

Subject: [Fwd: FW:]

Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2004 12:16:04 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: FW:

Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:57:03 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Cagebc@yahoo.com

Hello Dave.

I don't think for a moment that Don Bell has stolen from the District and I never said so. What I did say is that Don Bell has unwittingly set the stage for other people to steal. This was accomplished by not being on guard and it was done by failing to provide any kind of strong leadership as Mayor.

It was also accomplished by shooting the messengers, which includes people like me. The man has done everything possible in his power as Mayor to make life difficult for me and for no other reason than that I pointed out that there is something foul in the state of Denmark and on more than one occasion. Unfortunately he had the enthusiastic help of the other members of Council who are as guilty as he is.

As to his wish to go to Ottawa? I do not for one moment believe that there are not many good, honest and sincere rank and file Liberals. I am sure that they are as disgusted as the rest of Canada is at the corruption that has now come to light. I, for one, am not surprised. The only thing surprising is that so many people seem to be surprised. It shows once again the truism of Lincoln's prophesy that you can fool most of the people most of the time. I am not a preacher but, when you have a society which seems to be based on the "I'm all right Jack philosophy" it should not be surprising that such things are going on.

The solution of course is for people to take more control. To this extent our system of governance is badly lacking. This kind of corruption could never happen for example where government spending is subject to referendum approval. It works in large as well as small jurisdictions. It is called "Direct Democracy" but when we tried to introduce it in the District it was turned down by Don Bell and his friends on Council even though it has worked well in other jurisdiction including in Rossland B.C. The District Heritage Fund fiasco could never have been achieved had we such a system in the District.

However, I firmly believe that Don Bell, were he elected to Ottawa, would not lift a finger or play any kind of strong leadership any more than he did as Mayor of the District. I learned a long time ago that people who cannot do small jobs cannot do big jobs well, and being Mayor of the District certainly was not a small job. Don Bell is not a leader, never has been and never will be. He is a salesman with an instinct for survival and with a good memory and that is all. In my opinion, the District was not well served by his being Mayor.

I hope this answers your question.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist