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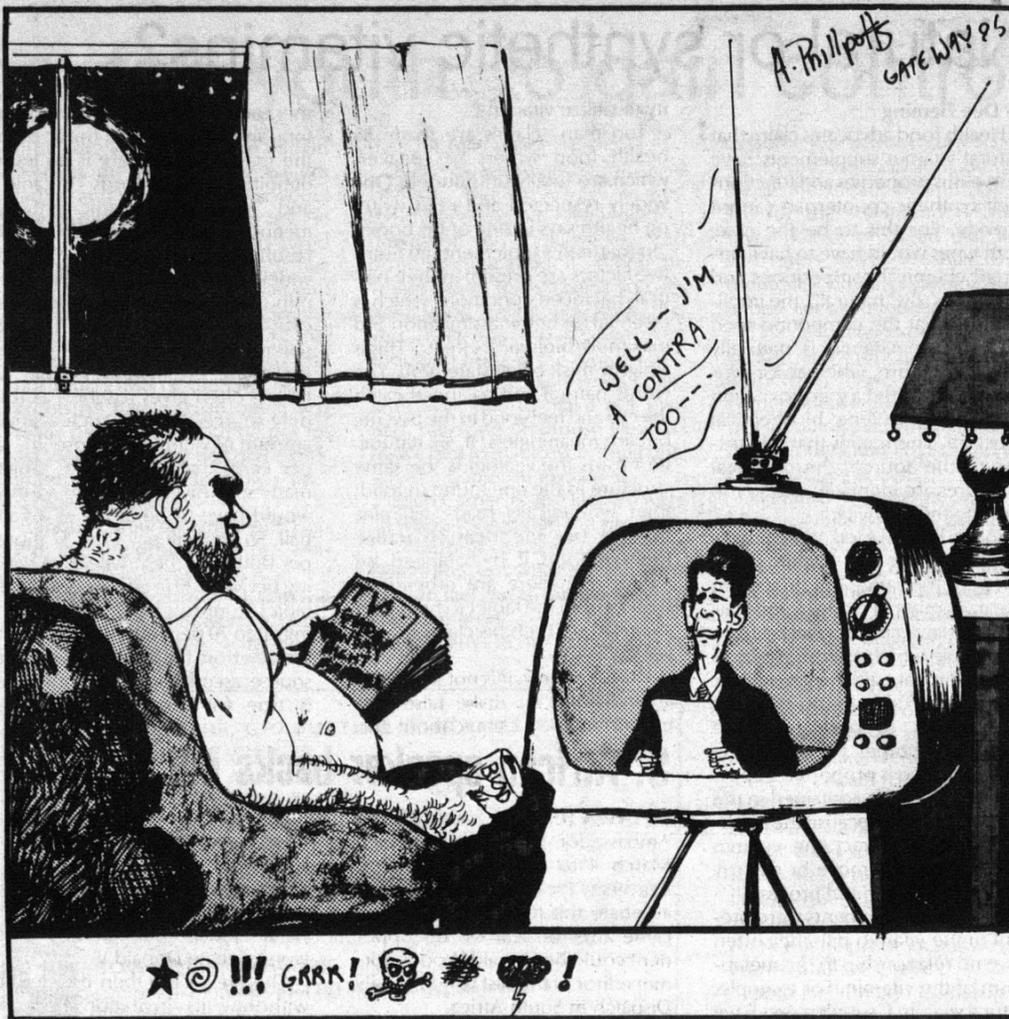
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Hebert vs. Mulroney: 2 Views

#1

Liberal Senator Jacques Hebert is now in the eighth day of his hunger strike in support of a lost generation of 700,000 unemployed Canadian youths.

The federal government decided to cut the \$17 million budget for Katimavik, a youth corps program which employed young Canadians at \$1.00 per day to do community work such as building boy scout camps and working in nursing homes.

If Hebert's protest tactics are even sillier and they present a good deal of questions.

Is the federal government planning to contract out to construction firms to have the boy scout camps built? Is there a builder in this country who can provide a construction crew for \$1.00 per day?

Nurse's aides for nursing homes are hard to come by as it is. Do the feds have some people in mind to do bed pan duty at \$1.00 per day?

Prime Minister Mulroney feels that Hebert's actions are a form of blackmail and not conducive with "democratic principles so valued in Canada."

I think that it's a damn shame that Brian doesn't seem to value Canadian youth as much as he does his own warped concept of "democratic principles."

Cheers to you, Jacques!

Kathleen Beechiner

#2

Senator Jacques Hebert's hunger strike has become a hot political and moral issue nationally and internationally. Some see him as a noble martyr. Others have called him a stubborn and infantile enemy of the democratic process.

Democracy does involve compromise and acceptance of the will of the majority. The Mulroney government was elected by a huge majority. They have a mandate to fulfill the will of the electorate. The electorate wanted the deficit reduced and public spending slashed. The Tories were elected promising to do this. It would appear the the will of the Canadian people rests with the Tories.

It has also been argued that the Tories have and will have to subject their policies to public approval. They are elected, and can be removed from office. Senator Hebert was appointed to his position by his long-time political ally, Pierre Trudeau. Katimavik is Hebert's personal creation. Hebert did not subject his policy to the scrutiny or approval of the Canadian populace. Hebert is seen by some as a spoiled brat who wants to "take his ball and go home" when the process of democracy doesn't suit his whims. He has been chastised for refusing to compromise or allow the government to accomplish its mandate. He has been accused of using extreme tactics to blackmail the government.

Is Hebert guilty? Certainly he has resorted to extreme measures but then Gandhi went on hunger strikes to preserve his personal ambitions for India. Sometimes extreme measures are required to counter tyranny of the majority. And the Tories have not asked the Canadian people their opinions on Katimavik. Hebert has raised a political issue that may have been overlooked or left uncontested.

Democracy involves enacting the will of the majority. But it involves the rights of the minority and the informed choice of the electorate too.

Shaun Cody

Editorial

by Don Filipchuk

Comic Zone

