

**Here is something from the <http://real-ckln.blogspot.com/> blog put up by "CKLN insider", about Lehrer. Worth a read.**

**Monday, 1 August, 2011**

**[How "Fat Bastard" Andrew Lehrer got his fat ass kicked out of the NDP](#)**

CKLN's Dear Leader Andrew Lehrer (AKA "Fat Bastard") has a long scheming history of involvement in the shadowy underworld of professional left wing activism going back to the mid 1990's; The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), The Ontario Coalition against Poverty (OCAP), The Federation of Metro Tenants (FTMA), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Independent Jewish Voices, and Socialist Alternatives. Of course like any ambitious left wing activist Fat Bastard tried to worm his way up the ranks of the NDP. Back in the late 1990's Fat Bastard was a member of a left wing group inside the NDP called "The Socialist Caucus" that included such figures like Mike Laxer (son of writer and former NDP left wing leader Jim Laxer), and was headed by Joe Flexer, a veteran activist from the 1960's originally from Israel.

Back in 1999 Fat Bastard Andrew Lehrer was acting as web server for the NDP's Socialist Caucus when he abruptly got his fat ass kicked out by Flexer as revealed in these email postings from the desk of Fat Bastard himself. First the original posting sent out to NDP members by Flexer;

-Joe Flexer wrote:

To all New Democrats.

During a Socialist Caucus meeting at the end of the recent ONDP convention in Hamilton Andy Lehrer in a speech to the Caucus advocated the abandonment of the NDP, the creation of a "new workers party" and the running of candidates in provincial and federal elections against what he called "right wing NDP candidates".

Since these positions are contrary to the political basis of unity of the Socialist Caucus and if put into practice would violate the conditions of NDP membership Andy has by his own acts removed himself from the Socialist Caucus.

Sincerely;  
Joe Flexer  
Marcel Hatch  
Barry Weisleder  
Co -Chairs  
NDP Socialist Caucus--

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From alehrer at [sprint.ca](mailto:sprint.ca) Mon Jun 19 12:12:56 2000

From: alehrer at [sprint.ca](mailto:sprint.ca) (Andy L)  
Date: Fri Dec 15 09:50:44 2006  
Subject: M-TH: My Expulsion from Socialist Caucus  
Message-ID: <[394E6291.333AA5D6@sprint.ca](mailto:394E6291.333AA5D6@sprint.ca)>

Following [Sunday]'s Socialist Caucus meeting at the ONDP convention, ONDP Socialist Caucus co-chair Joe Flexer informed me that I've been expelled from the Socialist Caucus, or as he put it "where do you want us to post your resignation from the Socialist Caucus?"

What is the process by which one is expelled from the Socialist Caucus you ask? Well, apparantly pissing off Joe seems to be sufficient.

Once upon a time I ran the Socialist Caucus website and the SC listserv.

In fact, I build the site from scratch putting at least 40 hours of work into it. I decided it would be a good idea to put links on the site to various articles from the left press about the NDP. I was very non-sectarian in doing this, I included links to

articles from Socialist

Action (I even listed them first) as well as the Freedom Socialist, Socialist Worker, the NDP Left Opposition website and the Socialist which is the newspaper of my group Socialist Alternative. Joe insisted that I remove the link to the Socialist Alternative articles because Socialist Alternative calls for the creation of a new workers' party. A demand with which Joe disagrees (at least publicly).

I refused. I asked on what authority could he demand this. He then got Barry and Marcel to join in the demand. I argued since the co-chairs of socialist caucus are only supposed to be spokespeople and that since it's the federal SC steering committee that is supposed to deal with matters of policy that I would only agree to remove the link after a democratic debate and vote by the Steering Committee. They insisted this wasn't necessary. Now, I had volunteered to be on the federal NDP SC Steering Committee at the last federal election and was somewhat dismayed that it had never been consulted.

Since the federal steering committee consisted of people from all over the country I could understand why meetings could not be held but I didn't understand why there had been no email list established for committee members and why there had been no consultation whatsoever at any time with the steering committee.

After endless arguing with Joe, Barry and Marcel I finally decided I'd had enough and resigned as webmaster and listserv operator.

Rather than sabotage the website or simply erase it I sent Marcel the passwords and detailed instructions on how the site is operated. Same with the email listserv. The next day I found myself banned from the listserv. I was told that this was because of my advocacy of a "new workers party"

I posted emails on the zoo (predecessor of trillum and mouseland) about the situation. Rather gentle emails actually which avoided criticism as much as possible but which suggested that perhaps this was not really very respectful of free speech or democracy.

Other people on the Zoo started a half tongue in cheek, half serious "Justice for the Socialist Caucus One" campaign. Barry, Joe and Marcel were forced to try to defend their position. They didn't put forward a very convincing argument (how could they?) and their statement on the matter was torn to shreds by all and sundry.

After a few days of this Joe called me and suggested that we meet. I agreed and we met at a coffee shop. Joe told me that I would be allowed back on to the Socialist Caucus listserv if I signed a letter that stated that I would resign from the Socialist Caucus if I posted any emails to the Socialist Caucus listserv advocating the creation of a new workers' party or if I posted any such emails to any other ndp lists

advocating the creation of a new workers' party without also making clear that I was speaking for myself and not the Socialist Caucus. I have a copy of the letter in my files but haven't looked at it since.

Anyway, at the time, I looked at the letter and thought that it was completely ridiculous and nothing more but a facile attempt to bully me.

But, since I was tired of the whole dispute and thought it was all a

waste of time I signed it. Another reason I signed it was since the Socialist Caucus has no "membership" as such (remember, groups can get expelled from the NDP for being a "party within a party") a letter stating that I was resigning from the Socialist Caucus was absolutely meaningless. You can no more "resign" from the Socialist Caucus than you can resign from the human race. (Ok, a bit of an exaggerated comparison but you get the picture.)

More recently I've had disputes, heated disputes, with the co-chairs on other issues. My relationship has deteriorated profoundly since I started expressing interest in the Rebuilding the Left conference.

When I argued that there should be a Socialist Caucus newspaper, even something as modest as a photocopied magazine in the same format as the ONDY paper, published once or twice a year as a voice of the Socialist Caucus and a forum for debate. Rather than respond to my arguments the co-chairs responded with vicious personal attacks over email.

More recently, I asked whether or not the co-chairs were being hypocritical, or opportunistic, by inviting John Clarke to speak. The co-chairs attacked me repeatedly for my views on Rebuilding the Left and then they invite Clarke, an endorser of the conference who is listed as a member of the conference organising committee, to speak. Again, rather than give me an explanation for their reasoning they again replied with vicious personal attack.

Fortunately I've saved every email I've received from Marcel, Barry

and Joe over the past year so I can prove everything I'm saying just in case they respond by calling me a liar.

Anyway at today's Socialist Caucus meeting I quoted declining attendance figures from various key SC events over the past 2 and a half years and (60 at the meeting at the end of the 1998 ONDP convention, 70 at the founding SC conference, 40 at the second SC conference, 28 at [Sunday]'s meeting [I counted the numbers there just before I first spoke which was a few minutes after John Clarke left, there had been a few more people who were there just to hear the Clarke speech]) the failure of SC to accomplish anything at convention (no motions or referrals passed or even voted upon, poor election results with the exception of Barry who gave a speech based on his resume without even mention the Socialist Caucus or the word socialist) in order to argue that it was clear that the left was in decline in the NDP and that the Socialist Caucus had limited options if it restricted itself purely to NDP work.

I argued that Socialist Caucus should participate in the Rebuilding the Left conference and project in order to be able to pressure the NDP to turn left from both inside \*and\* outside the NDP as it was clear that the SC tactic of only pressuring the NDP from within was a failure. [I also argued, as I had at the Socialist Caucus meeting during the federal convention in Ottawa that the SC should run for NDP nominations against right wing NDP candidates and even run as SC candidates in general elections in ridings where right wing NDPers have been nominated].

I also moved a motion that co-chairs of the SC should be directly

elected.

The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned before we could have an election. It was after the meeting that Joe informed me of my "resignation."

Last summer during the first of my disputes I ran into Joe at Allan Gardens (during the Safe Park). I accused Joe, in person, of making up the rules for Socialist Caucus arbitrarily as he goes along and changing them as the situation suits him. Rather than dispute this he replied "that's right, the rules are what I say they are." And so goes democracy within the Socialist Caucus.

Andy" (sic)

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Some background here; Back in the 1970's a group of left wing activists within the NDP, led by Jim Laxer, formed a group called "The Waffle" which sought seize power in the party and drive the NDP to the far left. They lost. And eventually got booted out of the NDP by the then leaders David and Stephen Lewis when they made the mistake of calling for the formation of a new "Socialist Party". The NDP constitution has a rule stating that party members may not be a member of another political party nor call for the dissolution of the NDP. You wouldn't think they would need such a rule but the NDP does attract more than it's fair quota of nutbars. Speed ahead a few years to the mid 1990's and veteran activist Joe Flexer leads a new "Socialist Caucus" in which Fat Bastard has become a leading member and webmaster after a career as a scheming activist for the NDP aligned Canadian Federation of Students.  
(more on that in a future posting)

With the illusion of power going to his ego Fat Bastard began calling for the breakup of the NDP and the formation of a new "Socialist Party" in clear violation of the NDP's rules. Being well aware of these rules Flexer told Fat Bastard to shut his fat face or risk getting the whole caucus getting booted out.

Fat Bastard was forced to resign as webmaster and signed an agreement promising not to shoot his smug mouth off again about breaking up the NDP. And that should have been the end of that.

But no...not with Fat Bastard Andy Lehrer on the case.

Another piece of background info; By 1999 Joe Flexer was in his 60's

and a very sick man who was in fact dying of heart disease, so Fat

Bastard figured that he could challenge his leadership and get away with it.

But he reckoned without Flexer's annoyance at Fat Bastard's smug backstabbing and so he roused himself from his deathbed long

enough to put the boots to Fat Bastard. Flexer obviously knew who

he was dealing with and had in fact prepared the ground for this probability;

1. He warns Fat Bastard to cease calling for the breakup of the NDP and the formation of a new "Socialist Party" in clear violation of NDP party rules.

2. He gets Fat Bastard to sign an agreement to this effect which includes a pre-written resignation (this is commonly used in political parties). Fat Bastard signs it.

3. Later as Flexer's health declines Fat Bastard blithely ignores his warning and gives a speech calling for the formation of a new socialist party.

4. Flexer rises from his death bed long enough to kick Fat Bastard's fat ass out the door with a bland email saying simply "Where would you like me to post your resignation letter?"

BAM!!! HELL YEAH!!! Nicely done! I hope it made Flexer feel better.

As it happens Flexer died within a year and Fat Bastard was able to eventually weasel his way back into the NDP via various other left wing activist groups. In 2008 Bastard began to involve himself in a left wing plot to seize control of CKLN and after a long vicious campaign manages to scheme his way all the way to the CKLN Board of Directors and de facto control of the station. Under his rule the CKLN airwaves quickly became packed with NDP officials and candidates in time for the municipal and federal elections. Fat Bastard and his cronies obviously figured that they could use their control of a radio station as a path to political power within the NDP.

Only to blow it all in historic fashion by losing the station's broadcast license. Altogether now; "Awww...Poor baby. All that plotting, scheming and back stabbing for nothing".

Reading Fat Bastard Andy Lehrer's plaintive whining about the beatdown he got from Flexer, with Fat Bastard's sanctimonious claims that he was only defending freedom of speech, strict adherence to rules and bylaws and strict neutrality of membership rolls and votes would almost be enough to convince you he is the noble champion of the oppressed he always claims to be. If it weren't for the fact that in his short iron rule over CKLN or the FTMA (where is was also a board member) he consistently showed his utter contempt for these exact same principles when applied to anybody he disagreed with, and his willingness to bully and purge to crush any dissent.

As for the NDP? Well once again Fat Bastard Andy Lehrer let the illusion of power go to his head and once again began calling for a new socialist party, finally getting shown the door once again, marching out in a huff with a few other cronies like Mike Laxer to

form what they call "The Socialist Party of Ontario" just in time to see the NDP suddenly become the official opposition in the 2011 election.

Nice timing! I swear Fat Bastard would buy a lottery ticket AFTER the draw.

The website for the new "Socialist Party" can be found at;

<http://www.thegingerproject.org/>

Which lists the party executive as;

-The Executive of the Socialist Party of Ontario as elected May 28, 2011

Chairperson: Andy Lehrer  
Spokespersons: Jan Maxwell & Michael Laxer  
Membership Secretary: Jason Baines  
Organizing Coordinator: Jack Forrestall  
Treasurer: Joey Schwartz  
Fundraising Secretary: Liz McLean  
LGBT Coordinator: Leia Rowan Kelly  
Women's Coordinator: Natalie Lochwin  
Diversity Coordinator: Keith Pinto  
Labour Coordinator: Scott Mcwhinnie