

and, of course, greed by way of pensions that were huge windfalls to defeated members of Parliament. Politicians were fiddling while taxpayers burned. The media got on board, and all parking and travel became perks. No one examined what Reform was saying, and few had the courage to take them on and confront their moral crusade based on few facts and little examination. All that was wrong with politics was the benefits that elected members received, which is a premise based on falsehood.

The charade continued when 51 Reformers were elected — a 10 per cent pay cut, voluntary of course, led by Preston Manning who had been paid \$90,000 per year plus pension deposits as leader of the Reform Party — no wonder his backbenchers balked. There was a press conference at which Manning gave back a 1987 Buick. I think if someone gave me a 1987 Buick, I would have given it back, too. They attempted a boycott of the Parliamentary Restaurant — except for a few of their number who found the prices to be not as inexpensive as they had months before promulgated — and a boycott of other so-called perks of office.

Let us look at the reality. Voluntary pay cuts by the leader of 10 per cent — but not really. It was a 5 per cent cut of net pay after taxes, but he keeps the leader's pay and money from the Reform Party. They argued over office space: not as opulent as they had told everyone, and as a matter of fact quite plain. Meal prices were not as low as they had thought, and some Reformers actually use the Parliamentary Restaurant, although I am sure under fear of being "outed." While they are accepting the pension plan, no one has raised the fact that others like the RCMP, the military and the public service also have very generous pension plans. No one wants to debate the issues; they just want to use the paintbrush of greed on only elected members, regardless of the facts.

It continues. The leader of the Reform Party was not up to paying respects to the Governor General on the evening that Parliament opened. The opening of Parliament is a democratic function and, therefore, to celebrate it is to celebrate democracy. A new government has been elected and, without guns and without violence, it read its vision for the country. Surely our mothers and fathers would have thrown open their homes, given the opportunity, and put out their finest china and baked their favourite dishes, just as the Governor General did. By acting in the way he did, Preston Manning was making a statement that the Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn and his wife Gerda were somehow doing something not worthy of the Mannings. Surely the Hnatyshyns are a couple with simple but dignified taste. They proudly occupy this country's residence today on behalf of all the people of Canada. In any event, Manning stayed home.

Shortly thereafter, there were articles in *The Toronto Star* and *The Ottawa Citizen* about how frugal the Reformers were. I bring to the attention of honourable senators an article in *The Toronto Star* of February 5, 1994 by Derek Ferguson of the Ottawa Bureau — and I will try my best not to break up here. The heading is "Frugal Reformers are proving they know how to save a loonie" and the subheading is "Fast-food dinners, humble lodgings, help MPs practise what they preach." It reads in part:

Reform MP Sharon Hayes had just finished another 14-hour day and was about to return to her brother-in-law's home for her nightly bowl of soup.

That is not all, since fellow Reform MP Deborah Grey saved her from the soup, no doubt, with an invitation to go out for dinner.

The article goes on:

'We went to the Swiss Chalet' said Hayes, the rookie M.P. for Port Moody-Coquitlam.

Now isn't that a ground-breaking event? There is more, of course.

The Toronto-born homemaker and mother of two doesn't give all her business to the chicken franchise, however.

'My staff and I have gone to McDonald's a couple of times,' said Hayes, 46...

Remember, honourable senators, that in the past, parliamentarians had to impose wage and price controls, pass the War Measures Act, or bring in a National Energy Plan to get a favorable headline in *The Toronto Star*, and we Conservatives must have been doing it all wrong. There is more in this article from the Reform communications specialist, Ron Wood:

I said, 'Basically, look at yourselves as 52 Gandhis'...

He was referring, of course, to his members. He went on to say:

'But you have to understand, these people are like that. They'd just as soon go to McDonald's'.

Now for the supreme sacrifice. In the article the journalist introduces the fact that, at the Travelodge, the Reformers are able to get a large discount adding up to one half of what Mr. Manning had to pay of \$80 per night. Therefore, I assume this means he is only paying \$40 a night.

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The article goes on to say:

Where Manning goes, Reformers are sure to follow. On any given night, there are more than 20 staying at the Travelodge.

And, on any given night, they crowd into a nearby bistro... The attraction for the Reformers is a standard, nightly feature: a rib-eye steak for \$9.95.

Now, I have been reading these articles since the Reformers came into the House of Commons in the fall.

Senator Gigantès: Masochist!

Senator Tkachuk: I raise this matter because it is all so foolish and ridiculous. I find these interesting tidbits charming, but it hardly proves that Reformers are frugal. Senators, it just proves they are cheap. And this is all becoming news because the public misunderstands the issue.