

NOTICE - MOVING

DUNCAN S. ARMSTRONG, M.D.

Will be relocating to 6155 Coburg Road,
(corner of Lemarchant Street), Halifax,
as of February 3rd, 1992

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm
and Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Phone: 422 - 4223

First Baptist Church Halifax

1300 Oxford Street: 422 - 5203 (across from Shirreff Hall)
An ecumenical Church offering students a home away from home.

Sunday January 26th - 10:30 a.m. - Worship -
Sermon: *Release to the Captives* - Adele Crowell
Music: Duruflé, Weaver

Sunday February 2nd - 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Sermon: *Of Refugees And Other Outsiders* - Rev. John E. Boyd
Music: Oldroyd, Howells, Bach

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ED/OP**Privatization reduces taxes**

Nova Scotians suffer under a tremendous tax burden. In fact, July second was recently declared tax-freedom day, which means that everything we earn in salaries after this day belongs to us, while the government takes an equivalent of the amount we earn before this date in taxes.

We all like to complain about our taxes, and that is why I can't understand the complaints over Premier Donald Cameron's proposed privatization of the Nova Scotia Power Corporation. This is surely one of the reasons for our huge tax load. The provincial Tories are also discussing the sale of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission and that monetary abyss known as Sydney Steel Corporation.

All of these privatization rumours have created panic in the province. However I do not see what all the fuss is about. Privatization can have only positive benefits for the province. A privately-owned company can make many business decisions that a government would never be allowed to make, such as cutting unnecessary jobs.

Anyone with a friend presently employed by the government knows the corruption which exists in many of these provincially-owned companies -- three or four workers doing a job easily manageable by one or two, the outrageous salaries for unskilled labour (I was recently told by a reliable source that starting salary for a liquor commission employee was over ten

dollars an hour! This for pushing buttons on a cash register and stocking shelves!), and the tremendous waste of materials, the employee attitude being that since the government owns the company they can afford anything.

The government is just so unwieldy now that it is impossible to run these companies efficiently. However, privatization of the N.S.P.C. and other publicly-owned companies will increase efficiency. The owners would be more focused on the specific corporation and not into everyone's business like government. A private company could "trim the fat."

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This may result in lay-offs and pay scale becoming more realistic, but this is how any business must act to survive. It may not reduce our tax burden, but it would surely result in a much slower rise.

One of the concerns of those up in arms over this move to private power is that a private company with a monopoly on electricity would run prices up so high that all of Nova Scotia would be forced to live by candle light, while huddling around battery-operated radios and Coleman heaters. For one thing the power commission has already asked for its price increases

up to 1995, and I am sure the government would introduce controls on further price hikes.

Also people are afraid that a private-owned company would provide a lower standard of service. The effect would be exactly the opposite. I do not know of a single business which does not want to please the customers. Mottos such as "Customers are Really Everything," and "We Work Hard so You Don't Have to" come to mind as examples.

Also recent moves towards a privately-owned Canada Post has increased service and reliability immeasurably. Recently Alexa McDonough was on CBC radio griping about the proposed privatization of the power company. According to her, the NDP could run the power company and the other NS public corporations efficiently and without further tax increases. Only a party which knows it will never be elected in this province could make such promises.

Nova Scotians have to realize that no matter which party is in power, if we want to keep corporations such as the N.S.P.C. and the N.S.L.C. in public hands, we must stop bitching, because continued government control of these companies is going to lead to continued tax increases.

However, if we want to help our economic situation we must move forward and abandon this archaic notion of government control of business, since it is virtually impossible for government to run a company effectively. Donald Cameron may have made a mistake in scrapping the Causeway toll-booths, but he has the right idea to sell the power corporation.

Mike MacDonald

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