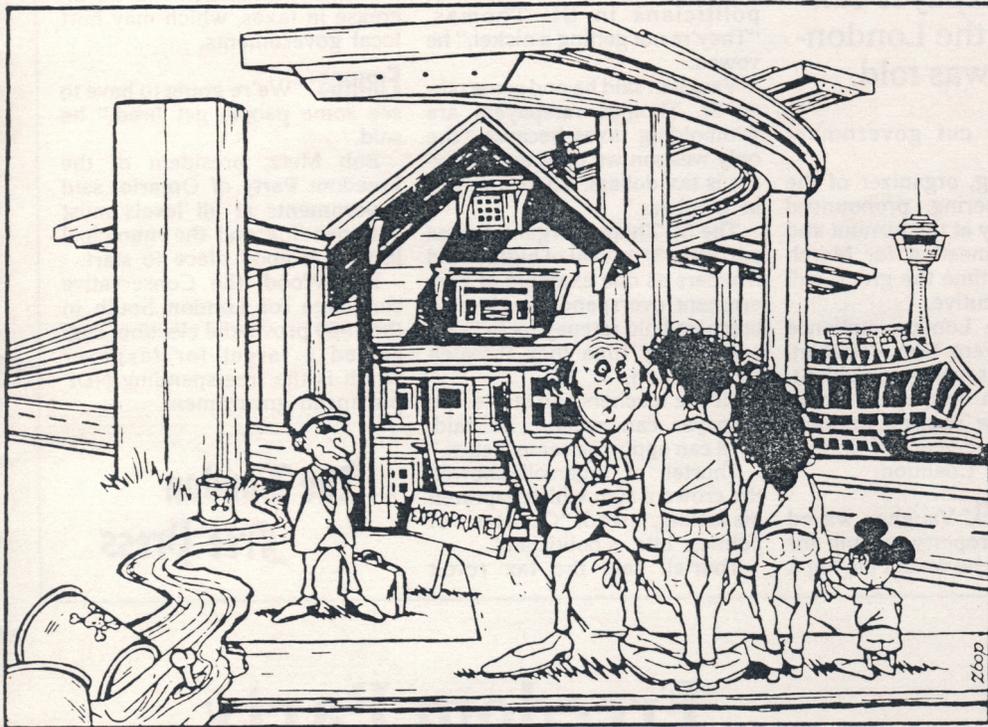


the TAX-AX

The Newsletter Dedicated to LOWER TAXES for Everyone!

Published by the Freedom Party of Ontario



"Here's the bill for all these services we're providing you with"

TAX REVOLT in ONTARIO!

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Support spreading for tax revolt group

The coalition's head representatives from municipalities, including London.

Residents of municipalities want a lid on proper-

Residents of municipalities want a lid on proper-

Residents of municipalities want a lid on proper-

pay at a residential and business level." It started in Blenheim last summer in response to changes in the assessments procedure that saw some property taxes there skyrocket. Members refused to pay any part of their tax bills more than the 1989 assessment. When the town agreed to freeze its portion of 1991 taxes at 1990 levels, the group paid up.

On Wednesday, Kent County council will debate a resolution tabled last month by Blenheim Reeve Frank Vercouteren to freeze 1991 county levies charged to municipalities at this year's levels. Lansens is expected to speak in favor of the resolution.

Tax rebels make plans in campaign

By WAYNE NEWTON
Staff Reporter

Don Vaughan's troops are marshalled and his first targets are in his sights.

The 45-year-old, real-estate-agent-turned-tax-fighter rallied a core committee of six elected from among 25 people who attended the first meeting of the St. Thomas-Elgin Taxpayers Coalition on Thursday evening at Meadowgreen Sports Complex.

At his side are former Freedom Party candidate Ray Monteith and Meadowgreen owner Larry Rieger, among others.

Their first target: local school boards and the city's plans for a \$1.5-million ball diamond complex.

Mr. Vaughan said taxpayers can no longer afford the duplications in publishing and buildings caused by public and Roman Catholic schools. The problem threatens to be more acute if French language classes are added, he said.

spending will start with the school boards, which spend about 50 per cent out of every tax dollar collected, Mr. Vaughan said.

Mr. Vaughan advocated witho-

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Hey taxpayers! Get off your duffs, start fighting back

If you're upset about the huge tax increases coming your way, don't just whine about it. Consider joining an anti-tax coalition or exercising your powers at municipal election time.

RATEPAYERS

Tax revolt prompts freeze on increases

Blenheim protesters are now expected to pay the taxes they have been holding back.

By Joe Ruscitti
Chatham Bureau

BLenheim — The tax revolt...

REACTION

J Kent County Warden

the 37 county councillors will be paid \$98, plus mileage, to attend w-

STRATHROY

Brewing tax revolt comes as surprise to town merchants

The 300 protesters at Monday's council meeting were the first to sign a tax rebellion has come to town.

ing right now" and understands why they seem prepared to fight to control tax increases.

A few doors to the east, Ron Aiken, owner of Strathroy Audio Video Inc., said he is unaware of any merchant concern about taxation. "It's not municipal taxes that are making businesses close down," he said. Federal and provincial taxation is a heavier burden

Politicians, teachers targets during tax group's session

'If the teachers can strike, the taxpayer can strike,' the founding meeting of the London-Middlesex Taxpayers Coalition was told.

By Chip Martin
The London Free Press

Free-spending politicians and highly paid teachers were the targets Monday night as the seeds of tax revolt were sown in London.

What was billed as the founding meeting of the London-Middlesex Taxpayers Coalition attracted about 40 people to a meeting room at the Bavarian Tavern.

But what the meeting may have lacked in numbers, it made up for in fervor as several speakers, including organizers of other tax revolts, urged ratepayers to

organize to cut government spending.

Jim Montag, organizer of the London gathering, pronounced himself happy at the turnout and set another meeting for March 25, at which time the group will elect its executive.

Urging the London audience into action were Don Vaughan, head of the seven-week-old St. Thomas-Elgin Taxpayers Coalition, and Stew Thurtell, organizer of the three-year-old Oxford Property Tax Coalition.

NOT A NICKEL: Vaughan waved his interim property tax bill for \$565 and said he wasn't paying it

in order to get the attention of politicians in St. Thomas. "They're not getting a nickel," he vowed.

Vaughan said he and some other St. Thomas ratepayers are withholding taxes because "the only weapon we have as taxpayers is tax dollars. There's power in numbers."

The St. Thomas organizer was particularly critical of highly paid teachers as one example of government overspending. He said teachers hold ratepayers to "ransom" every time they threaten strike action.

"If the teachers can strike, the taxpayer can strike," he said. "We can apply the same tactics."

Thurtell of Ingersoll showed the crowd a sign which captured his feeling. It read: "Get a taste of politics: bite a politician."

Thurtell said the tax revolt

movement must demand no increase in taxes, which may hurt local governments.

FIRINGS: "We're going to have to see some people get fired," he said.

Bob Metz, president of the Freedom Party of Ontario, said governments at all levels must cut spending and the municipal level is a good place to start.

Bob Wood, the Conservative candidate for London South in the 1990 provincial election, suggested a target for taxpayer wrath is the free-spending NDP provincial government.

The London
Free Press

WEEKEND F.O.C.U.S.

THE 5% SOLUTION

While the threat of tax revolts grows in Southwestern Ontario municipalities, London has thrown up a five-per-cent spending ceiling in a bid to keep the revolt out of the city.

IT'S A POTENTIALLY potent combination: 1991 is a municipal election year and there's a tax revolt brewing in parts of Southwestern Ontario. London city council has tried to head off a revolt with a five-per-cent solution: It has imposed a five-per-cent ceiling on all spending increases in 1991.

But Kent, Oxford and Elgin county ratepayers have organized to protest tax increases, throwing fear into local politicians. On Monday, a group called the London-Middlesex Taxpayers Coalition is holding a founding meeting at the Bavarian Inn to organize local support as part of a province-wide coalition of angry taxpayers.

Will discontent grow once municipal and education budgets are set in the next two or three months, causing another round of tax increases in a recessionary economy?

ON PAGE A7

London's plan and its ramifications.

Freedom Party helps launch taxpayer coalition chapters

Freedom Party executive and representatives have been assisting organizers of local chapters of the Ontario Taxpayers' Coalition in the London and St. Thomas areas.

On the first day following the press release announcing the formation of the London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition, local politicians were already promising a "5% Solution" to the city's tax woes, a stand from which London budget chairperson Jack Burghardt and Mayor Tom Gosnell say they will not budge, "even if it means a one-week shutdown of libraries and a three-month delay in opening the London aquatic centre," according to the London Free Press on March 23, 1991.

Elgin citizens are urged to not pay tax increase

By TOM FROESE
T-J Staff Reporter

Will St. Thomas-Elgin become another Blenheim?

Ray Monteith says yes.

He is preparing to begin a tax revolt in St. Thomas-Elgin similar to that in Blenheim, Ont., to tell the provincial government that it's wrong to raise taxes and increase the provincial deficit.

"I want to encourage people of Elgin not to pay any more additional taxes. That includes municipal and school taxes," said the Elgin Riding Freedom Party candidate, who has gained a reputation for strong-willed ideas during the last election three elections.

He agrees with provincial party leader Robert Mitz, of London, who says the NDP government is spreading the poverty trap and expanding the recession through its latest plan to pump \$1.4 billion into new programs.

Those programs, which include various construction projects and \$700 million in tax breaks to individuals



RAY MONTEITH
...really after school taxes'

and businesses are geared to save more than 20,000 Ontario jobs during the next year from the effects of the recession, says the NDP.

NOT ENOUGH

But Mr. Monteith says the move is not enough. He says all levels of government can carry out their mandate for less money from taxpayers.

"I'm against any more debt. We eventually have to pay them off," he said.

Mr. Monteith suggests the province should give more incentive for people to work. For St. Thomas he

suggests the city could give some people on unemployment insurance jobs through the works department, to do things such as clean the area's bush and ravines.

Mr. Monteith also said the proposed ball complex should not be the responsibility of taxpayers.

"I can't afford any more taxes. The ball players should get pledges. I think Meadowgreen has what's needed."

Spending on education will be the main item on Mr. Monteith's agenda for his coming tax revolt, he says. "The two boards should work together and share their facilities," he said.

"The system is spending too much money. There must be another way of doing things cheaper. We have to find a way to reduce and end up with the same product."

He added that people have to be re-educated to "get out and do something."

"Let's get rid of some government. We don't need the senate. When you can stack it get what you want, let's get rid of it. We're overgoverned," he said.

• Above: Freedom Party's Ray Monteith helps to start the ball rolling in Elgin-St. Thomas.

TAX AXIOMS

A government big enough to give you everything you want is also big enough to take everything you have.

A fine is a tax for doing bad.
A tax is a fine for doing good.

Government deficits are simply deferred taxation.

Taxes are involuntary payments imposed by law, not a payment for services rendered.

The decision to spend is also a decision to tax.

Taxes are the hidden agenda behind every political promise.

EDUCATION

Trustees get taste of taxpayer temper

The message to the London school board in this election year is spend at your political peril.

By Kelley Teahen
The London Free Press

The tax revolt wave crashed over the London board of education Wednesday night.
The trustees, at a first-ever meeting

for public submissions on budget issues, heard the same message many times: Cut the frills. Hold the line. Don't expect us to swallow another 14.7-per-cent budget increase like you dished out last year.

If you ignore us, the taxpayers warned, you'll hear from us at the November municipal election.

"What got me really excited was my last tax bill," said Nick Terentieff. "You're elected members — you have a moral responsibility to keep taxes down."

See SPEND page B2 ▶

SPEND: Citizens want taxation tap shut right off

▶ From page B1

"We'll examine all trustee candidates and we'll endorse candidates who agree with our objective" of a zero tax increase, said Jim Montag, president of the London Middlesex Taxpayers Coalition and one of 25 citizens who made presentations at the three-hour meeting.

Many hammered the board for a recent staff seminar in Niagara-on-the-Lake (\$45,000) and for a proposal — not yet approved — to renovate the Dundas Street education centre (\$700,000 over two years).

"Spend on our children, not on the comfort of administrators, your outings or high salary increases," said D'Arcy McFall, a London ratepayer.

"The tax tap in Ontario is about to be shut off," said Robert Metz, president of the Freedom Party. "This isn't a threat, it's a fact." He called on trustees to reject costly programs and changes handed down to local boards by the education ministry.

Freedom Party, London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition make presentations to London Board of Education: Main message: NO MORE TAX INCREASES.

The Board of Education for the City of London PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS ON EDUCATION SPENDING

- YES — The cost of education is high!
- YES — Education is changing dramatically!
- YES — Education is an investment in the future!
- YES — Educational growth a
- YES — The Board of London high quality students

Let's Not Fail Our Children! Let's Have...

FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN EDUCATION

The Affordable Alternative

You are invited:
— get the facts
— get the facts
— make a sound development
Education

Interested groups or individuals regarding the content does not include materials considered separately

A maximum of five both written and oral should be prepared

The meeting for public at 7:00 p.m., at the I. R. Moore, Executive to the presenters

Today's governments play much more than an assistance role in the provision of education in Canada — they control virtually every aspect of education and thus severely limit the choices of those paying for the service, and those receiving the service.

Governments compel every taxpayer to fund government-provided education — regardless of whether they have chosen to acquire an education themselves or whether they have children receiving an education or whether they even want the type of education being offered. Unfortunately, under any system of COMPULSORY FUNDING, quality service at an affordable cost has never been sustained indefinitely. The only certain consequence of compulsory funding is that payment for the service will always increase, and the quality of service provided will always decrease.

Freedom of choice does not exist in Ontario's education system, despite official government proclamations that "individual rights are protected in that there is no limitation on the voluntary choice to be made between an education in the public system and attendance at a private school" (Shapiro Commission on Private Education, 1985). But to suggest that individual rights have been "protected" by citing one single restrictive option, available only to those who can afford to financially support [two] education systems, is an complete abdication of the term.

Currently, parents add children to an independent addition to the fee for attendance at such education tax. Since the government's access to the b since parents at most affordable cially support a standards and agree is blata VIOLATION of, rights.

Worst affected of (as usual families who seeking all the knowledge from having least affected high-income families affected education other of

"FAILING OUR CHILDREN"

SUBMISSION

to

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF LONDON

on

1991 OPERATING BUDGET

presented by

Robert Metz

on behalf of

THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

March 6, 1991

TAXES

Rebels achieve little even when they win

Setting arbitrary tax or spending limits seems simple, but people must be prepared to expect cutbacks.

By Norm Ibsen

The writer is Free Press editorial page editor
MAR 9 1991

Spring beckons, and the outcries of tax rebels are heard here and there.

Tax-revolt strategists have been fanning out across Southwestern Ontario to rally support. Though property taxes are the main target of the moment, the grumbling seems generic — rooted in the conviction that all levels of government are overtaxing.

Would a tax strike achieve anything? Symbolically, perhaps, if it commanded broad approval, not evident so far.

ACCEPTING CONSEQUENCES: But how to draw the line? The notion of arbitrary tax or spending limits has a deceptive simplicity. To be effective, they require the consent of the governed to their consequences: the withdrawal or curtailment of public services. Californians went through that after voting in 1979 to limit local and state spending. Their experience was instructive, a reminder that simple remedies aren't necessarily the best.

Soon, the state and local governments were substituting user charges for tax increases. The trouble with user fees is that, while they may be reasonable for some services (garbage collection, not libraries), they risk penalizing the poor.

The ingredient commonly absent from tax protests — whether local, provincial or national — is a full appreciation of the costs of

services that governments provide. Many taxpayers seem to want superior Canadian social programs at lower American tax levels, which contribute to the lower American prices that attract hordes of Canadian shoppers on regular bargain-hunting trips to United States border communities, partly to avoid taxes here. But ask them if they would prefer Americans' health bills to Canadian medicare

Tax revolts are more credible if they're accompanied by constructive suggestions for trimming services or otherwise significantly reducing government costs.

Taxpayers who turned up this week at the London board of education's commendable public budget forum at least proposed specific measures. Still, it takes strong, sustained political will to achieve significant savings when teaching and administrative staff salaries and benefits account for 80 per cent of a budget approaching \$300 million.

At the national level, cost-cutting proposals from aggrieved taxpayers are too often unhelpfully small-minded (cancel bilingualism, negligible in scope (slash MPs' travel expenses), or mean-spirited (scrap foreign aid; the Mulroney government is getting close). They seldom reveal a realistic appreciation of the scale of savings required to permit significant tax cuts. If, for example, the defence budget were eliminated, the amount saved (\$12.7 billion) would represent only 30 per cent of the cost of servicing the federal debt (\$43.2 billion) in 1991-92.

The costs of new or expanded services are

seldom effectively questioned; interest-group social agendas monopolize media attention. This week, a report commissioned by a Senate committee suggested, in disguised form, paying children to stay in school to neutralize the social costs of poverty-related dropouts, estimated at \$33 billion in lost output, lost earnings and lost tax revenues.

While children need encouragement — motivation is a better word — to complete their schooling, anyone who thinks a new spending program is the solution is part of a bigger problem.

It's a cliché, yet nonetheless true, to suggest that the way to lower taxes is to lower expectations. What cost-saving measures would most local taxpayers support? Larger classes in the schools? Private-sector garbage collection? Fewer recreation services? Reduced sewer construction and road maintenance?

One cost factor to ponder is the dogma that only unionized government employees can be entrusted to deliver public services reliably and efficiently. Translated, that means placing job security for public employees above potential cost savings; in fewer words,

no contracting out.

Over-government is a response to high public expectations — not over-government through programs alone, but through regulation and administration. Governments now employ one out of every 17 Canadians.

Tax-fatigued or not, Canadians can't seem to agree on whether they want more government or less. If only our social engineers could figure out how to legislate contentment . . .



**NORM
IBSEN**

Editorial page editor
The London Free Press

Falling Into the Poverty Trap

Taxpayers Beware of False Issues!

A response to Free Press editor Norm Ibsen by Freedom Party president and leader Robert Metz:

London Free Press editorial writer Norm Ibsen's cynicism towards tax revolts is understandable, though misdirected. Cynicism is one way of admitting that one has already given up looking for answers.

The cause of Ibsen's cynicism is clearly spelled out in his editorial: he has accepted a contradiction --- the false belief that the "poor" cannot be helped without massive universal government spending programs and the high taxes that invariably accompany them. This is a belief that has been shared by conservatives and socialists alike, and explains why neither have been able to offer any real tax solutions to the electorate.

For example, one of the main "dangers" regarding successful tax revolts, argues Ibsen, is that user fees may replace taxes: "The trouble with user fees is that, while they may be reasonable for some services (garbage collection, not libraries), they risk penalizing the poor."

cont'd next page

Nonsense. In the real world removed from political influences, "user fees" apply to everything: the process is known as voluntary trade and exchange (the free market). Why is it assumed that the "poor" would be "penalized" under such a system?

Even if one accepts the concept of government as a welfare agency, where is the logic in directing billions of taxpayer dollars towards a **service** that the "poor" may happen to use, rather than directing aid directly towards the poor themselves?

Why should taxpayers be forced to subsidize **Via, Canada Post, Ontario Hydro,** and a host of other crown corporations that employ highly-overpaid and union-monopolized civil servants under the premise that this is "helping the poor"? Does this make any sense at all?

How can we continue to justify taxpayer- subsidized education and healthcare systems which absorb more than half our income through taxes (the greatest contributor to poverty that I can think of), when we could provide ourselves with much better service at a third or less the cost through private insurance, tuition tax-credits, and a host of other proven and workable initiatives that do not bankrupt our country in the process?

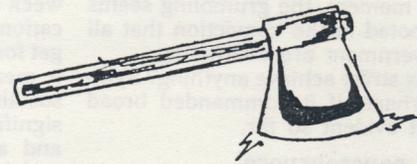
Surely if someone's economic circumstance is such that they cannot afford to pay a small library user fee, it is likely that person cannot afford a host of other necessary goods and services (including garbage pick-up!). This may be a case for directing help to the person in need, but how does it justify taxpayers being forced to prop up inefficient, wasteful, and failing state-run industries and services?

To add insult to cynicism, Ibsen argues: "The ingredient commonly absent from tax protests... is a full appreciation of the costs of services that governments provide." What on earth does he think protesters are protesting against --- the wind? And where does he get the idea that the state can possibly offer a service cheaper than the private market? With federal, provincial, and municipal debts exceeding \$500 billion (and growing at a rate of over \$30 billion annually), and with over 50% of the average person's earnings going to governments, I think the average Canadian more than "appreciates" the costs of services that governments provide.

Though past tax protests have come and gone with varying degrees of success and failure, I have noticed a great change in the nature of today's tax protesters as opposed to those of even five or ten years ago. Today's protesters are committed to the "strong sustained political will" that Ibsen correctly identifies as a necessary ingredient of a successful tax revolt. Many have reached the point where they simply cannot afford to pay any more increases in taxes. It is this sad fact (and the promise of even higher taxes in the future) that will ensure that their political will does not wane.

Lower taxes are no longer a choice in Canada; they're a necessity.

Otherwise, we'll become the nation of poverty.



DEC 24 1990

NEWS

MAKERS & EVENTS

NEWSMAKER

GEORGE LANSENS: Age 45, president of Ontario Engineered Suspensions of Blenheim and founder of the Kent Property Taxpayers' Coalition.

THE EVENT: On Sept. 24, Lansens and a group of Blenheim business people persuaded Blenheim town council to freeze 1991 taxes at 1990 levels after withholding their property taxes for three months.

THE RESULT: The Blenheim tax freeze attracted hundreds of people to Lansens' cause. The Kent County Taxpayers' Coalition now has more than 600 members who want to fight excessive property tax increases. On Thursday, Lansens will meet in Brantford with residents of 17 Ontario municipalities, including London, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Aylmer and St. Thomas, who want to start their own tax revolts. The goal is to organize a province-wide group to act as a watchdog on municipal government spending.

Lansens said public sector spending has been the downfall of the economy.

THE FUTURE: "When I started this I said I would give it two years," Lansens said. He's so frustrated by the cost of doing business in Canada, he said he may consider moving to the U.S.

He believes the Ontario-wide taxpayers' coalition can attract 100,000 members. He said the group plans to run candidates in 1991 municipal elections and to keep a close eye on governments.



THE BIG PICTURE

Free Press

THURSDAY, March 21, 1991

\$387,522,403,456

'Debt clock' tells tale

The display of our growing national debt was part of a conference to highlight the country's monetary plight.

By Tony Hodgkinson
Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — The pulsating digital numbers told a telling tale: 387,522,403,456.

That was in dollars. All \$387 billion-plus.

And as every single minute passed, the figure blinked \$58,000 higher — and continues to do so.

For 100 or so delegates to a debt-freedom conference here Wednesday, the "debt clock" display was a reminder that the federal money owing keeps on climbing.

LOCAL VISITORS: Among the delegates getting an eyeful and an earful about the country's fiscal woes were about 20 visitors from Southwestern Ontario.

While they managed to toss a few barbs at the wind-up speaker, Finance Minister Michael Wilson, there appeared to be general agreement that he is se-

“\$58,000 a minute! Those numbers are shocking. It's actually disgusting.”

— George Lansens,
Taxpayers' Coalition of Ontario

rious about controlling the whopping national debt.

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel," said George Lansens of Blenheim, president of the Taxpayers' Coalition of Ontario, referring to spending restraint measures announced in the Feb. 26 budget.

But as he looked at the throbbing digital display, he breathed: "\$58,000 a minute! Those numbers are shocking. It's actually disgusting."

John Fisher, chairman of a property tax committee in Rodney, said the conference, organized by Progressive Conservative backbench MP Garth

Turner, had served its purpose in highlighting the extent of the country's monetary plight.

The conference brought together key speakers on government spending, taxation and competitiveness.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Fisher. "But will it make any difference in the long run? That's a good question."

Stewart Thurtell, president of the Oxford Property Taxpayers' Coalition, added: "I think the country should be aware that unless we call a halt now, 1991, to excessive spending and, therefore, excessive taxation, the country will go to hell in a handbasket."

At the end of the conference, Wilson was presented with a pot of cash and cheques totalling about \$2,500 to fight the debt. He told reporters the money will be put in the government's debt servicing reduction fund.

Lansens, who is spearheading a tax revolt spreading across the province, said an educational process has to take place to instill in Canadians that they can't continue to have freebies.

The debt is frightening. One hour from now, we will all be \$3.5 million deeper in debt. By tomorrow, add another \$84 million. Ottawa's debt now tallies \$388.5 billion, or \$15,000 for each man, woman and child, up from \$2,591 per head in 1976. This year, it will hit \$400 billion. The collective provincial-municipal debt is more than \$100 billion, or roughly another \$3,850 per person, giving Canadians the dubious distinction of being among the world's most indebted citizens.

--Diane Francis, Maclean's March 11, 1991

ABOVE, AT LEFT: Two sobering accounts of Canada's tax dilemma. Time is running out. In the words of Peter C. Newman in a recent editorial appearing in *Maclean's* magazine, "Canada is well on the way to becoming an economic backwater. It will be the first time in history any nation has evolved backwards --- from being a member of the First World to joining the Third."

Tax fighters seek Ontario-wide support

'Strength in numbers' is one goal of what could be an Ontario-wide coalition following the lead of Blenheim taxpayers.



plan to organize groups across the province to fight municipal budget increases that lead to higher property taxes.

OTHER GROUPS: Lansens has already met with people from Ingersoll, St. Catharines and Etobicoke. St. Catharines and Etobicoke have tax revolt groups in place. People in

PROVINCE-WIDE PLAN

- Purpose: To act as a watchdog on municipal government spending and to protest property tax increases
- Financing: Members of municipal tax coalitions will pay annual fees: \$50 for a business, \$5 for a homeowner or farmer

any part of their tax bills that were more than the 1989 assessment. They later agreed to pay the bills in full once Blenheim council voted to freeze the town's portion of 1991 taxes at the 1990 level. The group also has vowed to fight for cost-cutting measures by county council and Kent's two school boards.

COALITION GROWING: Lansens, owner of

chants have been holding back more than \$77,000 in property taxes to protest 1990 increases of between 40 and 147 per cent. They plan to meet with Chatham council Nov. 5.

MEETING PLANNED: Frank Sheehan, who organized St. Catharines Citizens for Responsible Government, said he will meet with Lansens on Nov. 8, after Sheehan speaks to his group.

Coalition warns taxes will be withheld

By Jane Sims
Chatham Bureau

BLenheim — What against local property tax snowball into a province aimed at curbing excess spending. George Lansens, the Property Taxpayers' Tuesday final touches

By WAYNE NEWTON
Staff Reporter

in connection with rising civic and school taxes is building across the province, the St. Thomas and Elgin Taxpayers Coalition has met with city council

wants taxes held at 1990 levels, a demand which city budget chief Ald. Cliff Barwick described as unrealistic following the meeting.

The city has asked the various agencies and boards it helps fund to limit 1991 increase and even that may be difficult. The police services and Children's

the coalition "is committed to obtaining 100 per cent value for our tax dollars" and focusing attention on local government officials, eliminating "wasteful, unnecessary programs" and discourage "empire building" within local government.

"We are a group, are not tax rebels as our local paper would have you believe," Mr

may be a need for the proposed ball diamond facility and education-recreation complex, but the coalition feels the money involved is excessive. The total cost is estimated at \$39.5 million.

"Our boards of education are a whole other kettle of fish," he said. "They hold a big knife and can cut the pie as large as they like with little regard to our ability to pay. This is one

FRIDAY, December 28, 1990

PEOPLE POWER



"There's just too much money being spent in education, in policing..."

— George Lansens

Tax fighters ready to battle governments



"We'll teach them what it's like to go in the corners with Gordie Howe."

— Frank Sheehan

Withholding taxes is one of the coalition's tactics.

By Jeff Brooke
St. Thomas Bureau

BRANTFORD — The scattered bunches of tax fighters from across Ontario were, until Thursday, just "orphans."

Now they're part of a province-wide family called the Taxpayers Coalition of Ontario and they vow to challenge and stop "uncontrolled" tax increases imposed by all levels of government.

"As a local group, we were orphans," said Stewart Thurtell of the Oxford Property Tax Coalition. "Now we can be part of a larger entity and I think this gives us a larger clout."

Thurtell was one of 35 people from 13 tax revolt groups who met here Thursday to form the coalition, an organization demanding "efficient, effective and accountable" government spending.

The coalition will also help organize fledgling

COALITION GOALS

- Lobby legislators to spend less money.
- Organize local tax revolt chapters.
- Share information with local chapters.
- Publish a newsletter to educate the public.
- Research government spending proposals.
- Provide information to government.
- Work as a liaison between taxpayers and governments.
- Unite ratepayers with similar concerns.
- Raise money to stage a blitz of media advertisements.

groups in such cities as London and St. Thomas.

George Lansens of Blenheim, whose 1989 revolt in Kent County sparked the tax uprising, said there's enough discontent among ratepayers over wasteful government spending to warrant such an expansive coalition.

"It's unfortunate you have to play havoc with the system but it seems that this is the only way there is going to be effective change."

Lansens said the coalition has "the power to

effect change."

Withholding taxes is one of the many tactics the coalition will advocate if its lobbying and pressure is ignored, he said.

"There's just too much money being spent in education, in policing (and in other government programs and projects)," Lansens said. "It just goes on and on."

The province-wide coalition will primarily be a network to link and promote local chapters, said Frank Sheehan, whose tax revolt group in the Niagara region stopped a proposed \$57-million high school.

Local chapters will continue to be the focal point of attack against government spending.

"We're sick and tired of being pushed around... We'll teach them (officials) what it's like to go in the corners with Gordie Howe," he said, referring to the all-time hockey great known for delivering goals as well as painful high elbows. "Keep your elbows up."

ON PAGE A2

What the tax groups say.

The Tax-Ax, #1, March 1991 is published by the Freedom Party of Ontario, a fully-registered Ontario political party.

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Your New Choice, Now!

TAXATION and YOU

Here's an interesting question: When was the last time a politician promised you lower taxes?

Here's an even better one: When was the last time a politician promised you lower taxes and you *believed* it?

Now here's our favourite: When was the last time you *paid* lower taxes?

You probably can't even remember.

Taxes levied by all three levels of government have risen steadily year by year for the last thirty years, as politicians have conscripted more and more of our personal income --- and personal *choice*. Now they're taking more than 50% of the average working man's pay, *not counting* some of the *hidden* taxes like inflation, artificially-high interest rates, and the cost to businesses of complying with regulations, which is always passed on to the consumer.

When will it end?

It will end when people start fighting back. And one of the best ways of fighting back is to support **Freedom Party**.

Every economic policy initiative of **Freedom Party** is aimed at lowering taxes and increasing personal choice and individual freedom. It is the only party that will *consistently* vote against any new type of government spending and work steadily to decrease existing spending.

Freedom Party considers that the level of taxation is a measure of the denial of our personal freedoms. We believe that *you* know how to spend *your* money better than *any* politician does, and that the *choice* of where your money goes should be yours.

(over)

Freedom Party

Freedom Party believes that the *purpose of government* is to *protect* our freedom of choice, *not* to restrict it.

If you want to make your own choices, rather than have those choices made *for* you by politicians who will promise you anything, then *choose* **Freedom Party**. After all, freedom of choice is what we're all about!

Freedom Party

Call us.

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Write us.

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Get
Involved
With
Freedom
Party
Today!



Freedom Party

After all, *freedom of choice* is what
we're all about!

Freedom Party is founded on the principle that: Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property.

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