

## **The Dutch Kuyper Tradition of Pluralism<sup>1</sup>**

**Thanks to Douglas Todd for his fine series on religion in the marketplace. The Dutch creativity, he notes with respect to the social role of religion (August 2, C2), was not due to tolerant liberals. The system developed in bitter battle *against* intolerant liberals who invented the secular block still applied in Canada today. It was Abraham Kuyper and his Christian supporters who devised the thorough-going pluralism still in vogue there. They even insisted on giving equal opportunity to their opponents! It was the liberals who sought to restrict the expressions of all worldviews but their own, as they still do in Canada.**

**Todd, you don't have to go to The Netherlands to study the system. The Christian Reformed Church has spawned many social and academic expressions of this system here in Canada. An extensive school system is based on it. Several undergraduate colleges teach this pluralism in Canada. The post-graduate Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto is devoted to it. The Christian Labour Association of Canada and Citizens for Public Justice, both active and fully indigenous Canadian institutions, are expressions of it. One of their founding fathers, Gerald Vanderzande, was recently awarded the Order of Canada. Its adherents and institutions and their graduates are found throughout Canadian culture. As to those churches, you can find them right here in your local Yellow Pages.**

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<sup>1</sup> Letter to the Editor, *VS*, 4 Apr/2003. *Every Square Inch*, vol. 4, pp. 51, 81-82.