

No auto bailouts

We admire the strong stand that you have taken against auto bailouts.

In the good years, very lucrative benefit packages were awarded. Now we are being asked to supplement these benefits with our tax dollars.

We operate a small business and do not have any benefits for our retirement — only the money we have personally set aside. Unfortunately, that is being eroded by market volatility. Yet we do not expect a bailout.

We want the Big 3 to employ people and produce successful products. But, we also want their wages and benefits to be reasonable. The industry needs to restructure.

*John and Lucille Turnquist
Innisfail, Alberta*

Bring back the gold standard

I would like the CTF to address the largest and most destructive form of taxation in our country. No, I am not referring to income tax, the GST, or any other obvious tax. The tax that I refer to is currency devaluation — or more commonly called inflation — an insidious and hidden tax that affects everyone.

A basket of goods that cost \$100 in 1934 (the year the Bank of Canada came into existence), would cost approximately \$1585 in

2008. This means that the body that is “working to preserve the value of money by keeping inflation low and stable” has destroyed 94% of the value of our money in just 75 years. The average inflation rate over this period approaches 4% annually, which means that roughly every 25 years the purchasing power of our incomes is wiped out.

“Ah!” you may say, “Incomes have gone up too, so it is a wash!” The truth is that incomes haven’t kept up in relative terms, so we have had to borrow to make up the difference, hence the mountain of consumer, corporate, and government debt that is about to crush us.

With the present tumult taking place in the realm of world finance, the issue of currency and debt are center stage. While everyone is quick to blame capitalism and Wall Street, I would posit that central banking and increases to the aggregate money supply is at the root of our problems. A problem which is accelerating!

A currency’s value and integrity should be governed by its redeemability for silver and gold, not by the whims of politicians and bureaucrats. When a currency is redeemable and sound, government size and largesse is restricted by the fact that it can’t borrow at will. Under

a sound currency, savings hold their purchasing power, prices are stable and liberty reigns supreme!

*Grant Klaiber
Strathmore, Alberta*

Government to the rescue

I want to extend my sympathies for what must be a most trying time for the CTF. It must be difficult for you to see the collapse of everything you stood for over the last few months. Imagine, the ultimate of all ironies: the reaffirmation that the private sector needs the public sector to survive! That, not only are the taxpayers bailing out the private sector (which, as a matter of consistency, you must oppose), but that it was the public sector, not the private, that was the repository of public trust when things got ugly!

It must have hurt, to realize that if you had had your way, and the public sector had truly been emptied of all possible capacity, gutted, reduced to a mere whimper, that not only would the private sector you speak for have col-

Letters-to-the-editor

Letters may be edited for length, content and clarity.

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lapsed, and the system of accumulation you so ardently defend have suffered major harms, but that the public would have demanded that the state find the capacity to act, somewhere, somehow! You finally see the taxpayer revolt you had been fighting for, but it went the exact opposite direction!

*Charles Horn
Beaverlodge, Alberta*

Canadian Taxpayers Party?

The CTF should field candidates in the next federal election. All our choices are statist government; we need an alternative.

*Dave Anderson
Calgary, Alberta*

ED: The surest way to more choices is at the ballot box is to support measures that will reform our voting system. As for the CTF, we will stay watchdogs and welcome politicians of any stripe that support taxpayers over special interests.

Of deficits and stimulus

Deficits, if they occur at all, should be modest and limited in duration.

Government costs should be reduced with civil service wage and pension freezes until they are in line with the private sector.

Why, for example, if health is a provincial jurisdiction do we have several thousand bureaucrats and an enormous department

of health in Ottawa?

*Michael Neuhouse, MD
Hamilton, Ontario*

When you meet with Jim Flaherty please tell him the best way to get people to spend is to let them keep their earnings!

This will stimulate the economy faster than any government infrastructure rubbish.

*R. Fair
Surrey, BC*

Out of touch

The proposed addition of more seats to the House of Commons is another illustration of how far our MPs are from representing real life in Canada. At a time when the economy is in a recession and many

companies are laying off workers or closing down, the government goes in the opposite direction.

It would be far better to put a cap on the number of MPs and redraw the riding boundaries if necessary. Actually, in this day of modern communications we should be shrinking the number of MPs.

*David Salter
Bath, Ontario*

Great commentaries

I love your commentaries and look forward to them: although sometimes they make me pretty mad! Keep up the good work!

*Lyle Olsen
Saskatchewan*

