

NAKED CAME POLONSKY:

Personally, the most relevant fact about Cornwall, Ontario is that one of my closest feminine friends calls it home. The second most striking point is that her father actually works in Cornwall.

Now I would hate to go out on the limb and predict just how much longer I would estimate that her father had to keep off those nasty breadlines, but as of Sept. 27, 1971, her father held down a steady job. Now in Cornwall, Ontario, this is somewhat of a commendable feat. You see, this booming Seaway City of 45,000, has at least 20 percent unemployment. In terms of bodies, this means out of every five men you see on the street, one of them is out of work. Now, this means one out of five families does not go to the movies, never orders a pizza, and does not go for the latest fashions. And the United Appeal is having one hell of a time convincing people of Charity.

Last week I spent five days in Cornwall and for the first time in my life spent fighting cosmic insignificance. I began to feel the scare of what it must be like to live in times of a depression. The whole bloody town seems to be void of money. Reading the daily newspaper is an ordeal and not just because it is another Thompson Delight. On the last night I was there, the newspaper heralded the closing of the lacrosse stick factory which had produced 96 percent of the world supply of lacrosse sticks. It announced the paper mill had laid off another

210 men and another major employer in town had laid off over 100 men. My feminine friend's father almost felt guilty being employed. And when we went out for dinner, we were treated like the Kennedys.

Perhaps the only redeeming feature of all of this, is that Cornwall is one of the first cities in Canada that has stopped responding to the Trudeau charm. He came to Cornwall. He saw Cornwall. But boy, he did not conquer it. The people were polite but unsatisfied. I would suggest it is grossly insensitive of a prime minister to come to a depressed city and offer the people an economics lesson taken from a first year text book, delivered by a third rate economist. And for that matter, there is not one first rate economist in the whole cabinet. Eric Kierans was one but he was stuck in the Post Office. And old Edgar Benson is merely an accountant. Besides, when Benson's son was unemployed, Daddy Edgar moved the entire family to his place to weather the storm.

So the Trudeau approach of "I'm sorry people but life is not a bowl of cherries" is just too reminiscent of the "let them eat cake" attitude of yore.

And a German Chocolate Sarah Lee cake goes for a good 79 cents at your local Dominion Store. This country's economic malaise is perhaps finally waking people up to the fact that there is something dreadfully wrong

Whistle while you work

with our economy. And perhaps what is dreadfully wrong is that it is not really our economy, but America's. And maybe we must decide in this country whether we are going to continue along our continental path, or whether we are going to opt for economic nationalism. And economic nationalism as preached from perspectives ranging from Eric Kierans to the Waffle may not seem to have much meaning when bantered about in a university common room but in a place like Cornwall the topic takes on a certain immediate relevancy.

And the current fiscal fiasco perhaps brings to the light one other fun trend of our society — social welfare. Programs such as Opportunities for Youth only cover up the fact that we've got trouble and the natives are beginning to get restless. So take the potentially most restless natives and set them up as "important" bureaucrats in Ottawa. On one level the Opportunities Program is merely another reflection of the "band-aid the gushing wound" approach to government. Ignore the fact that the man has gangrene in his leg, just give him a fine pair of crutches.

A feeling of frustration is creeping across the land. And Pierre had better wake up to the fact that even the most adorable of Trudeau children cannot stem the tide of frustration from overflowing on to the shore, for ever.

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Celebrate Friday

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MARCH

along to St. Wilfrid's Church
(Finch & Sentinel, South of York)

7:30 to 11:30 pm, this Friday

to the music of

JANUARY

Admission: \$1.00

Endangered species.



See anyone you know?

The life forms shown above could well be among those enumerated under the Provincial Endangered Species Act passed in June '71 — including perhaps the little fellow in the middle.

For when it comes to the problem of environmental management that's where man is — in the middle. Man created the problems and only man can solve them.

Fortunately for all species concerned, we have become increasingly aware of the ways in which untrammelled development, or simple neglect, threaten our environment and ultimately our well being.

Bill Davis is more than aware of this. He's getting action . . . to ensure that the government he leads will continue to be a leader in environmental protection.

The province of Ontario has already established some of North America's most comprehensive legislation in the area of pollution abatement: Legislation covering air, noise, and water pollution, international waters included; waste management in both municipalities and recreation areas; motor vehicle emissions; pesticide control — even littering.

Since assuming power last March Bill Davis has added to this legislation in a substantial fashion.

Logging was banned in Quetico and

Killarney Provincial Parks. Pits and Quarries were put under much tighter regulations — and banned altogether from provincial parks. The government got tough with industrial polluters. Project SWEEP was initiated — and citizen participation encouraged.

A Department of the Environment was established to effectively co-ordinate all government activities that relate to pollution control. And to assist smaller industries with the installation of control equipment, money has been made available through the Ontario Development Corporation.

Bill Davis believes in clean living — so we won't get caught in the middle.

Davis is doing things...for people, their children and their children's children.

Sponsored by the Youth Group for Bill Davis.