Subject:
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A BELATED MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

So tomorrow June 28 is election day. It is the day when we will go and vote for people who we think will do the best job for us in Ottawa according to our own individual understanding of what is good and not so good.

What is good will largely depend on our own personal situation. Clearly if you are a senior citizen relying on a monthly pension and Medicare this issue will loom large in your consideration. Will there be a place in a senior citizen's home if we are old and can no longer look after ourselves. This will undoubtedly be going through our mind. If you are a student you will be wondering about the ever rising tuition fees while our country is in dire need of people with a higher education and not necessarily more lawyers. On the other hand if you are a multi millionaire who can afford to have his own private health insurance, you will take a completely different tack.

If you are worried about Canada becoming embroiled in the war in Iraq which could happen if we join the Bush gang and get bombed by Muslim liberation fighters in return, although to put our brain cells into a state of rest we prefer to call them terrorists, that will be another point to consider. And yet another point is whether we are small business owners or the owners of a big corporations.

Corporations can count on generous government handouts. According to statistics this amounts to $ 40 billion a year which is not bad if you consider what that money could do for hospitals, including equipment, or schools, or childcare, education or even taxes for working people and small business. Did you note that there was very little talk about this in the big corporate controlled press during the election. You may wish to stop and think why this is. Why did the corporate press hardly say a word about this? I might be wrong but I thought that this was a rather important piece of information.

On the other hand, if you are just an ordinary working man or woman or a hard working small business man, far removed from the government trough, this will be yet another point to consider. If you have a family with children and your wife has to work to pay the bills, government provided childcare, which they have had in most developed countries since 1919 and have promised in Canada since Hector was a pup, that might be yet another point to consider.

I am aware, that most people worry about health care. Since I am always thinking about how I can be of help, I had an idea which I thought was worth exploring. In Europe they make fees for both public and private bona fide recreation facilities tax deductible. It turns out to be one hell of a good deal for the government. This is because for every dollar in tax refunds to the user, the government saves $ 7 dollars in health care costs. If you consider that 40 % of all doctor visits are stress related and if you consider that regular and supervised exercising is far more effective than endless visits to the doctor, it makes sense.

But any and all my efforts produced but a yawn. I suggested that my own District Council send a resolution to this effect to Victoria and to Ottawa via the UBCM, which is the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, or the FCM, which is the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Convention where Governments come every year to pick up ideas, but I was not successful. Don Bell now a Liberal Candidate, God only knows why, would not even allow me to explain my resolution for the public's benefit, never mind putting it forward at least for a try. I am raising this because I noticed that Don Bell is now promising to fix Canada's health care system just as soon as he is elected to Ottawa and gets a pension. Once that is done he will do the rest.

As I see the situation, we should vote depending on our personal situation. I think it is safe to say that whether we like it or not we depend on society otherwise known as CANADA, unless of course, we are independently rich or maybe even very rich, which most Canadians are not.

As for myself I have devised the following criteria for tomorrow's election.

One) I will not vote for the party who gives billions of dollars to corporations because I am not a corporation but what I really resent is that the government is doing this without asking my permission.

Two) I will not vote for the party of the rich because they are not my kind and there is no profit in voting for the other guys party especially since it is at my expense.

Three) I will not vote for a party that has become corrupt. Above all things, I will never vote for a party that has become corrupt. It could become a habit, again at my expense, so this is a definite no.

Four) I will not vote for something I don't want and might get anyhow. I would only be sorry after and I am already plenty sorry that my country has gone from number one place in the world to number 18. I want to go up not down and that is the way I am.

Five) I will never vote for anybody who is asking for a big job in Ottawa but was unable to perform the smaller job well at home. My father told me something to this effect and I think he was right.

Six) I will never vote for a party which has lied and lied repeatedly. They promised that municipalities and cities would achieve legitimate status in a new Canadian Constitution. I think this is fair since close to 90% of Canadians live in municipalities and/or cities with all the staggering problems of a modern society but without the means to effectively deal with those problems. The government did nothing of the sort. Instead they are stealing our gasoline tax. Now they are promising to fix it. But as my father said "he who lies but once will not be believed though may he speak the truth", again I think he was right.

So who will I vote for? I will vote for a party that will best look after my needs. Everybody else does, including the big corporations, why not me?.

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