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Smith, Sydney (1974)

35-20

T. G. NORRIS PAPERS

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PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

HON. SYDNEY J. SMITH, P.C.

243 Oak Bay Manor,
2251 Cadboro Bay Road,
Victoria, B. C.
July 7th. 1974.

Hon. T. G. Norris,
19551 Laugheed Highway,
Pitt Meadows, B. C.

Dear Tom,-

My day has now been made. I have just read your letter in the Vancouver Province, which was so very compli--mentary to me. I have enclosed the editorial page in a letter going to my son in Kamloops. I haven't heard much from up there since I made the shocking announcement on June 22nd, You see, Len Marchand, the present liberal member and candidate, is a protege of mine. As was also Ron Basford and Jack Davis. So I have a lot to answer for. I discouraged any controversy until after the campaign was over. Under date of July 6th. I wrote and registered letters to each of the three. I had congratulated each of them after their renomination. My letter states that I was quite sincere in my congratulations, in spite of the fact that I had been unhappy with the PET's leadership, when, and since, resigning from my lifetime appointment in December 1968. And also stated that I hoped that they would be among those liberals forming a good, strong, opposition to a majority administration under Stanfield.

Furthermore, I suggested that inflation being the root of our trouble, the incoming administration should tackle that trouble which would impose hardships on the people and result in another party change in four years time. If the liberal party cleans house and reorganizes, they could be in power for the balance of the century, if they deserve it. I think this thinking will create, ~~that~~ will be good.

Thanks again and kind regards to you and your wife.

Sincerely,

Sydney J. Smith.

Sydney Smith (1974)

35-20

The Honourable T. G. Norris, Q.C.

TELEPHONE 465-4210

19551 LOUGHEED HIGHWAY
PITT MEADOWS, B.C.

July 10th 1974

Dear Sydney:

Thank you for your very nice letter of July 7th. I was very pleased with the British Columbia result but of course disappointed with the outcome generally and particularly in Ontario. I have come to the conclusion that the people generally wanted a majority government but all those (and particularly in the N.D.P.) who were afraid of wage controls voted for Trudeau. I am sure that the Conservatives got more of the recalcitrant N.D.P. people.

Stanfield waged a very strong and consistent campaign throughout while Trudeau came out definitely in very little. How you can have price control without wage controls is beyond me. I will be most interested to see what Trudeau does about all his promises and the taking over of the railway passenger service with its terrific expenditure.

It is different to understand the defeat of Jack Davis - one of our better Ministers. I do hope to see you again before long.

Tell the best as always

T. Norris.

Smith, Sydney (1974)

35-20

Voice Of The People

Liberal defectors show the way

I have been much interested to note in one of your recent issues under the heading of "Liberal switches" a letter by Sydney Smith in which he states that he cannot support the Liberal Party in the forthcoming election and that he recently resolved that it is time for a change and that he proposes to vote Conservative.

This is especially important and interesting because Sydney Smith was formerly a Liberal member of the provincial legislature and after his appointment to the Senate was the Liberal speaker of the Senate. I am glad to say that he has been a friend of mine for many years.

The Honorable J. V. Clyne, who is said to have been a lifelong Liberal, is also proposing to vote Conservative in the forthcoming election. He has stressed what is most important in this election, the proposal by the Liberal government for a large increase in government expenditure while incurring a large budgetary deficit following a large deficit last year. He says that the present administration in Ottawa has totally abandoned any idea of curbing inflation in favor of seeking votes at the coming election.

The example of these two men of very wide experience in different fields should be followed by all thinking people in Canada.

T. G. NORRIS

Pitt Meadows

Wasteful government

Any country that can waste $30,000,000 on teaching French to civil servants, most of whom will never use it, can afford to see that every citizen eats nutritious food. We are paying quite a price to keep the Quebec vote for the Liberals.

I note that this is not an issue in the present election campaign; I suppose the other two parties have their eye on votes in Quebec too and party comes before principle.

To me it is an issue, not only as evidence of a ridiculous way of approaching the need to see that English - speaking people learn French and that French - speaking people learn English, but also of irresponsible government spending which contributes to inflation.

ANN McCULLOUGH

Vancouver

A goody the Libs forgot

While the Liberals are busy handing out future goodies on the eve of the election, why not give taxpayers a break and increase the basic income tax deductions to $2,400 or $3,000?

It is ridiculous to allow a minimum income supplement tax-free to people aged 60 and over and not allow it to the people taxed to pay the supplement.

M. M. DEN

North Vancouver



The Toronto Sun, Friday, May 24, 1974 23

VOM 1PO

July 1st 1974

The Editor,
The Vancouver Province,
2250 Granville Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir,

I have been much interested to note in one of your recent issues under the heading of "Liberal Switches" a letter by Sydney Smith in which he states that he cannot support the Liberal party in the forthcoming election and that he recently resolved that it is time for a change and that he proposes to vote Conservative.

This is especially important and interesting for as you know Sydney Smith was formerly a Liberal member of the provincial legislature and after his appointment to the Senate was the Liberal speaker of the Senate. I am glad to say that he has been a friend of mine for many years.

I also noted with great interest that another friend of mine of longstanding, the Honourable J.V. Clyne, who is said to have been a lifelong Liberal is proposing to vote Conservative in the forthcoming election. In particular I note that in his address "False Profits" to the General Accountants Association at their annual meeting on June 27th he stressed what I think is most important in this election and ~~on~~ to which subject I do not think enough attention has been paid; that is to say the proposal by the Liberal government for a very large increase in government expenditure while incurring a large budgetary deficit following a very large deficit last year. He goes on to say that the present administration in Ottawa has totally abandoned any idea of curbing inflation in favour of seeking votes at the coming election.

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Yours very truly,

T.G. Norris

Smith, Sydney (1974)

35-20

...TERS _ I have joined the ...idual contributors and pass ... for your information.
SYD. SMITH.

JOHN BELANGER



The peripatetic Colin Brown is at it again, out there in the great stream of life making waves with a paddle, somewhat large. Brown is a tall, greying and dapper insurance salesman out of London (with London Life) who regularly puts burrs under many and several political saddles.

He does this from conviction rather than malice although it must be admitted here that a little malice never hurt anybody. Regular readers will recall that Brown took aim at the white paper on taxation reform through a series of newspaper ads and wreaked similar havoc on a certain Pierre Trudeau by publicly dismissing his cabinet in October, 1972, under ads headlined Shrug. Nifty, those.

Now, Brown has organized a non-political outfit called The Citizens' Coalition (it isn't a new political party and it won't endorse candidates) which asks a fundamental question: What have they been doing with all that money? Next week ads will run in 25 Canadian dailies under the heading of the $$$$$$$ Program $takes. The Citizens' Coalition is financed to the tune of $50,000 by some 420 individual contributors. The ads ask five questions:

1) Why is the cost of living so high?

2) Why is the cost of government going up even faster than the cost of groceries?

3) In 1969, the government promised not to hire any more civil servants. There were 235,000 of them then. Today there's 333,000. What happened?

4) Why does it take a mail strike for you to catch the people who are stealing from the Unemployment Insurance Commission?

5) When are you guys going to stop?

The ads are addressed to the three main political leaders and are visibly unsubtle. Clearly, two of those leaders can only stammer and dig copious toes in the sand at them. Messrs. Lewis and Trudeau, being much to blame for this mess, take a back seat to Robert Lorne Stanfield when it comes to solutions. But Brown and the Coalition do not take sides.

The ads are really apolitical in that they are aimed at all parties and their leaders and demand the kind of common sense and plain thinking that has been much missing from the Federal scene. The neat part is that after the initial blast Brown will take at least two more full page shots as July 8 draws near.

Of the five questions, numbers two and four are the most pertinent. Federal spending is up by 139.6 per cent in the last six years. That very nearly amounts to a breach of public trust since it is inflationary — and wildly so — and since there was no clear public mandate for the last 18 months of that spending. The public has a right — and a duty — to ask where all the money went. And that leads us right around to question four.

It took a mail strike — and an illegal one at that — to ferret out the cheaters. What has the UIC been doing about abuse? Picking its nose? Surely to God there are procedures for policing the fund. And surely, even after last fall's much vaunted program of policing, the only obvious conclusion is that those procedures have failed. The public now has a right to ask what the Commish plans for future. Will it take another illegal mail strike to catch abusers? The answer is a definite maybe.

The UIC is a canker on the face of society and must be reformed. There is no question that Canada must have an unemployment insurance scheme of some stripe, but it cannot be another grandiose welfare plan, which is what the beast is as presently constituted.

The problem is that somewhere along the way — and we have the politically late Bryce Mackasey to thank for it — it became a hoarse of a different choler, ha, ha. It stopped being an insurance scheme and became another way for Federal types to throw away money. It is unworkable, must be changed, and cannot endure. However, rest assured that if the incumbents occupy their chairs on the morning of July 9 it will persist. There is no way, dammit, that a recalcitrant David Lewis will ever go for changing the UIC. That is a fact of political life that must be met.

Colin Brown, bless his heart, is putting his money where his mouth is and confronting the three main leaders with some harsh facts of economic life. One hopes — somewhat fervently — that he will prevail and that the electorate will ask serious questions about recent Federal Government behavior.

The intelligence that it took an illegal mail strike to find cheats lands with a thump on this heavy heart. How far have we sunk when it takes one illegal act to uncover other illegal acts?

There is, as noted previously, much to be answered for. Thankfully, at least one concerned citizen is asking some questions. These ads, one of which will appear in The Sun, includes coupons asking readers to respond to Brown with a name and maybe some money.

It is a crime against reason that it takes unilateral action by one man to prompt a government to right its arbitrary wrongs. The sin is compounded by the knowledge that the government, realizing its stupidity, has refused to act because of the politics of expediency.

When will it end?

John Belanger can be heard daily on CFRB and CKFM.

careers

Discover Your Future in Pharmaceutical Sales...with dynamic prescription drug manufacturer, now expanding its sales staff in this area—and throughout Canada.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES will present intelligent, factual information on leading pharmaceutical products to physicians, pharmacists, dentists and hospital personnel.

THE COMPANY provides comprehensive training, attractive earnings potential, expenses, liberal benefits, and automobile.

IF YOU are personable and persuasive, possess initiative and industry, and have the ability to communicate effectively.

IF YOU have post-Secondary School education, perhaps sales experience, and are sufficiently interested to investigate.

APPLY IN WRITING giving summary of education and experience to:

Merrell

Personnel Director
THE WM. S. MERRELL COMPANY,
Division of Richardson-Merrell (Canada) Ltd.
2 Norelco Drive,
Weston, Ontario M9L 1R9

M. BROWN
HUNDRED AND FIFTY QUEENS AVE. • LONDON • CANADA
OST OFFICE BOX 3175
439-6131 • 432-7523

June 3, 1974

Re: Citizens' Coalition

Thank you for your interest and inquiry.....

Sorry to be so long in answering but we have been snowed under dealing with over 10,000 coupons and 3,500 cheques, mostly $2.00 to $10.00. This was in the first week alone. In addition we are planning our new advertisements. It might also be of interest that we started the Citizens' Coalition prior to the election being called and we intend to carry on beyond the election on a permanent basis.

I have enclosed part of the original mailing which contains short notes from five well-known Canadians and a copy of the advertisement (which has appeared in 50 Canadian dailies) and an editorial by John Belanger which appeared in The Toronto Sun.

We are photostating all coupons and sending them to the leaders so that they can have their representatives get in touch with you to explain their position if they really care about your vote.

We would be glad to send you a copy of a report of the frightening similarities between Sweden today and what Canada will be like in a few years if something isn't done to prevent it.

By sheer weight of number of voters, this may be the last telling opportunity you will have to make an effective protest to politicians of all parties of this alarming trend. Do not pass it up.

Cordially

Colin Brown.

Colin M. Brown

CMB:eh
Encls.

(1974) Anti-Sweden (Views)

35-26

VOM 1PO

July 1st 1974

The Editor,
The Vancouver Sun,
2250 Granville Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir,

I have been much interested to note in one of your recent issues under the heading of "Liberal Switches" a letter by Sydney Smith in which he states that he cannot support the Liberal party in the forthcoming election and that he recently resolved that it is time for a change and that he proposes to vote Conservative.

This is especially important and interesting for asyou know Sydney Smith was formerly a Liberal member of the provincial legislature and after his appointment to the Senate was the Liberal speaker of the Senate. I am glad to say that he has been a friend of mine for many years.

I also noted with great interest that another friend of mine of longstanding, the Honourable J.V. Clyne, who is said to have been a lifelong Liberal is proposing to vote Conservative in the forthcoming election. In particular I note that in his address "False Profits" to the General Accountants Association at their annual meeting on June 27th he stressed what I think is most important in this election and ~~on~~ to which subject I do not think enough attention has been paid; that is to say the proposal by the Liberal government for a very large increase in government expenditure while incurring a large budgetary deficit following a very large deficit last year. He goes on to say that the present administration in Ottawa has totally abandoned any idea of curbing inflation in favour of seeking votes at the coming election.

It does seem to me that the example of these two men of very wide experience in different fields should be followed by all thinking people in Canada.

Yours very truly,

T.G. Norris

Smith, Sydney (1934)

35-20

Voice Of The People

...emocracy developing in a dangerous way?

...olticians get a tongue lashing" was a Vancouver headline; "Labour Thought a Factor in Endangering Outlook" appeared in a Toronto paper. Surprisingly, both were referring to the same speech by Fred McNeil, president of the Bank of Montreal. In it he pointed out that a basic corruption of western democracy nowadays is that politicians will not tell people the truth and that "politicians, scrambling for votes, continually and fraudulently promise something for nothing and cynically mislead the people."

"An honest politician," he said, "would point out that big labor, pushing wages above productivity, is merely trying to grab wealth from the citizens and is really only defeating its own purpose by escalating inflation."

There was much more, mostly relative to governments which "promise effortless ease and affluence while behind a screen of oratory pick our pockets and frustrate the achievement of some semblance of economic reality."

But even as the two headlines covered Mr. McNeil's remarks with different emphasis, he emphasized only one side of the picture. The other side is the responsibility of the electors in a democracy for the quality of their government. His remarks are, in my opinion, a fair indictment of our political process as a whole. But I would not agree that they are applicable to many of the sincere and honest Canadians who now are candidates or are serving in elected positions throughout the country.

Perhaps even more salient were Mr. McNeil's comments on government spending, wherein he noted that "governments' share of the gross national product currently stands at 40 per cent."

The different levels of government are spending at a rate which, if allowed to continue, the economy will not be able to support.

Is the population aware of and concerned about this question — at the federal level, the provincial level and the municipal level? I think not. Government financing is so complex and the amounts so overwhelming by their sheer size, that very few people can grasp their significance. The net effect is that many people often regard all the services as free.

But nothing is free. The services cost money. Our tax money. And we must carefully scrutinize the way it is being spent.

While I imagine Mr. McNeil would agree that not all our politicians are involved in the "corruption of the political process," I do think his remarks most timely, thought-provoking and fair comment on the dangerous way democracy seems to be developing.

WILLIAM HAMILTON
President,
Employers' Council of B.C.
Vancouver

Liberal switches

An important factor in the present federal election campaign is the unusually high percentage of voters in the undecided column of the polls. Some people blame the press and other media for the lacklustre nature of the campaign. I think it reflects the circimstances that are responsible for this great indecision.

I was in the undecided column for a while, myself, and got involved in discussions in which I was often referred to as "belonging to the Liberal party." I never did belong to the Liberal party as its slave. I adopted it as best suited to my political ideals. That has ceased to be, as far as the federal branch of the party is concerned. I resigned from a lifetime appointment to the Senate in December, 1968, and there has been an accumulation of circumstances that were disagreeable to me since that time. I can best sum these up by saying that I have recently resolved that it is time for a change. And that brings responsibility for personal action. Some of my friends had decided not to vote at all. That would be shameful, and must be discouraged.

My political ideals dictate that I must adopt a new party. We have too many parties now and it would be foolhardy to start another new one. So I have settled my indecision by pledging my vote and support to the only other free enterprise party that has a chance — the Conservatives. I believe a Stanfield administration will accomplish a housecleaning that is sorely needed. After that I will be free to adopt a party that will best suit my political ideals.

SYDNEY SMITH
Victoria

Make Langara a park

The future of Langara golf course is under public discussion, and as one who has devoted almost 30 years to trying to improve services to families and children I feel very strongly that a major central park for the healthy recreational needs of young families is the important priority. Facilities of this kind in Stanley Park are grossly overcrowded and perhaps in Maple Grove Park also.

I should like to see all 100 acres of Langara developed with picnic areas, jogging paths, a children's zoo, a pony ride area, tennis courts, and wading pool. There are already trees, grass and a central building. Do let us provide the delightful recreation parks that our families so much enjoy and which now are in greviously short supply.

MRS. ANNIE M. ANGUS
Vancouver

January 14th 1970

The Honourable Sydney Smith,
Ste. 904,
548 Dallas Road,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Syd,

We received your Christmas card with its very kind personal message. I hope that by now you will have returned from Phoenix and we will certainly look in on you when we are in Victoria next, which I imagine will be somewhere about the end of January.

I often think of the days when you and I both tried to warn Boss Johnston and Herb Anscomb of what Bennett might do to them but they were babes in the woods. I think however that the moment of truth has arrived and that things are closing in on our friend and that he can no longer gamble with other people's money as he has done for so long.

Kindest Regards.

Yours sincerely,

H.

Smith, Sydney (1974)

36-20