

C-FAR NEWSLETTER

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Majority Opposes Aid Increase

An Ipsos Reid poll taken on the eve of the G-8 Summit found a solid majority of Canadians opposed to the sort of orgiastic giveaway advocated by Bono, Bob Geldof and the aid lobby. The pollsters told those questioned: "Live 8 concert organizers are calling on all G-8 countries to raise foreign aid contributions to 0.7% of their GNP by 2015. For Canada, this would mean an increase from \$3-billion to \$15-billion a year." A full 59% said Canada "cannot afford to spend an additional \$12-billion on foreign aid," while 34% said Canada "has an obligation to increase foreign aid to these higher levels." The same poll asked whether Canada "does too much, too little or just the right amount when it comes to contributing to African poverty relief?" Only 37% felt Canada isn't doing enough; 12% felt we're doing too much; 37% felt our aid is at the right level. (*National Post*, July 2, 2005) Thus, there was no majority support for the hefty aid increase to which Paul Martin did commit Canada at Gleneagles.

"A new poll suggests Canadians are siding with Paul Martin over Bono and Bob Geldof: They want the Prime Minister to help the world's poor but not if the commitment risks sending the country into deficit. More than three-quarters of those polled by Decima Research said they agreed with Martin's hard line limiting the level of Canada's foreign aid budget. That's a position he'll be taking into next week's meetings of the Group of Eight industrialized countries in Scotland. Martin is refusing to commit to calls from poverty activists — including musicians Geldof and Bono of the superband U2 — for G-8 leaders to contribute 0.7 per cent of gross national product to African relief by 2015.

The new survey results suggest that Canadians agree, fearing large spending commitments could send the country back into debt, says Bruce Anderson, chief executive of Decima Research. ... "The results indicate that Canadians want the country to do what it can to alleviate world poverty, but most feel no strong attachment to this specific milestone nor do they want government to go beyond what it feels is affordable for the country" Anderson said. ... Martin's refusal to commit to the 0.7 per cent target has outraged poverty activists who say that it's precisely because Canada is in such solid fiscal shape that it can afford to devote much more to poorer nations.

"Which approach would you prefer to see the federal government take. ... Should it agree to meet the target and commit to the timetable or should it continue to work towards increasing Canada's giving but at a pace it feels is more affordable for Canada?" concludes the question. Overall, 76 per cent said that while they want to help out, they think Canada should increase aid spending at its own speed." (*Toronto Star*, July 2, 2005)

Ron Gostick, R.I.P.

On a steamy Southern Ontario summer afternoon, July 20, under a hazy sky, we bade farewell to Ron Gostick, who died, after a long battle with cancer, quietly in his sleep, July 16th, two days short of his 87th birthday. The memorial service in his hometown of Flesherton, Ontario, was well attended by his large family (second wife Wanda, children, grandchildren, stepchildren), friends, political associates and his legion comrades. Branch 333 of the Royal Canadian Legion started the proceedings with a farewell to their old comrade. Ron had served for five years in the Canadian Army in World War II. Ron was a giant in the freedom movement in Canada. His decades - not mere years - of publishing --59 years of newspapers, newsletters

(*Canadian Intelligence Service*, *On Target!* and others) - and lecturing carried many messages and educated many people, including at least one present MP and such well known people as James Keegstra to political realities.

Born in Wales, July 18, 1918, Ron emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1923. The family homesteaded near Stettler, Alberta. As a young farmboy, Ron showed the canny business sense that marked his later publishing life. He killed gophers for the penny-per-tail pest bounty.

After nine years, the Gostick family, which now included brother William, moved to Calgary in 1932. Alberta was mired in the Great Depression - "widespread poverty amidst abundance," as Ron summed it up in *Canada: Its Glorious Potential - And Things I Didn't Learn in School* (2002), his last booklet. In Calgary, Ron met a man who would change his life. From 1933 to 1935, he attended Crescent Height High School. There his math teacher and principal was William Aberhart, a proponent of Social Credit, the teachings of Scottish engineer Major C.H. Douglas, who applied practical Christianity to economics.

Should the issue of credit *ex nihilo* be in the hands of private banks, Social Credit asked? With the fractional reserve system, a bank can lend many multiples of the dollars on deposit and, thus, issue credit and collect interest on the lending of this credit. Why should there be mass poverty in a land brimming with natural and human resources? What is physically possible should be made financially possible, Douglas argued. As Ron stated in the introduction to *Canada: Its Glorious Potential*: "*Money, and in modern times Credit, in all their forms and instruments are the life-blood of society and the nation. For generations, practically all modern industrialized nations have experienced periods of boom times and inflation, followed by depression, hard times and a shortage of 'money' (purchasing power). And in recent decades, every country seems plagued with an escalating mountain of debt - and taxation to pay the interest on the debt.*"

For the deeply Christian Mr. Gostick, Social Credit offered a practical application of religion to politics and a blueprint out of the misery of the Great Depression. His mother thought so too and ran for and won a seat in the first Aberhart Social Credit government in 1935. Ron went to college in Calgary and took further business studies in Chicago. He joined the Canadian Army in 1941 and served as a court reporter in Ottawa and Toronto. Immediately after the war, Ron served as the General Secretary of the Social Credit Party of Canada. Party intrigues soured him on political parties. Major Douglas had warned against the formation of a Social Credit Party, believing that it would be better to spread the philosophy of economic reform, hoping that people of good will in many parties would adopt it. Ron began his publishing activities, at first distributing copies of his newspaper by motorcycle around Ontario. Being a Social Crediter and journalist would seem to have made Ron fairly mainstream - at least not a subject for law enforcement scrutiny. However, his voluminous RCMP file, obtained some years ago by lawyer Barbara Kulazska reveals that his meetings were under Mountie surveillance as early as the late 1940s.

Ron's Christian principles led him into many causes. He was a firm anti-communist at a time when trendy Canadians like Pierre Trudeau were open admirers of tyrants like Fidel Castro and Mao tse-Tung.

When Rhodesia declared independence in 1965, he rallied to the cause of the **Ian Smith** experiment, grounded in Christianity and a gradual approach to Negro involvement in the political process. Ron strongly opposed the Pearson's pennant coup d'etat, the invention of a "new" Canadian flag and the abandonment of the Red Ensign, as a prelude to the changing of the country the flag symbolized, through massive Third World immigration, multiculturalism and the sacrificing of our sovereignty through internationalism. When **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 333** became a hotbed of pro-Red Ensign sentiment, Dominion command in Ottawa, under political pressure, decreed that **Ron Gostick** must be purged as president or the branch would lose its accreditation. He was.

Assisted by his longtime associate, former **RCMP** undercover agent **Patrick Walsh**, a burly Irishman from Quebec City who spoke with a distinctly French accent, Ron warned repeatedly and with copious documentation of communist infiltration and subversion in Canadian politics.

In 1968, a new comet flashed across the firmament of Canadian politics. His name was **Pierre Trudeau**. The press promoted him as a fresh breath in government, a change from the World War I generation of old war horses like **John Diefenbaker** and **Lester Pearson**. Trudeau, Canadians were told, was trendy, irreverent, prone to wearing a cape or posing holding a rose rakishly in his mouth. **Pat Walsh**, a veteran as an agent in communist circles in the Province of Quebec, recognized Trudeau and some of his associates. He'd briefly flirted with the **NDP**. Trudeau was far more to the left than the press was telling Canadians. **Ron Gostick** did an extraordinary thing. While the press gushed about Trudeau image and antics, he actually read what Trudeau had written and researched his activities. He found in Trudeau an admirer of Castro and Mao, a man who had visited Red China in the early 1960s at the depths of the "Great Leap Forward" famine, and returned gushing with admiration. Ron Gostick published his findings and, assisted with the list of Liberal convention delegates supplied by the disgruntled Paul Martin Sr's campaign, he began to circulate his warnings.

Hundreds of thousands of the relevant pamphlets were distributed. In Toronto, Tory **Senator Wallace McCutcheon** funded the reprinting of perhaps 60,000 leaflets derived from Mr. Gostick's work by the fledgling **Edmund Burke Society** of which I was a member. I had first met Mr. Gostick the year before at a lecture at a downtown hotel. I was immediately impressed by his knowledge and methodology: quoting important sources and offering an illuminating commentary.

Mr. Gostick's warning about **Pierre Elliott Trudeau's** affection for communism, his totalitarian streak and his eagerness to change Canadian society brought him a torrent of abuse. He was denounced as a "hatemonger." As has happened in so many instances since, his opponents didn't say he was wrong, didn't argue with his facts. They simply hollered "hate" and said he shouldn't have said those things. Within a few years, it became obvious that **Ron Gostick's** warnings were more than valid. Not until the early '70s did a few right of centre journalists like **Lubor Zink** and **Peter Worthington** dare to say what **Ron Gostick** had said in 1968.

In the early 1980s, Ron warned of the dangers of the **Charter of Rights and Freedoms**. Far from granting us rights, it, in fact, restricts them. Under British Common Law, one had the right to do whatever one wanted, except what was expressly forbidden by law. Under the Charter, the State grants citizens a seemingly impressive list of rights. Yet, this list can be and often is severely restricted by the courts - see, the many and growing limitations on freedom of speech. Other essentials, such as the ownership of property, aren't even listed as rights

at all. More recently, Ron formed the **Third Option for National Unity Committee**. He worried about both Quebec separatism and Western alienation. There was a third option, he argued, to the extremes of separation or totalitarian, interfering rule from Ottawa. That option was to return to the letter of the **BNA Act** which granted direct taxation, education, health and many other functions to the provincial governments. Federal usurpation of these powers was at the heart of the legitimate grievances of the Quebec nationalists and the Western separatists. **Ron Gostick** was a gentle modest man. He spoke to admiring audiences in Southern Africa, Australia, the U.S. and, for decades, from coast to coast across Canada. His approach was one of quiet persuasion.

Teacher, thinking, leader, mentor, **Ron Gostick**, you will be sorely missed. - **Paul Fromm**

Tribute to Ron Gostick

I first met **Ron Gostick** in the spring of 1980. It was at an **Alternative Forum** meeting at the Richview Library in Islington. Back then my main political concern could be summed up in three words: "Trudeau, Trudeau and Trudeau!" I was a loyal Tory, and very keenly interested in Canadian domestic politics. I started reading **The Canadian Intelligence Service** which carried some lesser known facts about our problems. Thus, I was quite interested in meeting **Ron Gostick** and **Patrick Walsh**. This meeting was the start of a lifelong friendship as Ron passed on to me some of his acquired wisdom.

The first description I can offer about **Ron Gostick** is that he was long a man of integrity. He was a devout Christian, a dedicated believer in **Social Credit**, and a strong advocate of limited constitutional government. Given his convictions, he told me about how he became disillusioned with party politics. (Since I was a strong Tory party supporter, I found this story to be hard to take!) After his post-World War II discharge from the Army, he became the **General Secretary** of the **Social Credit Party of Canada**. He then found that the party which he had joined out of conviction, and which had many honest and dedicated people, was sacrificing principles for the sake of cultivating a "favourable image" with the media. In realizing that he was not cut out for party politics, Ron resigned his position. In believing that **Social Credit** Christian principles were best advocated by non-party political action, Ron then proceeded to make his mark in his independent publishing, and by his speaking tours. Being free from the straightjacket of a party machine Ron spoke out courageously on many pressing issues affecting Canada and Western Civilization for six decades. The next point I can make about Ron is that he was true to his Western Canadian roots. Ron grew up in Alberta during the time of the first **Social Credit** government. **William ("Bible Bill") Aberhart**, the Premier, had also been his teacher and school principal. After WWII Ron settled in Flesherston, Ontario, and he lived there for most of his life, but he always knew the pulse west of the Ontario/Manitoba border. Ron believed in the old Canada, but he also saw the inadequacies in the Canadian system, and he was the first to warn me that, if there was not a fundamental change in the relationship between Ottawa and the provinces, the West would pull out of Confederation. The West has not exactly pulled out yet, but Western alienation and possible separatism are taken very seriously. Ron continued to be one of the few individuals in Ontario who put forward the views from Western Canada.

Finally, I can say that Ron had true Christian humility. While he was very informed about national and international affairs, he never claimed to be a "know-it-all." Nor did he expect you to agree with him on every single point. He taught me and others, enough to discern truth from falsehood, and right from wrong, and then apply what we learned in the ongoing battle for the truth. Rest well Ron, we'll see you at the resurrection. -- **Alex Greer**