

Deluded - we are!

During World War II, we had a prime minister who was a master at obfuscation and the non sequitur.

As Canadian losses grew, it became a serious issue how to replenish the ranks. Mackenzie King knew this was a contentious decision and since he was the consummate politician, he employed his ultimate evasive tactic. He stated, "Conscription if necessary, but not necessarily conscription."

I know how he would deal with global warming. "Global warming but not necessarily warming." I think that this describes the so-called spring that we missed. Cool days and cold nights were the stuff of springtime. Finally summer arrived on the calendar on June 21. We can only hope for the best. That lake still has some serious warming to do.



Back when I taught in the west end of Toronto we had an influx of Russians seeking refugee status. One of my students praised the attributes of life in Canada. He came to tell me on several occasions that he would not be present tomorrow. I, of course, asked what he was going to be doing.

One day he went to get his teeth fixed. On another day he went to get his free TTC pass. Finally a day arrived when he told me that he was going to court because the government was questioning their refugee claims.

I asked him how they could afford a lawyer. He told me it was a special refugee lawyer provided by the government. He further informed me that he loved Canada because everything is free.

The outcome of the hearing was that they could stay. We provided them with a capable lawyer paid by us. He was overjoyed!

I use this account because it seems to have some similarities to our present situation.

I am confused. We are in a deep economic depression that could last for many years. But there are millions of dollars flowing from all levels of government.

There are the bailouts and the grants.

If projects are not covered by the grants then we float debentures.

I am not personally concerned about the debentures because they seem to be spread over periods of 30 years before they have to be paid back.

Many of us will not be around to bear the financial drain of these long-term debts. We leave these financial debts to future generations. Our children and grandchildren.

In the meantime, we will get to deal with the huge deficits that are amassing.

This past May the federal government had run our deficit up to 50 billion dollars. This is not a cap that cannot be exceeded.

The provincial government has until now run a deficit of 18 billion with no end in sight. Now after expending this largesse the day of reckoning will arrive. Ever considered the amount of taxation we will be facing?

By the way, all of the spending is to create short-term employment until things begin to improve.

We do not have any idea when that is going to happen. I know it is a somewhat harsh term, but I think delusion would describe our present state of mind.



One can never be absolutely certain about the weather but some contrasts make you think global warming.

Parts of western Canada are facing the driest spring in 70 years. Many cash crops have already been destroyed and ranchers have pastures of burned out rubble to feed their cattle. Interestingly during the Great Depression of the thirties years of drought plagued the prairies. As Yogi Berra said, "It's deja vu all over again."

Peter
SUTHERLAND
*THE VIEW
FROM HERE*

