

Where can I buy a toque, eh?

The implications of Bill Clinton's victory are echoing through Ottawa, and have been embodied by Conservative M.P. Allan Redway. He is making waves in the Conservative Party because of a controversial letter he sent to Brian Mulroney which he publicized tirelessly on the weekend of November 14. Redway opposes the direction of the Mulroney government's policies relating to the economy, and calls for significant changes. Amongst them, government should raise corporate taxes, slow the charge towards the North America Free Trade Agreement, and increase government spending with the aim of stimulating the economy. The effect of these proposals is to reprioritize deficit-reduction, the sacred cow of the Mulroney government.

Allan Redway may have few public supporters for his views in the Conservative Party, but he knows that the current political climate is conducive to gaining for them a wider audience. The responsibility for this lies squarely with President-Elect Clinton. If one considers the contents of Mr. Redway's letter, it becomes obvious that he is parroting a Canadian version of the Democratic platform regarding the economy. The sincerity of Mr. Redway's motivations for acting cannot be deciphered. What can be said with some confidence is that if President Bush had been re-elected, Mr. Redway would not have aired his grievances publicly.

President Bush stated clearly in his campaign that he is opposed to active government participation in

the economy, and is in favour of realizing NAFTA in its current form, and on its current timetable. Mr. Redway surely could not have made his proposals for the projected economic climate over which Mr. Bush would have presided in a second term. Not only would he have faced opposition from his own party, but the ideas he represents would have been stymied by the philosophy of the Bush administration. Like it or not,

Puppet politicians and their policies

Presently, Canadian Parliament is in the process of reconvening for a new session. Apparently it will be business as usual in the House of Commons. Or will it?

Brian Mulroney's government has been preoccupied with constitutional matters for the past few years. In the meantime, the country's dismal financial situation has reached a critical point.

Enter U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton. Without having issued so much as a statement as Commander-in-Chief, Clinton has already influenced the direction of Canadian policy.

Traditionally, U.S. Democratic governments have had a tendency to tend to domestic affairs. This has always managed to make their allies feel somewhat uneasy. Canada is certainly no exception.

Clinton has stated that he is going to focus "like a laser beam" on the debt-ridden American economy. Now, not surprisingly, Canadians are being treated to newspaper headlines that tell of Mulroney's intent to

Canadian economic policy must, to a considerable extent, be harmonized with that of the United States. Dealing with this reality may be somewhat more bearable with Mr. Clinton in the White House.

Canadians define themselves generally in terms of the character which generates the considerable and compassionate social programs with which we are all familiar. Taken at face value, Mr. Clinton's proposed

wave his economic magic wand. A late repentance, however, not to mention a perfect example of how a Clinton administration will signifi-

cantly affect and shape Canadian government policy.

Foreign corporations in the U.S. have also been targeted as a source of revenue in the Bill Clinton recovery plan. He plans to collect at least 55 million dollars from such firms which he feels are not paying "their fair share" of U.S. taxes. This has made Canadian business people quite apprehensive about the transition of power in the U.S. This is an important issue as such protectionist measures call for delicate diplomatic endeavors. Early in January of 1993, ambassador positions between Canada and the U.S. will be vacant.

health care scheme would align Americans much more closely with Canadians, not only in terms of health care, but also in terms of an increased tax burden. Combined with Clinton's economic goals, Canadians may find that there is less of a need to slash and burn its social programs for the sake of competitiveness. It is precisely this expectation that allows Mr. Redway to publicly challenge Mr. Mulroney, for clearly

the Prime Minister's priorities are out-of-step with what is shaping up in the United States. Some may venture to say that Mr. Mulroney is out-of-step with Canadians as well. If Mr. Clinton's victory can bolster the case for maintaining our social programs, then I welcome his presence. How much more so if his victory also leads to a shake up in the leadership of the Conservative Party.

D. Arthur McMartin

Our government will be pressured to appoint someone to this position who will be equipped to deal with such an issue immediately.

largely ignored by Republican administrations past. Conjecture aside, Brian Mulroney has been scrambling to get back into the good graces of an electorate he must face in the coming year. Streamlining his Cabinet and promising to "take a hard look" at our woeful economic situations come only as a direct result of his newly elected counterpart's desire to reshape the American economy. Mulroney could be likened to an uninvited houseguest who, once inside, refuses to leave and resorts to any type of cheap trick to ensure that he stays. His most recent performance has him securely under the influence of the policy direction of Bill Clinton.

Sean Coleman

"Mulroney is like an uninvited houseguest who refuses to leave"

It is difficult to make commentary on a man who has yet to issue a single directive from the White House. Certainly, Clinton's activism may result in the resolution of environmental difficulties between Canada and the U.S. - concerns that were



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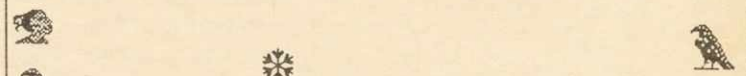
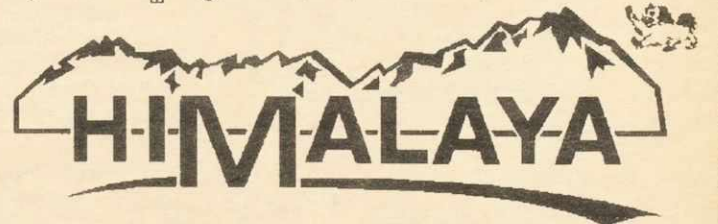


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