

Scrap Book: Candidate for MLA in Victoria Hillside 1991

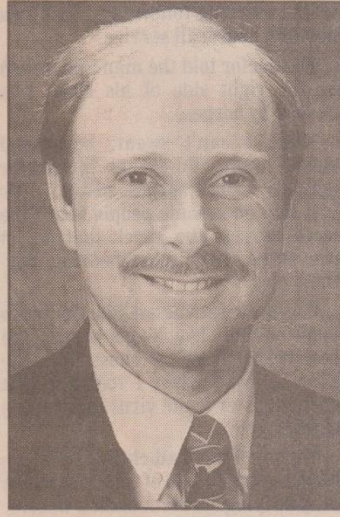
TIMES -COLONIST OCTOBER 13, 1991



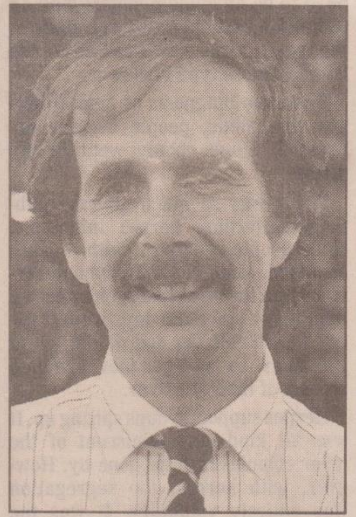
■ BLENCOE: reworked rights code



■ WIENS: universal child care



■ SKILLINGS: increase pensions



■ VAN OOSTDAM: assured income

Women's centres low on Socred's spending list, Victoria forum hears

By Jody Paterson
Times-Colonist staff

B.C. women shouldn't expect government handouts for programs to prevent family violence and abuse, Socred candidate Patrick Skillings said Saturday.

Skillings told about 50 people at a Victoria-Hillside all-candidates meeting on women's issues that the province's 30 women's centres aren't as worthy of funding as other projects.

"The mentally handicapped, mental illness, the elderly — those are higher priorities in my mind than women's centres," said Skillings, whose comments prompted some restrained booing from the audience.

"I don't see very many people out there establishing men's centres. Women shouldn't expect a large percent of the tax dollars to go to them rather than to men."

Skillings, admitting that programs for the elderly were his priority, said women's centres and shelters should rely on volunteers, not government funding.

But Green Party candidate Jay Van Oostdam said volunteers won't "keep the doors open and the landlord happy." He advocated permanent

core funding for women's centres, which typically operate from year to year, never knowing whether their funding will be renewed.

"Mr. Skillings missed one major thing — sexism. If he hasn't noticed, it's out there," said Van Oostdam.

Skillings, Van Oostdam, NDP incumbent Robin Blencoe and Liberal candidate Elmer Wiens attended the all-candidates forum, sponsored by the Victoria Status of Women Action Group.

Blencoe promised a revamped human rights code that protects gays and lesbians from any kind of discrimination, a position supported by all the candidates.

Skillings added that he had done his personal part toward birth control, and credited lesbians and gays for their efforts.

"From a lesbian or gay point of view, they're making a positive step forward in not overpopulating," he said.

Wiens advocated universal child-care paid for by the government at an estimated cost of \$100 million a year — the amount the government pays for each grade in the public school system.



Skillings said he opposes institution-style day cares, suggesting instead that people be encouraged to "open up their homes" as family day cares.

While candidates avoided mudslinging during the 90-minute forum, Blencoe said he couldn't resist one crack at the Social Credit record after Skillings pledged to work on increasing the number of child-care spaces.

"Social Credit has had umpteen years to make good on these promises. This is just last-minute, on-the-road-to-Damascus stuff — 'Please let us do it all for you,'" Blencoe said. "What concerns me is the 70,000 children going home every day to empty houses."

One audience member questioned

Wiens on his comment that because women lived an average 10 years longer than men, they had an advantage.

She asked how being without a pension and likely in an income bracket below the poverty line could be viewed as advantageous.

Wiens said the only advantage he was alluding to was that the women were alive and the men were dead.

On pensions, Skillings advocated increased income supplements for those in need. Financially comfortable seniors should give their subsidies back, he said.

Oostdam wants a guaranteed annual income for all ages. Blencoe said women have been shortchanged on pensions, largely because men have done most of the pension groundwork.

"Traditionally, it's been men who have written the rules, done the collective bargaining. Even trade unions are beginning to recognize that paternalism can often be there," said Blencoe.

"It's seen that men will retire with a pension, while women, if they work inside the home, aren't entitled to anything."

NDP finds voters like—but are hazy on—Grit

5 acclaim Grit hopeful for Hillside

Economist Elmer Wiens was acclaimed by the five people at his nominating convention Saturday afternoon as the Liberal candidate in Victoria-Hillside riding.

He will face the NDP's Robin Blencoe and Socred Pat Skillings in the Oct. 17 election.

Wiens said he was a little disappointed at the turnout, but he anticipates that the majority of the 50 or so constituency members will be ready to work for him. They are, he said, dedicated Liberals: "You have to be dedicated to be a provincial Liberal."

Wiens, 46, has lived in Victoria for more than 10 years. He has been a Liberal since his high school days.

He has worked as an economist for the federal government in the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department in Ottawa, for the provincial government and for the city of Vancouver.

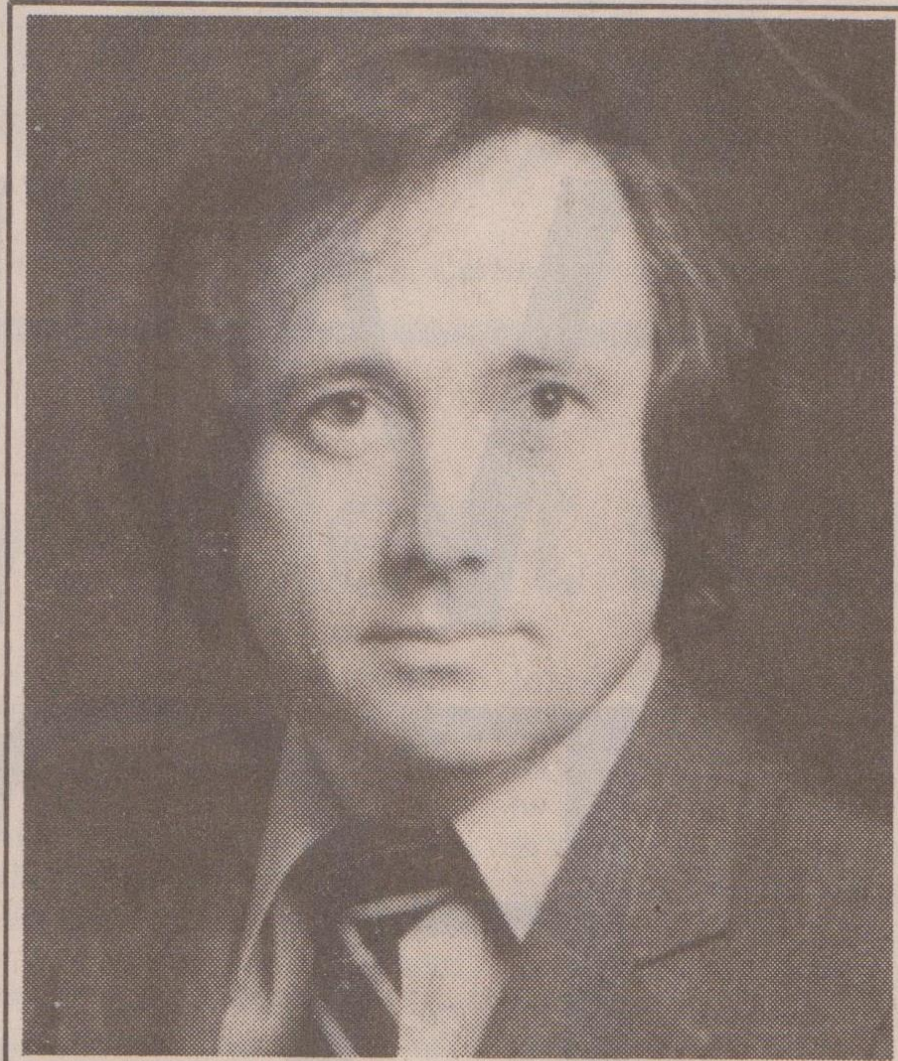
He has been a lecturer in economics and mathematics at institutions including the University of California and Los Angeles (UCLA), University of Pennsylvania, Carleton University, UBC and UVic.

He said his campaign committee is organized and his brochures are prepared.

"I don't suppose we will have the funds that the other candidates have to establish campaign offices, but I have seen election campaigns work quite successfully out of people's homes," said Wiens, who is preparing to hit the streets immediately for some door-to-door canvassing.

Vote for
ELMER WIENS

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LIBERAL

WIENS, ELMER

Elmer G. Wiens
of Victoria/Saanich
Economist

X

SULTS

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Riding by riding, the numbers dramatize Social Credit's demise and the NDP's sweep

SOME ELECTION RESULTS VANCOUVER SUN OCTOBER 17, 1991

Prince George North		Vancouver-Little Mountain	
Paul Ramsey NDP	5,306	xTom Perry NDP	10,089
John Mangan Lib	4,481	Michael K. Stebner Lib	7,810
Keith Thompson SC	4,003	Sharon E. White SC	3,866
		Geoff Berner G	245
		Cheryl M. Maczko Ind	80
Prince George-Omineca		Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	
Len Fox SC	6,421	xMike Harcourt NDP	9,709
John Ricketts NDP	5,799	Todd Gniassios Lib	3,004
		Randy Vannatter SC	2,073
Richmond Centre		Grant Watson G	397
Douglas Symons Lib	7,675	John Wayne Marsden Ltn	77
Brian Collins NDP	6,403	Jacek (Jack) Latek Inter	60
Sheila Page SC	3,797		
Michael Airtion G	106	Vancouver-Point Grey	
Kerry Pearson Ltn	68	xDarlene Marzari NDP	11,643
		Barry J. Burke Lib	8,710
Richmond East		Richard J. Wright SC	2,708
Linda Reid Lib	6,762	Nicole C. Kohnert G	367
Ron Fontaine NDP	5,990	Betty E.L. Green Ind	135
Larry Blaschuk SC	3,638	Joan M. Saxton Ltn	72
Douglas Dunn G	118		
Richmond-Steveston		Vancouver-Quilchena	
Allan Warnke Lib	6,532	Art Cowie Lib	11,079
Harold Steves NDP	5,929	Stuart P. Hertzog NDP	5,362
xNick Loenen SC	4,478	xDoug Mowat SC	4,916
Garry L. Cross PC	60	Valerie E. Parker G	292
		Victoria-Beacon Hill	
Rossland-Trail		Gretchen Brewin NDP	10,451
Ed Conroy NDP	8,135	Karen Bill Lib	7,092
xChristopher A. D'Arcy Ind	3,695	Suzanne Hansen SC	3,460
Walter A. Siemens SC	3,190	Michael Timney G	687
Angela M.E. Price G	685		
Saanich North and the Islands		Victoria-Hillside	
Clive Tanner Lib	13,263	xRobin Blencoe NDP	10,727
Elsie McMurphy NDP	8,426	Elmer Wiens Lib	7,047
Richard Holmes SC	2,760	Patrick Skillings SC	2,563
Don Hutchings Ref	518	Jay Van Oostam G	544
Thomas Aussenegg Fam	90		
Saanich South		West Vancouver-Capilano	
Andrew Petter NDP	10,014	Jeremy Dalton Lib	12,902
Lorne Peasland Lib	8,158	xJohn Reynolds SC	5,975
Allen L. Vandekerkhove SC	4,311	Helen Chaplin NDP	3,633
Douglas H. Christie WCC	191	Marcia Santen G	136
		Tunya Audain Ltn	60
Shuswap		West Vancouver-Garibaldi	
Shannon O'Neill NDP	7,337	David J. Mitchell Lib	10,820
Michel Saab Lib	6,978	Brian D. Giles NDP	4,306
Edith E. Rizzi SC	6,044	Rodney C. Glynn-Morris SC	2,883
Connie Harris G	386	Philip W.F. Millerd G	461
Skeena		Yale-Lillooet	
Helmut Giesbrecht NDP	5,472	Harry S. Lali NDP	7,552
xDave Parker SC	4,503	xJames T. Rabbitt SC	6,760
Juanita Hatton Lib	1,515		

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Your Turn

On whose backs, John Crow?

Editor:

John Crow, governor of the Bank of Canada, has stated that monetary policy must "work towards and maintain monetary stability – that is, price stability." (Speech to the Board of Trade, Saint John, N.B., June 24, 1991).

Granted, the economic benefits of monetary stability are pervasive and tend to accumulate over time. However, such price stability should not be achieved on the backs of the unemployed and lower income Canadians.

Public sector employees, members of large unions, and the chartered banks did not suffer during the recent recession. Their wages and jobs were protected and bank profits have reached records highs. In fact the spread between the interest the banks pay on savings deposits and the rate they charge on loans and mortgages, 5.5 per cent or more, is the greatest gap over the last decade.

The Canadian government's claim to monetary prudence is a falsehood. In 1990 the Bank of Canada rate reached a premium of seven per cent over the Federal Reserve rate in the U.S.A. interest rates of almost 14 per cent were required by the Treasury to sell its bills and bonds, to finance the debt and deficit. Subsequently, the unemployment rate again reached double digits.

Price stability? Yes! But borne by those who can afford the reduced incomes, not borne by the unemployed, elderly and disadvantaged. That is "sound money" monetary policy.

Elmer G. Wiens
South Quadra

Better postal rates, please

Editor:

Since Brian has given so much of our country to the U.S., why do we not have at least equal postal rates?

A letter across the line necessitates a trip to the nearest postal station for varying

Opportunity in Clayoquot

Fletcher Challenge has sold the Clayoquot Sound portion of Tree Farm Licence 46 to International Forest Products. The deal has been agreed to in principle, with details yet to be worked out.

The Forest Act says that five per cent of the TFL must be returned to the Crown when TFLs change hands. This would be approximately 20,000 cubic metres in Clayoquot Sound.

Both Fletcher Challenge and International Forest Products are absentee landlords. In the spirit of Clayoquot Sound sustainable development, we have an opportunity to keep the 20,000 cubic metres in the sound for manufacturing.

Share Our Resources feels that the most viable operation would be shake and shingle; because big companies are not in this business, a small operation would have less barging and breakage. (Shake logs are normally barged from Clayoquot Sound. This process involves considerable damage to the logs.)

As to possible sites, anywhere in Clayoquot Sound in the hydro grid. Shake and shingle is already working in Clayoquot Sound at Cypre.

Finally, it meets with public and Clayoquot Sound Sustainable Strategy criteria.

John Bassingthwaite, Chairman,
Clayoquot Sound
Share Our Resources,
Port Alberni.

Deeper bites, smaller pie

The Canadian economy is sneaking out of another recession. But a prolonged recovery is doubtful unless corporate profits and capital investment by industry and business also recover.

This will not happen if unions force large wage settlements on em-

ployers and choke off profitable investment.

Using the weapon of strikes, Canada's unions push for ever higher wages. An extra one million person-days of work lost in a given year through labor disputes usually translates into a one per cent additional increase in wage agreements. Trade union militancy pays off.

Approximately 34 per cent of Canada's labor force is unionized. That, plus the integrated nature of Canada's industries, provides unions with powerful leverage in contract negotiations, using strikes and the threat of strikes.

Most economists would not chide unions for keeping pace with the cost of living or improving the lot of the unemployed. But the Gross National Product pie is only so big. Fighting for an ever-larger share through collective action could at this time result in a smaller pie, to everyone's detriment.

Elmer G. Wiens,
Victoria.

Inflaming right-wingers

I realize titling Gorde Hunter's column "One Man's Opinion" is intended to absolve your paper from blame for his opinions, but isn't it time you offered someone else's opinion?

Your excellent editorial Aug. 6 exposes the racism and vote-pandering of the Socreds' new "law and order" campaign for what it is. But on Aug. 8, you print Hunter's column where he defends their wrong-headed approach.

Hunter needs to understand that crime and poverty go hand-in-hand.

Let

Grim future with NDP

The New Democratic Party's minions who compose the majority of the executives of B.C.'s unions create the problems between unions and employers; and unions and the Social Credit government.

Over the years I have been a union member in good standing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the B.C. Government Employees' Union and other unions and employment associations and I have observed that most union members:

1. Want a decent wage and recognition that differentials in salary scales are necessary, for example, because higher qualifications require more education and experience.

2. Accept that a part of their union deductions is paid in support of the NDP, because they recognize its work to improve everyone's standard of living.

3. Accept that it is easier for the proverbial camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a non-NDP individual to be the president of her or his union.

When union contracts expire, it is the NDP-controlled executive which stimulates members to demand exorbitant wage increases and costly benefits.

An NDP government this fall will bring union strife: strikes, work slowdowns and lockouts like we have never experienced. Remember the Barrett government.

Elmer G. Wiens,
Victoria.

.Your Turn

The government wages to economic scale

Editor:

The annual payroll of the federal government has more than doubled over the last decade. What have our politicians, bureaucrats and central bankers provided for this largesse?

Canada's gross national product (GNP) has increased by 38 per cent over the last decade, but GNP per employed person has only increased by 12 per cent, the remaining 26 per cent due to the 23 per cent increase in the number of people employed.

Consumer prices have increased by 70 per cent with

another jolt expected soon from the GST and rising world oil prices.

Right now GNP is falling, the rates of inflation and unemployment are rising and the country is awash with uncertainty about economic prospects because of the GST, high rates of interest, a huge federal government debt and disunity from the Meech Lake accord.

Do we need economic incentives to ensure that Canada's policy makers provide us with a steady rate of growth of GNP and a low rate of inflation? Suppose the total payroll if the federal government was adjusted annually be the change in GNP less the rate of inflation (deflation) for that year.

Thus if GNP increased by five per cent and the rate of inflation was three per cent, then the total annual payroll of the federal government would increase by two per cent.

You can be sure that very quickly policies would be formulated and implemented to maximize GNP growth and employment with little or no inflation.

Let's use economic incentives on our politicians, bureaucrats and central bankers to give us what we want.



Elmer G. Wiens
Victoria

Serving the Communities of Saanich, Oak Bay, Courtenay Bay, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Port Alberni, Port Mudge, Port Williams, Port Moody and Victoria

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Letter of the Week

Labor unrest likely under NDP

Editor:

The New Democratic Party's minions who compose the majority of the executive of B.C.'s unions create the problems between unions and employers, and unions and the Social Credit government.

Over the years I have been a union member in in good standing of C.U.P.E., B.C.G.E.U. and other unions and employment associations and I have observed the following:

Most union members:

- want a decent wage and recognize that differentials in salary scales are necessary, for example, because higher qualifications require more education and experience.

- accept that a part of their union deductions are paid in support of the NDP, because they recognize its work to improve everyone's standard of living.

- accept that it is easier for the proverbial camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a non-NDP-controlled executive who foment the union members to demand exorbitant wage increases and costly benefits.

And NDP government this fall will bring union strife: strikes, work slowdowns and lockouts like we have never experienced.

Remember the Barrett government.

Elmer G. Wiens
South Quadra

'Meech Lake wipes aboriginal's rights'

THE EDITOR: The Meech Lake Accord has not given aboriginal rights the priority it deserves. Passed in 1982, the Constitution Act wanted further action on the "constitutional matters that directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada, including the identification and definition of the rights of those peoples to be included in the Constitution of Canada."

What happened on the way to Meech Lake? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! The Meech Lake Accord has vitiated the rights and claims of Canada's Aboriginal People and their descendants. Quebec did not even participate in the first Ministers Conference between 1983 and 1987.

What will happen to aboriginal consent for amendments to the constitution? To aboriginal representation in federal and provincial institutions?

The Conservatives and those elements of the other major parties who blithely support the Accord had better waken up.

**Elmer G. Wiens
Victoria**

found impact on British Columbia's trading pattern with the rest of Canada and the U.S.A. This will also have an important impact on B.C.'s transportation sector and the need to rethink policy regarding the provision of highway infrastructure.

B.C. will export a larger percentage of its resource based manufactured goods to the U.S.A.; a smaller percentage to the rest of Canada, because of the F.T.A.; B.C. could also import up to 20 per cent more from the U.S.A. and import 15 per cent fewer manufactured goods from central Canada.

Such a shift in the trade pattern of B.C. could double the north-south flow of products between B.C. and the U.S.A. over the next decade, along with a greater trade in services (i.e. transportation, insurance services).

Doubling exports plus imports with the U.S.A. over the next decade will require improvements in truck, rail, marine and air modes of transportation. Since trucking is the preferred carrier of manufactured and fabricated products, the increasing demand for the truck mode will require substantial improvements in north-south highway linkages and inter-modal networks.

Hopefully, B.C.'s Ministry of Transportation and Highways is aware of the effect that the F.T.A. will have.

*Elmer G. Wiens
Alder Street*

Profound impact

Dear Editor,

While opposition to the Canada-U.S.A. Free Trade Agreement (F.T.A.) persists, it undoubtedly is an established fact for the next decade. How must Canada and B.C. adjust in a post-F.T.A. world?

The elimination of tariffs between Canada and the U.S.A. could have a pro-

Write soon!

The Western News welcomes letters from readers, and reserves the right to edit for brevity, clarity and taste. Letters must bear the name of the author clearly typed or printed, and a telephone number for verification

The furore over the federal budget of the Conservatives is subsiding. But the legacy of a decade of large deficits threatens to consume us.

In 1988, interest payments on the federal public debt exceeded the total expenditures of the British Columbia and Alberta governments. In 1989 it is anticipated that these interest payments will exceed the government expenditure of all western provinces, Yukon and N.W.T.

Citizens of Canada are in a bind. Apparently we cannot afford the social programs to which we have grown accustomed. Federal funding of UI is gone. Federal transfers to provinces for health and post-secondary education are reduced substantially.

No sleight of hand economics can remove Canadians from this dilemma. Hopefully our elected representatives will be prudent enough to take the long, hard, road back to fiscal responsibility, full employment, and the best social programs.

Elmer G. Wiens
Victoria

Opinion_____

Your Write

Are unions preventing lower unemployment?

Editor,

In his budget Mel Couvelier claims that B.C.'s high unemployment rate (9.7 per cent estimated for 1989) is structural. Means to reduce structural unemployment have been used in the U.S.A. for years.

This involves projecting outputs and employment for each industry and training unemployed and new workers to fill the anticipated new job requirements.

These techniques are not new to the B.C. government.

Is our highly unionized economy and concomitant labor market rigidity preventing a lower rate of unemployment from being achieved by our "buoyant economy"?

Otherwise, the high rates of growth for each industry reported by Couvelier seem inconsistent with the notion of structural unemployment.

E.G. Wiens

Anti Meech Lake

Canada will be less democratic if the Meech Lake Accord becomes an amendment to the Constitution Act, 1982.

Presently, the House of Commons, with the support of seven provinces comprising 50% of Canada's population, can amend our constitution by adopting a resolution with respect to:

1. the method of selecting Senators,
2. number of Senators representing a province,
3. powers of the Senate,
4. establishment of new provinces and
5. method of selecting Supreme Court Judges.

The Senate can at most delay such amendments for 180 days if the House of Commons again adopts the resolution.

Clause 9 of the Meech Lake Accord will require unanimous consent of a resolution from Canada's ten provinces.

Canada needs elected Senators; balanced regional representation; increased powers of the Senate in regional economic matters; the Yukon and N.W.T. as new provinces; and a method of appointing Supreme Court Judges more like that of the U.S.A.

Traditionally, Ontario has been "at odds" with most other provinces over such constitutional initiatives. Consequently, unanimous consent to amendments are unlikely under the Meech Lake Accord.

Sincerely,
ELMER G. WIENS

SOME LETTERS WRITTEN AFTER THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

VANCOUVER COURIER SEPTEMBER 6, 1992

Where are the promised jobs?

To the editor:

The Conservatives' management of the economy has been eclipsed from public attention by the constitutional polemic. Yes, an elected and effective Senate with fair regional representation will improve the government's legislation and operation of the economy.

But what about all the jobs Mulroney promised?

Haven't the Progressive Conservatives noticed the erosion in employment? Just too busy saving Canada, I guess.

Elmer G. Wiens,
Vancouver

Unemployed citizens a wasted resource

To the editor:

The performance of the Canadian economy has deteriorated in each year since the 1988 federal election. Particularly hard hit by unemployment across Canada have been:

- Young people who are just leaving school and who are looking for their first job; and
- Men and women of middle age who have not kept up with the new

Too much advertising

To the editor:

I have always enjoyed The *Vancouver Courier* and have been a steady reader since 1980.

I have been appalled recently to note that the *Sunday Courier* brings

skills required in today's work place.

This does not bode well for the future of Canada. Young people have the energy to work hard and the ability to learn complicated job tasks. Older workers have the experience and judgment to co-ordinate the activities of fellow workers and to teach younger, inexperienced workers.

Why doesn't the federal government provide tax credits to business firms that create new jobs and provide training for people in these categories? Such tax credits could also be linked to investment in plant, machinery and equipment as capital investment is off by more than \$10 billion per year across Canada — another Conservative disaster in the making.

Elmer G. Wiens,
Vancouver

☐ Time to resign for Campbell

To The Editor,

Justice Minister Kim Campbell must be condemned for tolerating the gay rights legislation to be introduced in the House of Commons. In its partialness in protecting us from discrimination in employment and housing, but excluding us from marital status and spousal benefits, this legislation leaves lesbians and gay men defined as sick and perverted, a deviation, a mistake of nature.

Campbell had an option. She could have resigned from cabinet or, better still, from the Conservative party. She should have resigned, but she chose over Harvey Milk's dead body and the battered bodies and lives of hundreds of thousands of other lesbians and gay men not to do so.

We have had it, had it, had it. Campbell and her party apparently have not gotten the message after two decades of struggle. Kim Campbell must

therefore — and will — pay the price in the next federal election for her complicity in perpetuating gay oppression. Out of concern for today's children, some of whom are tomorrow's lesbians and gay men, she should resign.

Don Hann

☐ How the grinch stole headlines

To the Editor;

Recent photographs of Kim Campbell fudge what older photographs revealed — a thinly veiled grinch. Her proposed amendments to the Human Rights Act reveal that "grinchism" permeates the federal Conservative caucus.

Same-sex couples deserve the same rights, benefits and obligations as heterosexual couples. Families with members involved in same-sex conjugal relationships need the protection that a legal marriage, however defined, provides. The grinch is there; let's get rid of the grinch.

Elmer Wiens