

Rafe Mair

May 11, 2005

<http://www.rafeonline.com/showthread.php?t=3712>

It seems that Premier Gordon Campbell will not be coming on this show prior to the election, as promised. The reason, no doubt, is that he might actually have to answer some tough questions backed up with cross-examination. I frankly couldn't care less. Contrary to what politicians would have you believe, they are not good for ratings and, at any rate, we're not in ratings.

Let me this morning simply speak as a voter, and if the Premier were here, I would make the following comments.

I voted for you in 2001, Premier but there are a hell of a lot of things you have done and left undone that make it impossible to vote for you again.

I didn't expect you to ignore the Auditor-General's report and the report of the public servants in the Finance department, made available to you immediately after the election, demonstrating that **the NDP left a surplus of \$1.57 billion ...and since you knew that, I must point out to you that when you said "it was worse than we thought" and the province is in "a serious deficit" that you would tell such a clear falsehood.** Moreover, when you gave the well-off, a \$2 billion tax break on your first day in office, you gave the NDP surplus to the likes of me, not the homeless, the sick, the elderly in need of a long term bed or to those who badly need a helping hand.

I didn't expect that you would hire a kissing cousin of yours, Doug Walls, who was an undischarged bankrupt under investigation for stealing \$1 million, to look after \$600 million of our money in the Children and Families Ministry ... I didn't expect you to deny you knew the man, even saying that your wife doesn't know all her cousins when in fact Walls was a prominent Liberal, a man you had stayed with and that you had gone all the way to Prince George so you could lease a car from him.

I didn't think you would be so mean-spirited to instruct your Speaker to refuse party status to the NDP.

When I voted for you I didn't expect that you would renege, twice, on a deal with Crown prosecutors where both sides would accept the arbitrators' decision.

I did not expect the Campbell government to increase the public debt of this province by 4.3 billion dollars so that they could arrange a surplus in the last year to bribe the voters with.

I took you at your word when you promised you wouldn't sell BC Rail ... now are we to accept your word that you won't sell IV+CBC or BC Hydro?

I didn't expect the homeless to increase by 75% under Gordon Campbell.

I didn't ever expect to see my province as a place where a poor person, often mentally ill, could go to jail for begging.

I didn't elect the Campbell Liberals to see food banks increasing the number of children it serviced last year by over 41% and the adults by 16%.

I expected the Campbell government to keep its promise to build 5000 new Long Term Care beds. As listeners will know, this is likely the single most important Health problem because as the baby boomers get older, the shortage of long term beds becomes more important – the presence of long term patients in acute care beds is the main reason surgical lines are so long ... so we have this curious result – because older people who need long term care are in acute care beds, their seniors colleagues, perhaps family or friends, can't get the elective surgery required because there are not enough acute care beds.

I can't believe that the Premier, his health minister and his minister in charge of long term beds would make a promise to build 5000 long term beds and to make that promise on my show several times then renege. I cannot believe that suddenly, out of the blue, comes an excuse that there were too many LTC beds in bad shape so they had to look after them before building new beds ... an excuse that we didn't hear until Shirley Bond was made minister and she had to scramble for an excuse to get out of the credibility mess the government was in.

I didn't believe that Gordon Campbell would lift the moratorium on fish farming and then, after two Pink Salmon runs in the Broughton Archipelago were all but wiped out, would refuse to save this year's run by fallowing the fish cages which produced the sea lice that have been destroying the smolts as they migrate to sea. I honestly didn't believe my ears when you told my audience on March 1st this year that not only would he not help the wild salmon but that he would take no responsibility when the run fails next Fall!

I cannot believe that I heard the you in the leaders' debate boast that you had reduced unemployment in an aboriginal Village from 85% to 30 % ... that instead of being ashamed of yourself, you would boast about coming to the aid of native villagers by bringing in a filthy business like fish farming, thus insulting them, and further damaging wild salmon stocks the absence of which is what caused the villagers the problem in the first place.

And this leads me to the future – I cannot support a man and a party that is going to hand out fish farm licenses all up and down the coast as soon as he is elected and will open up the British Columbia wilderness to his pals, both here and abroad, so that tourists can shoot our Grizzly bears and Mountain Sheep.

Moreover, I don't believe that the present prosperity has much if anything to do with the Liberals and everything to do with the increase of commodity prices over which the provincial government has no control whatever.

This premier and this government, with a couple of exceptions, have been mean-spirited, philosophically opposed to helping those who need it, destructive in the extreme of the environment and come to the people with no vision except to say elect us, we're better than the NDP.

Make the environment an issue – it's yours to lose

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