

# Winnipeg Free Press

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# Editorials

## After the plebiscite

A protest against government policy as emphatic as yesterday's vote against the constitutional amendment calls for review and reappraisal. Neither justice nor wisdom necessarily lies with the larger numbers. But the government has to pause and make doubly sure of its course.

The Supreme Court route at the moment appeals to a great many Winnipeggers and other Manitobans. They clamor for the government to roll the dice and take its chances with a Supreme Court of Canada verdict in the Bilodeau case, with all the enthusiasm of a crowd cheering the soldiers off to war. But the crowd cannot be counted on to continue cheering when awkward consequences start to flow from the Bilodeau case. Those who are spoiling for a court fight today will not be in the trenches. The government alone will have to shoulder the blame for whatever policy it adopts in court or out and for all the ill-effects that result.

Since it will bear the blame for its mistakes and the credit for its correct judgments, the government must be free to make them in its own way. It is now able to make them with fair warning that the vast majority of its people, including some of its own loyal supporters, do not agree with the proposed amendment to the constitution.

They do not agree with vast expense for bilingualism, with devastation to careers of hundreds of provincial civil servants, with making all non-French Manitobans into second-class citizens, with forcing municipalities to provide service in French, with turning Canada into a French state nor with unleashing a constant barrage of litigation and leaving it to the courts to dictate how government departments shall organize their affairs. The debate on the constitutional amendment has consisted in the main of constant and repeated objection to these imagined consequences of the amendment.

None of these things, in reality, has to result from the constitutional amendment. The government has said so time and again, but the mere saying proves nothing to those who are haunted by fears and who have no solid, practical experience upon which to base an opinion. How then can the government satisfy its people that it is not incurring vast expenditure for bilingualism, that it is not devastating the careers of large numbers of civil servants, that it is not bringing down upon the province all the other dire consequences that are foreseen?

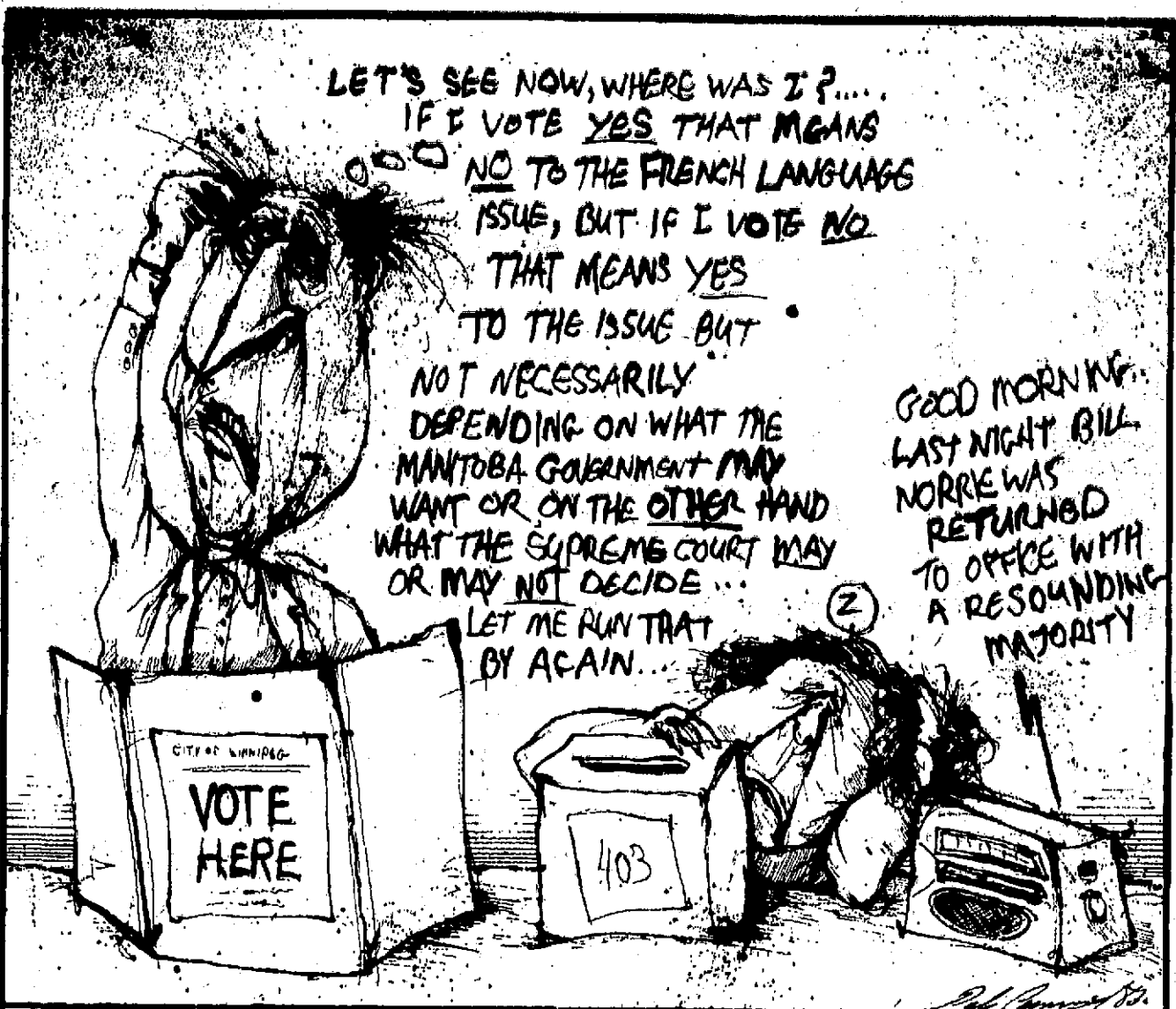
There is finally only one way. That is to proceed as

planned, having first made very sure that the amendment is written to say exactly what the government means it to say, and then let the consequences speak for themselves. If at the time of the next election the opposition is able to produce dozens of public servants whose careers have been blighted by bilingualism, if municipalities have in the meantime been juridically compelled on the basis of the constitutional amendment to provide French services for which there is no need, if non-French Manitobans have become second-class citizens or Canada has been turned into a French state, then the government will have to take its lumps and will almost certainly lose the election.

But there is no reason whatever for any of these things to happen. Unless the government commits a series of egregious blunders in the course of applying a language policy, the opposition should be left, come the next election, empty-handed. The province will have been living for two years or so under the new constitutional regime and it will be plain to all that life carries on much as before. Those who are determined to be unhappy will of course continue to be unhappy. But those who are prepared to look squarely at the facts will be starting to wonder, as they think back to this plebiscite campaign, what all the shouting was about.

The alternative is to drop the constitutional amendment. But that solves nothing. That obliges the province to leap from the reasonably solid ground of the amendment now before the legislature into the dark void of the Bilodeau contest. That takes out of Manitobans' hands altogether the determination of where the line shall be drawn between the language rights of the minority and the convenience of the authorities. That requires the province to tear up the available settlement based on the realities of this century and lock itself back inside the terms worked out in the conditions of the last century.

The government should make known to the public that it takes the plebiscite vote seriously and that it will respond by going over its amendment and its reasoning with great care. It should study every serious argument brought up in the public hearings and in the plebiscite debate and see whether the amendment stands up against those arguments. It should assure itself, so far as humanly possible, that the amendment will not result in damage to Manitoba: it should then continue on the course already charted. It will then keep faith with its partners and with itself.



## A peacekeeping mistake

By W.A. Wilson  
Special to the Free Press

OTTAWA — The United States faces a terrible dilemma in the wake of the tragic deaths of so many of its Marines in Lebanon because a generally accepted rule of peace-keeping exercises was ignored a year ago.

### Targets

It has never really been a formal doctrine, but it has always been considered wise that the elements in peace-keeping forces should come from the smaller countries and that the great powers should keep clear of them. The reason is simply that great powers have interests and involvements that may make them targets for one or another of opposing factions in a way that troops from small countries are not likely to be.

Once a mad and tragic slaughter on this scale has occurred, for reasons which still are unknown and which most of us cannot even guess at, the options of a great power are so limited that choice can barely be said to exist.

The United States cannot simply say that "peace-keeping" is impossible in these circumstances and withdraw its troops. It is not just a matter of prestige but of hard and practical interests in many other places that make it impossible for either one of the superpowers to let it be seen that it can be pushed out of an important strategic situation by the action of some group of madmen or even by some perfectly rational group.

The superpowers would inevitably seek to exploit each other's apparent

weakness in circumstances such as a withdrawal of the American Marines from Lebanon because of this tragedy, but that is not the worst of it. Efforts at exploitation would be made by others as well and quite possibly in ways that would hurt allied nations.

Not unnaturally, the United States government would dearly like to retaliate against the culprits who exploded the car bomb which caused such dreadful carnage. So would the government of France on behalf of its murdered soldiers. That is not, however, easy to do.

The culprits are not even known, let alone in a position to be annihilated. Those who did not die in the explosions themselves have no doubt melted into the civilian population.

### Valid reasons

The four-nation peace-keeping group was sent to Lebanon for valid enough reasons: largely to facilitate the exodus of the Palestine Liberation Forces whose position had become impossible as a result of the Israeli invasion. The presence of the force may have made matters marginally easier for the Lebanese government that was created out of the turmoil left by the Israelis but all the violence that has taken place during the last several months suggests that the optimum effect was secured long ago.

So many of the hopes that surrounded the old League of Nations and the present United Nations have foundered that few governments are prepared to take a truly realistic look at peace-keeping, an exercise usually but not always conducted under UN auspices. When leaders such as Prime

Minister Pierre Trudeau in this country do look at it sceptically they seem to have little resolution — almost anyone seems able to persuade them not to be hard-headed.

The Parkinson's Law of peace-keeping is that, even when timetables are set, the involvement will become open-ended, continuing long after the initial aims either were accomplished or proved impossible to realize. The peace-keepers in Lebanon can be said to have produced some useful results in the beginning, but they probably have added nothing really constructive for many months now.

### Classic case

The classic case of how not to run a peace-keeping operation is Cyprus. The peace-keepers, Canadians included, stay on year after year until they have long-since become a garrison of sorts. Yet the stability of Cyprus was not secured by the United Nations involvement there. Whatever stability does exist now came about because Turkey took decisive military action and arranged matters as it and the Turkish community wanted them, against the wishes of a Greek community too weak to resist effectively.

Nothing is further from the truth than the pious claim that wars and military actions settle nothing — most human history has been settled that way, and often rather well. The United States itself exists only through two successful wars, one against the British and the other against southern secessionists.

When peace-keeping by an international force merely delays a settlement it is accomplishing nothing useful.

## More of the same

The municipal politicians have tugged and heaved and put forth a prodigious combined effort whose result is a mayor and council almost indistinguishable from the former mayor and council.

Mayor Bill Norrie has won every ward and attracted around 70 per cent of the city-wide vote, just as he did last time. It is a more solid victory this time since the campaign against him was more substantial, the vote was larger and the circumstances were more difficult for him.

In council seats, the New Democrats have lost Sisler which they took three years ago only because of a local anomaly. They remain the opposition group on council. The Independent Citizens' Election Committee, if it still exists, has gained Sisler and lost Charleswood. They remain the dominant force on council if they pull together and if they can attract support from independent councillors more successfully than they did a year ago.

In trading Sisler for Charleswood, the group that was once the ICEC has become more cosmopolitan and more representative of Winnipeg. It has been hobbled by weakness in the North End and the inner city and overburdened with

South End and suburban members. Chris Lorenc, the new councillor from Sisler, is the kind of new voice the group needs to make it more sensitive to parts of the city where it has no credibility and no following.

New Democrats have just narrowly won re-election in Sargent Park, Notre Dame and, apparently, Elmwood wards. Those councillors, after starting defeat in the face, will be sharply questioning the strategy of the municipal campaign and the effects on their campaigns of the Pawley government's policies. But NDP councillors re-elected in Redboine, Kildonan Park and Mynarski found that the debate on French language rights and the campaign of mayoral candidate Brian Corrin had no noticeable effect in their local contests. They were returned just as might be expected with no mayoral campaign and no language controversy.

The Communist electorate in Norquay ward has followed Joe Zuken into retirement. Possibly the greatest puzzle of this election is the NDP's failure to win that ward when the crumbling of the Communist tradition was delivering it into their hands.

## Challenging monopoly

CNCP Telecommunications' application to compete with Bell Canada telephone service appears to argue that customers in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia are being overcharged between 10 and 20 per cent on their long-distance calls in order to maintain low local telephone rates. The application, filed before the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, proposes to pay the telephone companies involved whatever the CRTC decides is the present long-distance subsidy component in the local rates. A CNCP spokesman says the company plans to offer telephone customers long-distance service at 10 to 20 per cent less than they are paying now.

The most interesting part of the CNCP application is the promise to pay subsidies to maintain local rates. Bell

Canada claims that its costs to generate \$1 in long-distance revenue are 32 cents, but that its costs to generate \$1 in local revenue are \$1.93.

CNCP proposes two types of payment to the telephone companies to compensate them for the use of their local switched networks. One is a connection charge and the second is an outright subsidy which would recognize the difference between the costs of providing local service and those of providing long-distance access.

The benefits, if they come about, will be available only where competition is allowed. Telephone users in Manitoba will have to be content with whatever benefits reach them through policies which give the provincial government a virtual monopoly on telephone service.

### Gifted children

I applaud the Association for Bright Children (ABC) in its efforts to promote educational programming for gifted children in Manitoba. However, I must respond to some observations by the vice-president of ABC, Cheryl Lovallo, who was quoted in the article *Whiz kids get raw deal* (Free Press, October 18) which may have given readers the mistaken impression that Manitoba is a "wasteland of educational opportunity" for intellectually gifted children.

Canadian educational organizations were quick to accept innovative programming for gifted children in the 1950s and 1960s. As Mrs. Lovallo pointed out, those concerns for salvaging the gifted child were to be relatively short lived.

Many of Manitoba's school divisions, rural, urban and northern, have a keen interest in providing programs for gifted children. If they should appear hesitant or cautious in setting out policy, it is because they want their pro-

gramming efforts to develop into exemplary programs that will not meet the same demise as the segregated gifted programs that existed 30 years ago.

Growth in gifted programming is quite evident in Winnipeg. Commitment by school boards is apparent in the appointments of at least four program consultants and co-ordinators. Winnipeg was also the scene for a major conference on gifted education this year. Educators and administrators from many of our school divisions came to listen to recognized experts from all over North America.

The St. James-Assiniboia gifted program that Mrs. Lovallo refers to as "relatively comprehensive" accommodates over 600 gifted children at all grade levels — one of the largest and most comprehensive in Western Canada.

At present, most Winnipeg school divisions and the University of Winnipeg are co-operatively planning an exciting program of in-depth study that will benefit many high ability students who reside in Winnipeg.

Maybe some very bright children are getting a "raw deal," but recent developments in Manitoba show that educators are concerned and are endeavoring to provide for the needs of the gifted.

In reference to ABC's suggestion of province-wide testing for giftedness: educators must be aware of the IQ trap. Identifying gifted children is no easy task. Generations of psychologists have fought over the definition of giftedness with very little resolution. To equate intellectual potential (what IQ tests measure) with giftedness is simply not valid. Many other factors must be given consideration.

NEIL WHITLEY  
Co-ordinator of Gifted and Talented Education Program  
School Division No. 2  
St.-James-Assiniboia  
Winnipeg

## Letters

### Red-rosed PM

According to the *Free Press*, Finance Minister Marc Lalonde and our own fearless Lloyd Axworthy found some excuse to back out of their commitments to attend a recent convocation in this city by Canadians of Ukrainian descent to mark and mourn the slow slaughter of millions of their friends, relatives and forefathers as a deliberate act of policy by the Communist czars in the U.S.S.R. in 1932.

Does that appear as just another "accident," or does it represent just one more covert sally by our red-rosed prime minister to refuse to be even seen to be as much associated with any public expression which is critical of the leadership of the Soviet Union?

Our Jewish neighbors do us a great service with the continuing reminder of the Holocaust, and of the fact that the most civilized of nations, as Germany was thought to be at that time, are capable of the most grotesque aberrations, as a matter of policy, and apparently with general popular support.

Our Ukrainian neighbors attempt a similar service. They remind us that the Soviet leadership is a dictatorial oligarchic continuum and has been so since it wrested power from Kerensky. There is a straight line between the deliberate slaughter of millions of Ukrainians and the recent shooting down of the Korean civilian jet marked in its progression by stations before which we could all stand and pray.

The next time that U.S. President Ronald Reagan calls the Russian leadership a bag of thugs and assassins, it is to be hoped that your journal will not lend currency to the notion of some

The *Winnipeg Free Press* welcomes letters from readers. Writers must give their name and address. Names will be used and letters are subject to editing.

mindless, naive and historically ignorant correspondent that he is guilty of hyperbole for so doing.

K.G. HOUSTEN, QC  
Winnipeg

### No deficit

The integrity of the NDP is now at stake. Under the Schreyer government, the organization Total Community Involvement was ordered not to raise funds for its many communities by selling the Golden Sweepstake tickets, but was offered the privilege of raising funds by selling the government lottery tickets Express, Loto, Provincial and Tik-Tak-Toe. Now that TCI has shown that it was successful in the promotion and sale of these tickets (it sells 25 per cent of all tickets in Manitoba), the government seems to feel that this organization is not capable of managing its own affairs. This is unjustified because, when the Conservatives were in power, they appointed Graeme Haig, head of the legal society, to investigate TCI and the present government appointed Judge Jewers to do the same. Both ruled that TCI is legitimate, honorable and well organized; capable of running its affairs in all aspects.

How is it possible that our present government, dealing with a budget in the billions, can run up a deficit of \$550 million and not worry about deficit financing yet have the audacity to say that competent individuals who administer only \$1 million annually, benefiting over 100 organizations, and whose many projects are being sustained through lotteries without deficit financing, is to be eliminated?

PAUL E. GUTNICK  
Winnipeg

### Appreciation

At the end of September, the Red Cross arts and crafts department at Deer Lodge centre officially became part of the centre's operation and therefore is no longer a Red Cross program.

On behalf of the Red Cross, may we extend our deep appreciation to the many hundreds of Red Cross volunteers who have worked in the program over the nearly 40 years it has been offered. Their dedication, understanding and skills have been greatly appreciated by the thousands of patients who have benefited from the program.

May we also thank the executive director, Dr. MacDonnell, and her staff, all of whom have given freely of their time and efforts to help the Red Cross help the patients.

It has been our pleasure to have been of service to the veterans through these many years in this program, and we look forward to continuing the service through our other programs.

LEE SAGE  
President  
Manitoba Division  
The Canadian Red Cross Society  
Winnipeg

### Overcrowded

It seems a day does not go by that readers do not see a European Health Spa advertisement promoting "last offer" specials or "once in a lifetime" deals.

Recently, the facilities have become so overcrowded that members must line up for showers, struggle for floor space and wait patiently for equipment.

If the spa continues to run so many specials, perhaps it should consider expanding its facilities before members have to fight their way to fun and fitness.

LISA SCOUTEN  
Winnipeg

### Heroic act

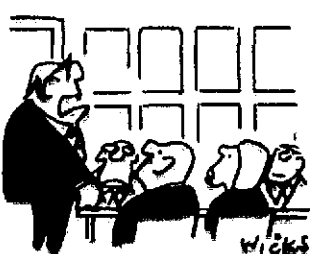
I was delighted to read John McManus' interesting story *An arcing glide into history* (Free Press, September 17) of the heroic deed performed by Air Canada pilot Bob Pearson.

I am not a pilot, but would like to be a "fair weather one," certainly not in the hair-raising situation of Capt. Pearson and his crew, nor in the control tower in Winnipeg, like Len Daczko and his staff, who must have lived a lifetime in the 15 minutes that the giant 767 jet glided into the drag-strip at Gimli.

I was especially heartened to read this story of courage because of an earlier report that some of the passengers were considering suing Air Canada for negligence — this almost made me ill, that anyone could be as crass and money hungry. They should instead be requesting a Canada Medal of Valour for the pilot, co-pilot and crew and the Winnipeg air traffic controllers who brought all of the 73 passengers safely to the ground.

J. DON MCKENZIE  
Winnipeg

### Bon Wicks



"Let's face facts. We've had no strikes for a year which means we're overpaying the workers."



Whiz kids deserve the best