

FREEDOM FLYER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FREEDOM PARTY OF ONTARIO

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FREEDOM PARTY...



TODAY'S CHOICE FOR TOMORROW!

Openers...

TODAY'S CHOICE FOR TOMORROW

-Robert Metz

(Robert Metz is president, past leader, and a founding member of the Freedom Party of Ontario.)

Recent changes around Freedom Party have been dramatic. With our continued growth and expansion, these changes were undoubtedly inevitable, though the fact that many of them took place during the same relative time period may have been somewhat coincidental.

The most obvious physical change has been the relocation of our provincial headquarters from its downtown London third-floor office to its south London office at a much more accessible street-level location (see page 8 for more details). I hope that many of you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to drop by for a visit!

By now, most of you will probably have noticed our changed party logo, which represents the most visible development of our new marketing emphasis. FP's executive members are also in the process of developing the party's "Green Book", which will become our policy handbook for the upcoming provincial election and beyond. It will be a very simple, easy-to-read synopsis of FP's policies and should become a powerful tool in helping us draw more members from the public.

There have also been some dramatic developments within our provincial executive and party leadership, as you will note by the announcements on the next page. I hope you will all join me in welcoming and supporting our new party leader, Jack Plant, in his efforts to direct Freedom Party towards greater successes now and in the future. And while we're at it, let's welcome back Bill Frampton, whose two year absence from our ranks created a noticeable void. Bill is a hard worker who is fully dedicated to the principles and policies of Freedom Party, and his impact on FP's growth and development will no doubt be significant.

Despite all these changes and improvements, there are of course, certain fundamen-

tal things about Freedom Party that will not change. FP's provincial executive, as always, is fully committed to the party's statement of principles and our policies and actions will always reflect this commitment. While many people continue to believe that it is impossible to be a principled political party -- and get elected -- we're not about to allow ourselves to be deluded by this destructive political myth.

We've already proven by our past record

of action that (a) it is not necessary to "get elected" to have a meaningful effect on government policies, and that (b) it is possible to "change" the public's per-

"Our eventual electability fully depends upon our commitment to the very principles many believe prevent us from getting elected."

ception on issues that may today seem unalterable. Our eventual electability fully depends upon our commitment to the very principles many believe prevent us from getting elected. True, there are those who may not see us as electable "today", but that's no reason to believe that those same people won't see us as Ontario's only viable alternative tomorrow.

I am reminded of a visitor to our offices who once suggested to me that we "should lie" to voters in order to get elected. According to his line of reasoning, "the public is too stupid to know which policies are best for them" so after telling the voters "what they wanted to hear, you could change your minds once you get elected!"

"After all," he quite correctly pointed out, "that's what the NDP did on Sunday shopping. They were the party most publicly opposed to it, yet they were the ones who made Sunday shopping a reality in Ontario."

Of course, that's just one of the many

reasons why the NDP will not get re-elected next election. The NDP has generated an unprecedented degree of distrust, not only with its own policies, but with the political process in general and with the very idea of having a "doctrinaire" political party in the first place.

It never occurs to most voters that the culprit in this case is not "doctrine" per se, but the nature of the doctrine being advocated. EVERY political party is a "doctrinaire" party! The only differences between political parties is the identity and nature of their particular doctrines -- which many refuse to have identified in their effort to keep the public confused.

So who will get elected next election? Will Mike Harris' "Common Sense Revolution" be the catalyst for change? Will there be a "Reform Party of Ontario"? Or will Ontario be faced with yet another Liberal majority government as a response to its backlash against the unpopular NDP?

It is quite possible that all of these factors could manifest themselves in Ontario's next election. Or none of them. But one thing is certain: When it comes to PRINCIPLE - REFORM - COMMON SENSE, you can't beat the philosophy or policies of Freedom Party. Voters may not recognize this truth in the immediate future, but as long as we stay the course true to our own principles, they cannot avoid recognizing this in the long-term.

"When it comes to PRINCIPLE - REFORM - COMMON SENSE, you can't beat the philosophy or policies of Freedom Party."

It's a fact that many of the reforms advocated by Freedom Party are truly fundamental, and may represent a change that is uncomfortable to many. But that does

not mean -- and has never meant -- that it would be possible or desirable to enact such reforms overnight. Sudden change, even for the better, can often cause as much hardship as continuing bad policies. This is particularly true when "change" is introduced in a philosophical vacuum.

For example, while it would be most desirable to cut taxes immediately, the effects

Leadership...

PLANT APPOINTED INTERIM PARTY LEADER

LONDON (January 1984) - Following the resignation of FP leader Robert Metz (see related story), FP executive member **Jack Plant** was appointed interim party leader, a position which was confirmed and approved by FP's provincial executive at its May 15 executive meeting.



Above: FP leader Jack Plant

Plant, a London firefighter for the past thirteen years, became an active FP supporter in 1988. Since then, he has devoted nearly all of his spare time to FP activities, including his candidacy for the party in the provincial riding of

London North last election. Plant has attracted more new members to the party than any other individual and has been instrumental in introducing exciting new changes in FP's marketing strategy.

"My experience with **Freedom Party** over the past six years has been one of the most rewarding of my life," says Plant, "and I welcome the challenge of earning the confidence and support of everyone involved with **Freedom Party**."

"The potential and promise of **Freedom Party**'s philosophy has been an inspiration to me and has allowed me to face the future bravely and with confidence. I look forward to leading the party into the next provincial election."

<END>



Above: FP party logo 1984-1993

METZ STEPS DOWN AS PARTY LEADER

LONDON (January 1994) - After ten years of serving as both president and leader of **Freedom Party**, **Robert Metz** relinquished the title, clearing the way for FP's leadership role to be filled by FP executive member **Jack Plant** (see related story). One of a dozen founding members of the party, Metz assumed leadership of the party in January 1984 when it came into being and established its provincial headquarters in London.



Above: FP president Robert Metz

"With the expansion of **Freedom Party**'s support and activity base, it is no longer practical nor desirable for me to fulfill both roles," commented Metz. "There's more than enough work to do just being party president."

Metz will continue to be **Freedom Party**'s full-time president, and in every other respect will continue to perform his functions as chief executive, administrator, newsletter editor, and main fundraiser. Metz also will continue to play a significant role in establishing party policy and representing **Freedom Party** during provincial election campaigns.

<END>

OLD LOGO / NEW LOGO

ONTARIO (February, 1994) - 1994 is proving to be a year of major changes at **Freedom Party**. In keeping with that theme, FP's party logo has been simplified from its previous combination of the letters 'FP', a maple leaf, and trillium, to a more identifiable symbol consisting strictly of the letters FP.

A comparison of both logos is shown left and right. The new logo represents an evolutionary, not revolutionary, change in our party's image. Although the new logo will be the one exclusively used in all our future promotions and publications, the old logo will still be seen in circulation on various party products.

<END>

FRAMPTON'S BACK!

OTTAWA (January 1994) - After reluctantly resigning as FP's regional vice-president in the Metro Toronto region in 1991 due to his move to New Brunswick, **William Frampton** has now returned. We are delighted to announce that Frampton has once again been appointed **regional vice-president**, this time for the region of **Eastern Ontario**.

Though there was some speculation that Frampton might establish a **Freedom Party** of New Brunswick, his 1991 prediction has proven true: "My association with **Freedom Party** has been a positive one from the beginning. Our move will not terminate this association but merely interrupt it."



Above: William Frampton, FP regional vice-president, Eastern Ontario

Since returning to Ontario, Frampton has been busy promoting **Freedom Party** in the Nepean area, where thousands of FP brochures have already been distributed. Frampton's input to the development of FP's constitution has proven invaluable, and his steadfast commitment to FP's promotion will no doubt create a significantly increased awareness of the party in the Ottawa area.

Ottawa-area members and supporters interested in contacting Bill can reach him at 613-820-2966 (evenings).

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Above: FP party logo 1994--

Education...

ROYAL COMMISSION COMMITTED TO EDUCATION MONOPOLY

LONDON (Oct. 18, 1993) - FP leader **Robert Metz** challenged Ontario's **Royal Commission on Learning** to live up to its stated objective of giving Ontarians "a say" in the province's education system. His written and oral presentation was delivered to Commissioners **Avis Glaze** and **Monsignor Dennis Murphy**. The Commission was in London as part of its three-month (and \$3 million!) public hearing tour on education through the province.

Co-chaired by **Monique Begin** and **Gerry Caplan**, the Commission is the government's latest attempt to address the increasing discontent with its costly, bureaucratic, and dysfunctional education system.

USELESS EXERCISE

Metz suggested that contrary to giving Ontarians a real "say" in the province's education system, as the Commission was purporting to do, it was really another useless exercise in opinion-gathering made by a government fully committed to preserving its monopoly and control of education in Ontario.

"As long as Ontarians are denied an educational choice both in terms of curriculum and in terms of directing their education tax dollars to the school(s) of their choice," argued Metz, "they really don't have any 'say' at all when it comes to education in this province."

When the Commission first sought public input, it was announced that individuals would get ten minutes each to make an oral presentation, while groups would get thirty minutes. However, when FP contacted the Commission to be scheduled for a thirty-minute presentation -- over a month before the hearings were to begin -- we were informed that there would be no thirty minute presentations and that all presenters would be limited to ten minutes.

Needless to say, it came as quite a shock to discover upon our arrival at the hearings that there were indeed thirty-minute presentations being made -- by groups like the *Union of Ontario Indians*, the *Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians*, and *Ecole Secondaire Mgr. Bruyere*!

Worse, when Metz arrived at the main auditorium of the *G.A. Wheable Adult Learning Centre* where he was scheduled to make his ten-minute presentation to Commissioners **Gerald Caplan** and **Monique Begin**, he was

told that he would have to move to a classroom in another section of the school where he could make his presentation to two other Commissioners. It was explained that the reason for the change was to accommodate a group that required the French interpretation services which were only available in the main auditorium. Needless to say, we were once again shocked when we later learned that no such group or individual made any presentation during our originally scheduled time-slot!

Those who made presentations in the assigned classroom did not have an easy time of it. Because adult classes were in progress during the whole time, presenters were constantly interrupted by noise in the hallways, public announcements over the school's P.A. system, and a host of inadequacies that made the whole hearing process appear as if it was less a hearing than a staged event to give presenters a feeling of what it was like to be in a school. It certainly was not an environment conducive to a Royal Commission.

LEARNING -- OR "SOCIAL JUSTICE"?

The Commission was created by an *Order In Council* dated May 5/93 which begins with a reaffirmation of the government of Ontario's "commitment to economic renewal and social

justice" -- a clear indication that "learning" is a secondary consideration. And with its commitment to "social justice", it is also clear that freedom of choice in education is not about to become a reality under an NDP government.

Ironically, the government will be able to use the many varied opinions and ideas it hears (referred to as "conflicting ideas" by Commission co-chair **Gerald Caplan**) as a justification to continue forcing its unpopular, expensive, and ineffective programs on local boards and taxpayers. Varied ideas and opinions simply cannot be accommodated within a government monopoly, but by selecting those that happen to agree with its plans, the government will be able to argue that it is doing is what the public wants.

As is becoming more evident with each passing day, when the government does what it wants, our children's education is left wanting in the process.

READ THE DETAILS!

A full reprint of Freedom Party's submission follows below and on the page following. Additional details are available to FP members and supporters on request. Please call or write. See green box on back cover for details.

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SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LEARNING

(The following is Freedom Party's official submission to the **Royal Commission on Learning** as it was delivered by FP leader **Robert Metz** on October 18, 1993, in London. The submission was heard by Commissioners **Avis E. Glaze** and **Monsignor Dennis J. Murphy**.)

In a quoted comment in the *London Free Press* (Sept 1/93), Commission chairperson **Monique Begin** stressed that this \$3 million Royal Commission on Learning wants to hear from "the so-called silent majority ... people who think their opinion doesn't count."

Well, I already happen to know that my opinion doesn't count -- and won't ever count under any government-run education system -- because if I don't like how my education tax dollars are being spent, or if I don't like the curriculum being taught, or if I don't like the philosophy being taught, my government will nevertheless continue to force me to fund its system. Sad to say, every other Ontarian is in the same situation.

That the gathering of public opinion should even have any bearing whatsoever on the process of learning is evidence that those in charge of our so-called public education system do not know what the learning process requires.

I say "so-called" public education system because what we're really talking about is a government-run education system, a concept quite alien to and the opposite of a public education system.

In today's *London Free Press* (October 18/93), Commission co-chairperson **Gerald Caplan** wonders how this Commission will pull

(LEARNING... cont'd next pg)

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all the conflicting ideas it hears together into a final report. This merely emphasizes once again that this Royal Commission is committed to a state-run, state-financed education system, which is the source of all the problems and complaints about our education system. Otherwise, "conflicting ideas" would not be an issue.

If we really want the public's opinion to count, then we must let the members of that public have a choice; we must let them direct their education tax dollars to the school(s) of their choice; we must let them choose alternative forms of schooling and of funding; and we must let the marketplace choose its own curricula.

But instead of offering the public any of these choices, this government instead grants them a limited 10-minute appearance before a Royal Commission to voice their "concerns", as if that could possibly do justice to people who are paying thousands and thousands of tax dollars towards a monolithic, bureaucratic education system that increasingly teaches values with which they do not agree and which no longer even seems able to offer the most basic education and skills training.

Common complaints about government run-schools argue:

(1) that school trustees seldom set foot in the schools to see first hand what is going on and seldom approach students or their families for their input. Nor would it make much difference if they did, because their trusteeship carries little real power. The schools are governed by hundreds of clauses in provincial law, which stifle innovation at every turn, while course content is dictated by a huge Queen's Park bureaucracy;

(2) that the curricula are more the result of political pressure than of market feedback resulting from consumer preference for objective standards and objective measurements of those standards. It may surprise most people to learn that the motivation behind the creation of "official" schooling in Canada was for the very purpose of state indoctrination, not education. Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, as far back as 1791, wanted to establish state-run schools to counter the teachings of "enthusiastic and fanatic Teachers" whom he blamed for the conspiracy leading to the American revolution. (Loyal She Remains, pg 376, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, 1984)

(3) that the demand for school funding is becoming a battleground for competing groups, each claiming "equal benefits of the law", in practice meaning equal access to OTHER people's tax dollars for THEIR schools;

(4) that heavy unionization of the teaching profession has fostered a system which rewards seniority more than ability, and which is therefore not results-oriented;

(5) that school costs and education taxes are rising faster than enrolment, and continue to rise even in the face of declining enrolment;

(6) That too much (or too little!) emphasis is placed on a piece of paper called a "diploma", implying that the paper is not worth what it ought to be worth;

(7) that high school graduates lack basic skills such as literacy, numerical ability, and acceptable workplace ethics and attitudes;

(8) that students have a lack of respect for schools and for their own education, since neither they nor their families must directly pay for the costs of that education;

(9) that compulsory schooling and the philosophy that justifies it nourishes a coercive mind which, in later years, may result in coercive behaviour;

(10) that state schools serve only the median level of intelligence; slow learners get left behind (or are advanced despite their difficulties) and fast learners get fed up with boredom.

All of these objections could be easily accommodated if the public's opinion really DID count, through its right to exercise choice in education.

I have pondered for many years why a supposedly free country would not allow its citizens the right of choice when it comes to their choice in education. If we were talking about the books we read, the neighbourhoods we live in, the religion or philosophies we practise, the food we eat, the people we associate with -- in fact, in most areas of our lives, we would highly value our freedom of choice and would resent it if governments were to make those choices for us.

Yet, when it comes to our most precious resources -- our children -- parents and taxpayers are not permitted to exercise this necessary freedom. State schooling constitutes a monopoly on education that must be broken if the public can ever expect to have a say in education.

The choice of an education may be the most important choice a person can make in his or her lifetime. But for most people, less attention is given to this choice than the attention given to the purchase of a new car. Why?

Because -- when it comes to education -- we haven't got a choice.

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

Since its official registration in 1984, **Freedom Party** has been actively campaigning for freedom of choice in education on every possible front:

We have, in door-to-door campaigns, criticized the labour monopoly under which our education system operates;

We have protested and fought the ever-increasing high taxes that are being paid towards an ever-decreasing quality of education;

We have publicly condemned the "whole language" approach to teaching basic literacy skills and fought for the right of parents and taxpayers to avoid this method; and,

We have consistently advocated that parents and taxpayers have the right to direct their education taxes to the school(s) of their choice -- and most importantly, that those taxes be ultimately limited by the amount of expense incurred to the education system by that particular taxpayer or taxpayers.

We do not advocate a "rob Peter to pay Paul" approach to funding education. Ultimately, we think that "Peter" should be responsible for "Peter's" education and that "Paul" should be responsible for "Paul's" education.

I have included copies of various publications and press reproductions relating to our above-mentioned activities, and which expand on some of the ideas I have touched upon here today.

Using the principle of freedom of choice as your guide, this Commission could therefore easily reconcile and accommodate the "widely different ideas" that are being presented before it. When it comes to offering the "silent majority" an opinion that "counts", this Commission really has only one choice to present in its final recommendations: freedom of choice in education for each and every individual student, parent, and taxpayer.

To do otherwise would constitute an infringement on this Commission's mandate to give Ontarians a say in their education system.

➡ GET THE DETAILS!

Background information accompanying **Freedom Party's** submission to the **Royal Commission on Learning** is available to FP members and supporters on request. Please call or write. See green box on back cover for details.

FP SUPPORTS TAXI REFORM COALITION

LONDON (November 30, 1993) - After burning London's taxi bylaw on the doorsteps of London city hall on November 25, 1993, Barry Wells and Stephen Orser, co-chairs of the Taxi Reform Coalition (TRG), subsequently held an information picket at the same location, with the assistance of Freedom Party and the London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition (LMTCC). Their objective was to protest the taxi licensing practices which they believed clearly violate Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the principles of a free and democratic society.

In an industry rampant with bylaw-prohibited taxi-plate leasing, whereby non-driving plate holders glean nearly a million dollars annually from local lease operators, TRG was protesting discriminatory licensing practices and the profiteering and exploitation of individuals who cannot acquire their own city business licence to operate a taxicab.

✚ LICENCE TRAFFICKING

Section 232 of the current Municipal Act enables Ontario cities to arbitrarily limit the number of cab plates in any given municipality, forcing prospective taxi entrepreneurs to either purchase an existing licence from a current plate holder for up to \$30,000, or to pay over \$500 per month to rent a licence from a plate holder. The city, however, only receives nominal licensing fees from plate holders while permitting this licence trafficking and turning a blind eye to illegal plate-leasing.

Wells and Orser, both former cabbies, were "blacklisted" by the cab industry for speaking out against these archaic licensing and industry conditions. They filed a Petition Request for a Commission of Inquiry, pursuant to section 178 of the Municipal Act, citing 35 specific concerns with the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The 114-page document was given to the local field office on January 11, 1994, with several members of the media in attendance.

The concerns of the Coalition petitioners ranged from the outrageous practice of plate-leasing and the undisclosed conflict of interest of several members of London City Council pertaining to the taxi industry, to the biased representation on the city's Taxi Liaison Subcommittee, whereby the "plate barons" were permitted to handpick their driver representatives on the committee.

WANTS BYLAW WIPED OUT

Protesters demonstrate in front of city hall Tuesday to express their opposition to a taxi bylaw that requires prospective drivers to get a letter from existing taxi brokers before they can obtain a municipal business license. The would-be cabbies say the two brokers (Aboutown Taxi and U-Need-A-Cab) have never paid fees required under the bylaw to become licensed taxi brokers.



SAM MCLEOD/ The London Free Press

Above: reprinted from the London Free Press, December 1, 1993

✚ CHANGE OF HEART?

Interestingly enough, prior to filing the request for a Public Inquiry, the many concerns of TRG were largely ignored and dismissed by City Council as "the viewpoints of a group of malcontents." Following the Inquiry request, however, both politicians and the municipal administration suddenly found new merit in the TRG's documented concerns. In the words of City Clerk Ken Sadler: "An individual's right to apply for a taxicab driver's licence should not be interfered with."

While the thrust of the Coalition's inquiry request was to draw attention to the unfairness of arbitrary limits on cab plates, it also drew attention to the city's bylaw which also required that all driver applicants obtain a "note" from the two local taxi brokers before they could write the city's driver examination.

"Simply stated," commented Wells, "the local cab industry was a self-perpetuating duopoly, the entrance fee to even drive a cab being the written permission of those controlling the industry, who do everything in their

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power to block industry competition from all wishing to make a living outside their own lucrative taxi brokerages."

Public documents show that Aboutown Transportation Ltd (and its associated corporate officers and numbered companies) was the largest single contributor to candidates in the 1991 municipal election, even exceeding those of local land developers. Aboutown also holds 66 taxi-plates, while dispatching a fleet of approximately 100 taxicabs.

✂ TAXI REFORM NEEDED

"While this may help explain why getting industry reform passed by Council has been so difficult over the years," says Wells, "the real reason is ignorance -- of both local politicians and the drivers themselves. While the city regulates the industry through its licensing bylaw, it doesn't have a clue how it actually operates. The drivers on the other hand are constantly changing, and those that do make it a career, fear employer reprisal should they challenge the industry status quo.

"Since most drivers don't have the \$30,000 to purchase a cab plate from a plate holder, they are permitted to put their name on a priority list of applications, currently over 400 names long. If you applied in 1994 for a plate,

at the present rate of movement on the list, you would receive your licence around the year 2015 at the earliest! In the meantime, you are forced to either drive for someone else or rent their licence at \$6,000 per year (plus the costs of buying the car, insuring and repairing it, and paying dispatch fees to the cab company)."

✂ REPLY RECEIVED

On May 31, 1994, the TRC received a 12-page reply from the **Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ed Philip**, outlining why he was not ordering a formal inquiry into the London taxi industry. Essentially, he cited the enormous cost of a public inquiry (\$20,000 per day), and noted that London has taken corrective action through numerous bylaw amendments, since TRC's inquiry request was filed in January.

While the city has made numerous bylaw amendments, including hiring a full-time taxi inspector and turfing the absurd "note" requirement before one could even apply for a city driver's permit, most of the changes were cosmetic and failed to address the real issue -- open access to cab plates by those ready, willing and able to operate their own taxicab without the parasitical interference of those currently controlling the industry.

"The two local cab bosses have continually argued that open entry to the business

would result in a market-flood," retorts Wells, "with no one making enough money to repair their vehicles. The TRC has consistently called such reasoning bogus, and little more than a vest-interest argument by those who refuse to give up ownership of the goose that lays the golden egg. TRC believes strict pre-licensing conditions (difficult driver testing, increased licensing fees, and enhanced vehicle requirements), combined with open entry, would prevent a market-flood, while bringing the industry in line with The Charter and the principles of a free and democratic society. Simply stated, an individual's right to make a lawful living should never be impeded by any level of government. One only has to look at the current taxi industry, with its unsafe vehicles and poorly-trained drivers, to see if it is operating in the public interest. It is not."



✂ GET THE DETAILS!

Readers interested in receiving more background information on this issue are invited to contact **Freedom Party**. See green box on back cover for details of how to get in touch with us.

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APEC RECEPTIVE TO FP MESSAGE ON OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM

LONDON (May 18, 1994) - FP president **Robert Metz** addressed the local chapter of APEC (**Association for the Preservation of English in Canada**) on the subjects of **official bilingualism** and **multiculturalism**, with an emphasis on the problems of public perception faced by groups opposing both concepts.

"Definitions are at the root of most misunderstandings," said Metz, and thus proceeded to deal with many of the words and concepts that lead to such misunderstandings.

"Is opposition to official bilingualism a 'racist' issue?" asked Metz. "Is it French vs. English? I don't think so. However, I can see why people opposed to official bilingualism and official multiculturalism are often perceived as racist or intolerant.

"After all, many Canadians believe that multiculturalism is the strength of Canada, and a key ingredient that distinguishes our nation from other more troubled nations. That's why we need to focus our common attention on the fundamental debate -- which is not an issue of the visible appearance of someone.

"But let's not forget that those who support official bilingualism and multiculturalism do so with the best of intentions, and quite often do not mean the same thing by those terms that we may mean."

With that, Metz expanded on key definitions surrounding the debate, including the terms "bilingualism", "two-nations", "multiculture", "civilization", and many others.

Particularly effective was Metz's illustration of how racial and cultural policies manifest themselves in practice. For example, Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship, under the guise of "Aboriginal Economic Development" in April 1993, spent \$45,000 to build a laundromat at Shoal Lake, \$15,000 to purchase a van for the Gamik Friendship Centre in Nishnawbe, \$40,000 to expand newspaper coverage to the James Bay area, \$314,813 to assist in the renovation and expansion of a community centre for the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, \$28,000 to buy an electric sign for the Peacetree Trade Centre, etc.

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✂ **Ask for
Freedom
Party's leaflet
on OFFICIAL
BILINGUALISM**

Write us:

FREEDOM PARTY,
P.O. Box 2214, Stn. A.,
London, Ontario, N6A 4E3

or call us at:
(519) 681-3999



**OFFICIAL
BILINGUALISM
is
FORCED
BILINGUALISM**

The case against
government
imposed French
language laws in
Canada

ONTARIO DEBT INCREASING AT OVER \$1 MILLION PER HOUR

TORONTO (May 5, 1994) - Interim Leader Jack Plant and FP Secretary Robert Vaughan visited Queen's Park for the tabling of the 1994 Ontario Budget.

Plant had an opportunity to express his concerns over the NDP government's extravagant spending and its projected \$8.5 billion deficit to Progressive Conservative Party Leader Mike Harris, Canadian Federation of Independent Business spokesperson Catherine Swift, and London Free Press Queen's Park reporter Greg Van Moorsel. Plant plans to make frequent visits to Queen's Park to meet with government MPPs and officials to express FP's policies concerning issues important to our members.

Treasurer Floyd Laughren's public statement that the NDP's

1994 budget contained no new taxes and represented a "stay the course" budget drew a response from Plant.

In a media release issued May 4, Plant commented: "To suggest that this budget contains no new taxes is evasive and misleading, to say the least. Any deficit is a new tax, simply deferred, and Laughren will not succeed in convincing the Ontario public otherwise. A commitment to 'stay the course' is a commitment that avoids the changes necessary to preserve not only the fiscal integrity of this province, but the very fabric of Ontario's social safety net."

Citing the fact that Ontario's debt is increasing at a rate over \$1 million per hour, Plant emphasized that any government committed to "staying this course" is committed to bankrupting the province." <END>

WE'VE MOVED!

LONDON (January, 1994) - After ten years of being located at its downtown third-floor Richmond Street location, **Freedom Party's** provincial headquarters have been moved to **240 Commissioners Road West**.

While the new office is much smaller than the former, the new location offers many advantages, such as free accessible parking, a ground-floor entrance with a lighted sign above, and a more modern, functional, efficient office floorplan.

We wish to extend our appreciation to all those FP members and supporters who helped us move during the months of January and February, in particular **Jack Plant, Robert Metz, Robert Vaughan, Lloyd Walker, Paul Blair, Jim Montag and Craig Stevens**. With their help, the move went much smoother than anticipated.

Visitors welcome!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Is there something going on in your community that FP should know about?

In order to grow, we need your input. We're looking for volunteers to clip their local newspapers and send those articles and clippings regularly to FP's office. Postage to FP and the cost of your newspaper subscription (receipt required) can be considered a donation to **Freedom Party** and a tax receipt will be issued.

Call (519) 681-3999 (collect!) or write for details (to address in green box on back cover).

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PROHIBITION STILL A FAILURE, SAYS METZ

TORONTO (August 22, 1993) - FP leader **Robert Metz** made his second annual appearance at a rally sponsored by the **National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)**. Metz's message focused on identifying the winners and losers under marijuana prohibition and on why drug prohibition fuels the very vices it purports to prevent.

WINNERS

"The main winners under marijuana prohibition are drug traffickers, and politicians," argued Metz. "Drug traffickers not only get a government-subsidized monopoly on their trade in illegal drugs, but also benefit from the tax-free status on 100% of their artificially-high profits. Drug traffickers are among the most ardent supporters of drug prohibition.

"Politicians benefit by getting votes and power. There's little political risk in calling for tougher drug laws. Most of the voting public sadly still believe much of the misinformation and outright myths that are being promoted by prohibitionists.

LOSERS

"The losers are taxpayers and the public who are forced to contend with an artificial increase in criminal activity associated more with the prohibition of cannabis rather than with its use. The other main group of losers are cannabis users themselves who, on the basis of their drug use alone, are considered criminals even though they may be law-abiding in every other respect. This also leads to a general decline in respect for law and order, particularly when the legal consequences of a personal choice on drugs can often be worse than those imposed on robbers, rapists, thieves and murderers."

<END>

GRASS GATHERING

Nathan Phillips Square was given over to something a bit spicier than its usual mainstream summertime lineup events this past Sunday, when supporters of the local chapter of **NORML** (the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) took it over for a chaotic and loud afternoon rally.

It featured an appearance by the head of the fledgling **Freedom Party of Ontario, Robert Metz**, who called for a decriminalization of marijuana on the grounds that the anti-soft drug, police-political complex does more good than harm to one of its key targets, major dealers.

"They've basically got a government-protected monopoly, and they operate with tax-free status, as most criminals do," Metz says. "The only risk they run is getting caught, and it's not a very big one."

Given the event's timing, the audience Metz made his pitch to was predominately a tie-dye and headband-adorned crowd of the converted, but **NORML** spokesperson **Umberto Iorfida** says the scheduling wasn't planned to avoid a show-down with the potentially less receptive office-worker sorts who fill the square on weekdays.

"We chose Sunday because it's the only day our supporters could make it here. Come on, what do you think? They don't have day jobs, too?"

Above: reprinted from **NOW**, Aug 26-Sept 1, 1993

PLANT ADDRESSES LONDON SCHOOL BOARD

LONDON (May 9, 1994) - In response to a request for submissions from the public, FP leader Jack Plant addressed the **London Public Board of Education** with a message intended to alleviate the animosity that so often arises when fundamental change is being proposed.

"We are faced with the unavoidable prospect of the end of public education as we have come to understand it," stressed Plant. "Politicians, administrators, and the public are beginning to understand that individuals are going to have to take more responsibility into their own hands --- not only in education, but in many other areas of their lives which the government has thus far been responsible for, such as healthcare and pensions."

NOT PARTISAN

In an effort to avoid the perception that individual responsibility is simply a matter of political preference, Plant emphasized that "This is not a partisan view I have expressed. I do not have some sadistic interest in destroying the present system, or some perverse political motivation. It is just reality working as it must and it is inevitable that we are going to see drastic changes in the future."

Citing Ontario's provincial deficit, which is increasing the debt at a rate of over \$1 million per hour, Plant extended his offer to help trustees lobby the provincial government, protesting its expensive and intrusive programs. While acknowledging people's concerns on issues, ranging from multiculturalism to safety, Plant made it clear that such issues are detracting from the fundamentals of education and competing for increasingly scarce tax dollars.

WORK TOGETHER

"Even though it may be unavoidable," said Plant, "I have no desire to create animosity. All too often, the relationship between the board and those who advocate reform has been an adversarial one. I think that the board is guilty of perceiving the recommendations of various groups as personal attacks --- because of what they perceive to be attacks on many aspects of the education system which they have come to believe in."

That adversarial attitude was clearly illustrated by board reactions to a previous submission made by **London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition (LMTC)** chairperson **Jim Montag**, who attacked the board on a number of fronts and insisted on a comprehensive audit aimed at exposing waste or improprieties. Montag was severely criticized by education director **Darrel Skidmore** who, in his defence, cited a previous LMTC audit of his personal expenses which revealed "no improprieties whatsoever".

PROBUS PROBES H.R.C.

LONDON (March 9, 1994) - In an address to the **PROBUS CLUB OF LONDON**, a club for retired professional and business persons, former executives and others, FP president **Robert Metz** warned members of the dangers of Ontario's **Human Rights Commission** and of legislation purportedly advanced to protect "human rights".

"Who could be against human rights?" asked Metz. "Well, the Human Rights Commission, for starters."

In his one hour presentation, Metz discussed why he believes that Ontario's Human Rights Commission should be abolished, focusing on its presumption of guilt before innocence. Citing his involvement with an HRC Board of Inquiry (see Dec. 1993 Freedom Flyer), Metz

"We have an opportunity here today to begin to change these attitudes," suggested Plant, "...to begin to develop an honest working relationship with the intention of solving our mutual problems."

PLANT CHALLENGED

Plant's views were challenged by board trustees **Bill Brock**, **Linda Freeman**, and **Alex Sutherland**, who also requested an extensive list of specific areas in which the board could make changes. Plant responded with a May 26 letter accompanied by 94 specific suggestions and comments which was distributed to all trustees, the media, and various other lobby groups and politicians.

"The political will to open our minds to new alternatives is essential," concluded Plant. "Two things are required of the board --- action and results. When the public sees these let me assure you that you will have their full support!"

<END>

expanded on his theme by discussing the media's preoccupation with racism and sexism, the HRC's publication ban of FP's June '93 issue of Freedom Flyer, and the totalitarian powers advocated by the government's 1992 Cornish Commission.

"It's a sensitive, complex, and emotional subject," warned Metz. "Most people are completely unaware of what the Ontario government has up its sleeve."

Reaction to Metz's comments was surprisingly receptive; many members of the audience related personal experiences with the HRC that illustrated the very principles discussed in his presentation.

For more details on the nature and powers of the Human Rights Commission, readers are invited to request related back-issues of Freedom Flyer. (See green box on back cover for details of how to contact us.)

<END>

TAX BRIEFS

ONTARIO (1984-1994) - Since its inception in 1984, **Freedom Party** has been consistently active in its support of groups and individuals who are fighting to keep taxes on all levels of government down. Due to a number of factors, many of these efforts have not been regularly reported in the pages of *Freedom Flyer* so we thought we'd take this opportunity to briefly mention some of our ongoing activities.

FP CONTINUES TO SUPPORT TAX COALITION

LONDON (1991-June 1994) - When Blenheim businessman **George Lansens** launched the **Ontario Taxpayers' Coalition** in 1991, **Freedom Party** was there (see Feb/91 *Freedom Flyer*). Many local chapters of the coalition were quickly formed across the province and it seemed that a formidable opposition to ever-increasing taxes had at last appeared on the scene.

Unfortunately, once the enormity of the task began to assert itself, many tax-fighters seemed to lose their enthusiasm for the challenge, and only a handful of active chapters exist today. One of those local chapters is the **London-Middlesex Taxpayers' Coalition (LMTC)** which with the assistance of **Freedom Party** and its members and supporters, continues to have an impact on holding down taxes in the London area to this day.

Chaired by FP member **Jim Montag**, the LMTC's executive currently includes the following executive members: **Craig Stevens**, **Ken Lewis**, **Dave Lewis**, **Terry Rennie**, **Robert Vaughan**, and FP president **Robert Metz**. With the help of other members and supporters, the LMTC has had a dramatic impact on tax-related issues in the London-Middlesex area.

FP members and supporters in the London-Middlesex area received a free mailing of the LMTC's newsletter, the *Auditor*, during the latter months of 1993, and many became supporters as a result. (Copies are available to readers on request; please call or write!) The group has addressed issues ranging from its support of quality education to its opposition to "white elephants", including London's recently-completed Convention Centre and its hopefully-doomed Performing Arts Centre.

Readers interested in learning more about the LMTC and its activities are encouraged to contact us. Your support and input are always welcomed.

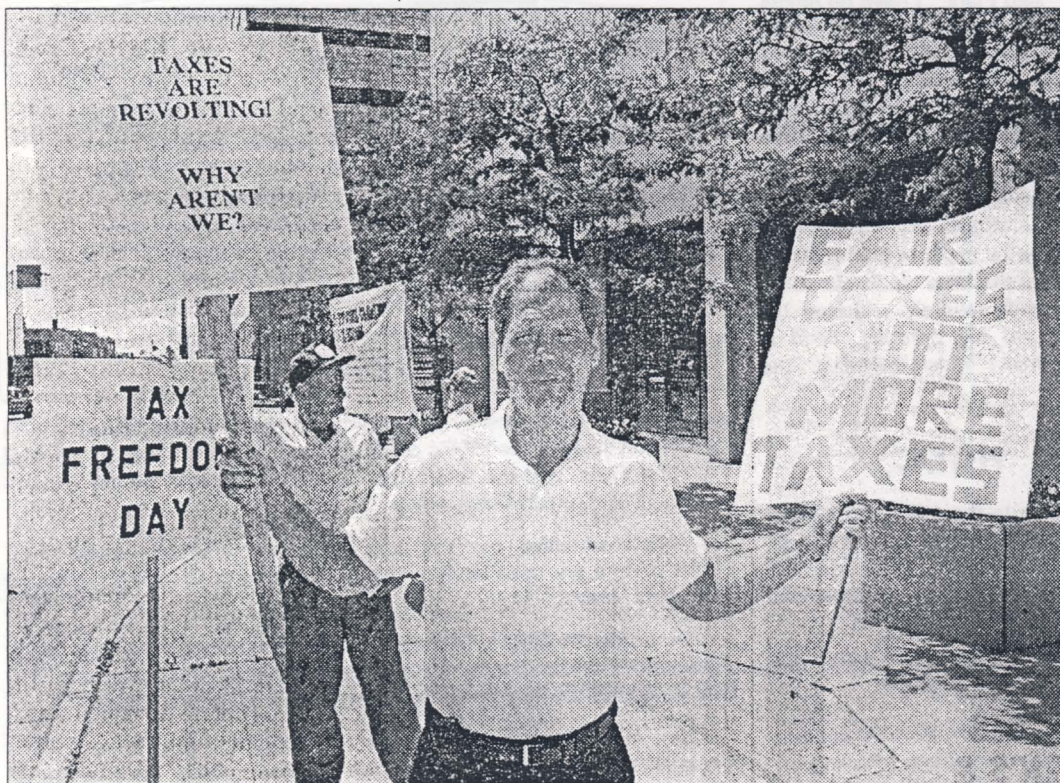
HOLD ALL LONDON TAXES

LONDON (June 1993-June 1994) - Another local London group that has appeared on the local tax-fighting scene in 1993 is **H.A.L.T. (Hold All London Taxes)**.

H.A.L.T. made a dramatic entrance on the local tax-fighting scene when it organized a massive tax-protest in Reg Cooper Square which attracted nearly 1000 people on June 21, 1993. The protest was supported by many other groups, including the LMTC and **Freedom Party**. FP president **Robert Metz** and LMTC chairperson **Jim Montag** both sit on H.A.L.T.'s current executive.

Committed to 0% tax increases, H.A.L.T. has placed a number of full-page ads in the *London Free Press* and is busy working behind the scenes on many tax-related issues. Readers interested in finding out more about this group are invited to contact FP for more information.

<END>



At Right:
-reprinted from the
London Free Press, July 21,
1993. FP
supporter and
co-chairperson of
the **London-
Middlesex
Taxpayers'
Coalition**, **Craig
Stevens**
"celebrates"
**'Tax-Freedom
Day'** in front of
the federal building
at **Queens Avenue
and Talbot Street**
in London.

STILL NO DECISION!

TORONTO (June, 1994) - As of this writing, there has still been no ruling rendered on the Ontario's Human Rights Commission's Board of Inquiry hearing regarding a complaint of racism against London landlord **Elijah Elieff**. The ruling, which was due October 31, 1993, must address both of the final arguments made by Commission counsel **Geraldine Sanson** and by Elieff's counsel, FP president **Robert Metz**.

Of the last two issues of Freedom Flyer, we devoted 16 of our 24 total pages to this case alone. For complete background information on this hearing, we refer you to our June'93 and December'93 issues of Freedom Flyer. As regular readers will recall, during the course of the hearings our June'93 issue had a publication ban placed against it because it contained information about a "deal" the HRC tried to cut with Elieff in exchange for dropping the complaint against him.

☞ JUSTICE DELAYED - JUSTICE DENIED

The ultimate irony, of course, is that while Elieff is waiting for the board's ruling, the notoriety of his plight (engineered by the **London Free Press** and United Church minister **Susan Eagle**) has already cost him the two Cheyenne Ave apartment buildings he was trying to protect. In fact, the whole affair has been so embarrassing to the municipality that "Cheyenne Ave" no longer exists; the street name was changed to "Oakville Ave" to bury any memory of the issue.

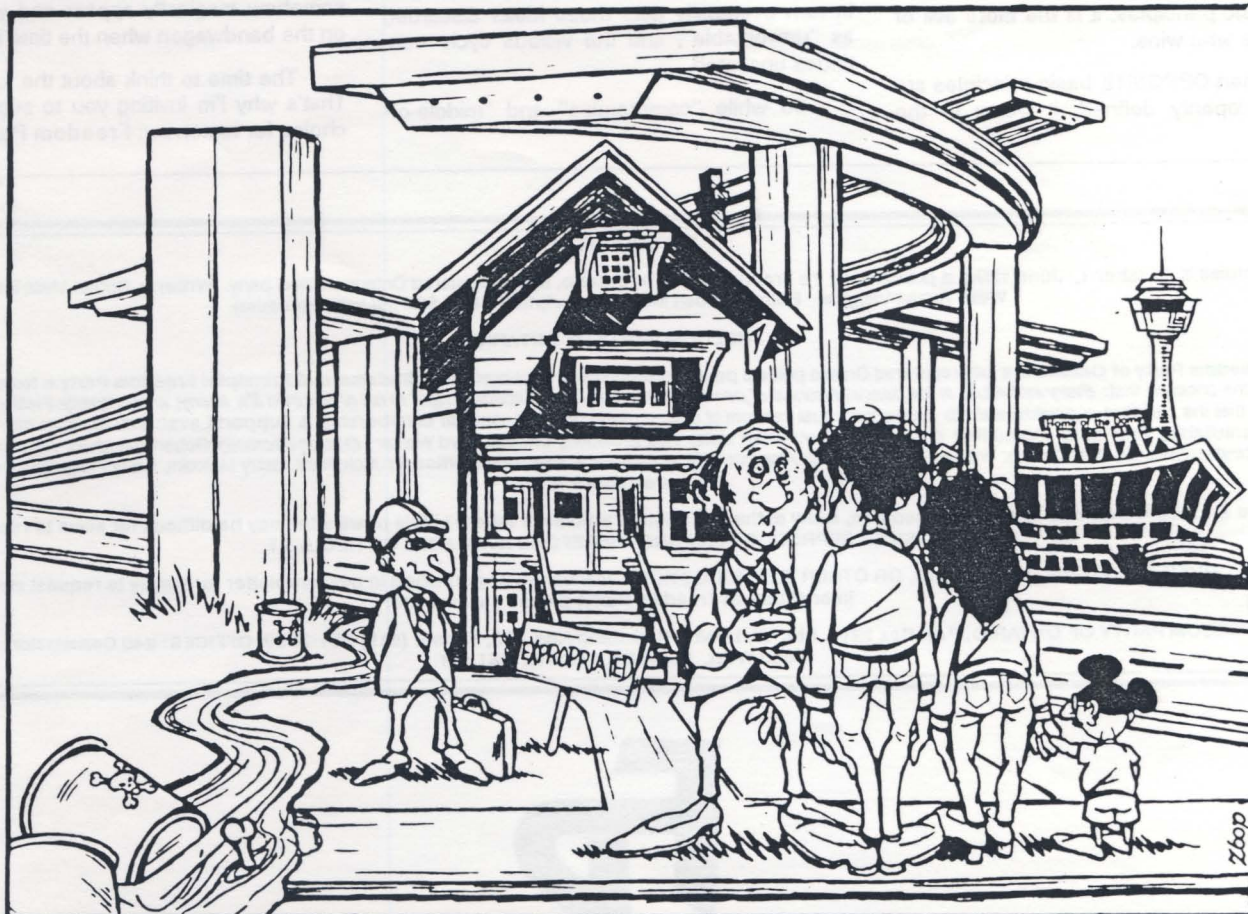
Worse, the new owners of his buildings are now facing the same harassment by Eagle that was endured by Elieff, even though they have spent well over \$300,000 renovating the buildings and now have all but two of their 80 units occupied.

☞ STILL WAITING

Despite repeated calls to the Human Rights Commission for a report on the current status of the ruling, no response has yet been received. The delay in the ruling is particularly ironic, given the haste with which the Board of Inquiry wanted to rap the case up while it was in process.

We're still waiting.

<END>



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

(...OPENERS cont'd from pg 2)

of such a policy IN ISOLATION could be devastating. Unless other funding alternatives have been allowed to be developed or enacted to replace lost tax revenues, many essential services could be severely crippled. And unless taxpayers are given a choice as to where their hard-earned tax dollars are spent, the idea of "controlling government spending" is completely ludicrous and unworkable. It's a vicious circle that simply cannot be broken unless it collapses upon itself, or unless a philosophically consistent and principled approach is taken to the entire problem.

Philosopher/novelist Ayn Rand, in her book *Capitalism: the Unknown Ideal*, lists three rules that pertain to principles:

"(1) In any CONFLICT between two men (or two groups) who hold the SAME basic principles, it is the more consistent one who wins.

"(2) In any COLLABORATION between two men (or two groups) who hold DIFFERENT basic principles, it is the more evil or irrational one who wins.

"(3) When OPPOSITE basic principles are clearly and openly defined, it works to the

advantage of the rational side; when they are NOT clearly defined, but are hidden or evaded, it works to the advantage of the irrational side."

After over ten years of personally observing these rules in practice, I can confidently say that I have never witnessed an exception to them. While that may be assuring, it can get

"It can get particularly frustrating when other political parties 'steal our ideas' but misrepresent them in an inconsistent way. Thus the same ideas are presented in a weaker, diluted form, doomed by the compromises imposed upon them."

particularly frustrating when other political parties "steal our ideas" but misrepresent them in an inconsistent way. Thus the same ideas are presented in a weaker, diluted form, doomed by the compromises imposed upon them. This in turn eventually gets those ideas discarded as "unworkable", and the vicious cycle continues unabated.

So while "compromise" and "middle-of-

the-road" policy agendas may be quite successful in getting a political party elected, when what is being compromised is one's principles, don't expect any workable solutions -- or lasting victories -- to result from such an approach.

Politics has traditionally been a short-term game. Politicians whose immediate concerns have more to do with their electability on a schedule that rarely exceeds five years are not likely to worry a lot about the negative ramifications of policies that will not manifest themselves for another 15-20 years. And that's a tragedy.

The plain fact is that politicians won't change until the public changes -- or gets desperate enough. In an effort to avoid having to

make desperate choices tomorrow, we can choose to think long-term -- today. Too many of us tend to wait on the sidelines, hoping against hope that the solutions we seek will somehow magically appear and we can jump on the bandwagon when the time is right.

The time to think about the future is now. That's why I'm inviting you to support today's choice for tomorrow: **Freedom Party.** <END>

FREEDOM FLYER

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