

OBSERVATION**TRUST IS A WONDEROUS THING, IS IT NOT ?**

Trust must be one of the most important commodities in the world, today.

It is so important that authoritarian governments take delight and feel duty bound to let their populations know that the populations are not to be trusted; and, that the government is the guardian of all that is held to be sacred, right and pure.

Anti-populists maintain that the State must be protected from the population of that State, and so the most expedient methods are employed to guarantee that the individuals, within the authoritarian State, do not oppose, or defeat the aims and objects of, the State: The control of the population.

In the Western World, the opposite view is held: The individual, within the State, must be protected from the State.

Which brings one to the matter of the Confederation of Canada, a country, which prides itself on its Parliamentary Democracy.

Taxation in Canada is among the highest in the world, but the country is so beautiful and the way of life is so inviting that Canadian residents are willing to pay the penalty for the right to live in the country, one of the largest in terms of landmasses in the world.

However, the population of the country, numbering about 30 million people, is far from being trusted by the appointed Government of the day and, as such, the Government appears to be protecting itself from the people -- and their assumed dishonesty -- by making it mandatory that, when they travel abroad, they register all of their belongings with Canadian Customs, before boarding a flight, boat, or whatever.

At the airports in Canada, residents of the country are encouraged -- translated: Required -- to declare what they are taking out of the country: Watches; rings; necklaces; cameras; laptop computers; or, anything that appears to have any kind of a value.

Failure to obtain a Canadian Customs Declaration Form, listing the goods, being taken out of the country, prior to leaving, is likely to result in the Canadian resident, being accused of trying to smuggle the items into the country on his return.

And if sufficient documentary proof cannot be found by the returning resident, satisfying and confirming that the goods, being brought back into the country, were purchased in Canada, then the resident could find himself paying a tax, and a penalty, for bringing back goods into the country -- which originated in that country.

In most cases, items, imported into Canada, are subject to hefty Canadian taxation, which can range from 30 percent to 100 percent of the retail purchase price of small items, such as mentioned in the above list, in other countries.

By innuendo, what Canadian Customs is saying, by making the registration of all '*valuable*' items, taken temporarily out of the country by residents, is that the resident travelling population of the country is, basically, dishonest.

As such, the country must be protected from such a disreputable bunch of crooks.

The last time that this observer recalls a similar incident was in December 1971 when, on travelling to the then Eastern Germany, as a guest of that Government, this observer was required to list all the items in his possession.

This included the number of leather belts, leather coats, leather shoes, watches, rings, pens, amount of foreign exchange, portable typewriters, and any other items which could, in the opinion of East Berlin Custom's officials, be used as illegal barter goods for East German goods.

Strangely, at the time, there was little in East Germany that any Western observer would want: Even the food was atrocious.

The point was that the former East German Government officials did not trust the population of East Germany; and, certainly, did not trust foreigners, entering the territory, for fear that freedom-loving people may corrupt the captive population of East Germany.

There is a similarity to be drawn from the former East German Government's position and that of today's Canadian Government's position: Neither trusted its respective human populations.

Further, there appears to be little difference to the way that the former East German Government treated its population to the way that the Canadian Government treats its travelling population, today, in respect of trust.

But Canadians, like the former East Germans, appear to suffer in silence and make no complaint, trudging down to the Canadian Customs offices, and having all their valuable belongings, recorded by the Government in order to prove their honesty.

It is interesting that the population has to prove its honesty, rather than the Canadian Government prove its trust in its 30 million human population.

Without question, Canada is one of the most wonderful countries in which to live, today, but one wonders as to the reason that there is such a low level of trust, manifested by officials of the democratically elected Government.

Even Canada's southern neighbour, the United States of America, does not impose such onerous exit and entry requirements on its residents.

Then again, the US Government maintains that the individual requires to be protected from the State, doesn't it?

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