

interested in the rights of individuals," he said, "it is time for us to sit back and take stock."

A writer in that staunch old Liberal organ, the Winnipeg Free Press, summed up the government's problem a week ago when he advised that, "while the admission of error is always unpalatable, the alternative for a government with Liberal principles would probably be a good deal worse. The ministers have this in common with Mr. Spencer: they too are under close surveillance."

And a good thing, too, for all concerned!

Consumer Week

"Among the many economic interests all Canadians have in common, perhaps the one that comes closest to being universal arises from our common role, day-to-day, as consumers." Thus writes Prime Minister Pearson in a letter extending good wishes, personally and on behalf of the government, to the Consumers Association of Canada on the opening of its national campaign to increase its membership and broaden its services to consumers in every province. This week is being observed as Consumer Week in connection with this campaign, and certainly it is one which merits widespread support.

Originally founded in 1947 to help Canadians buy wisely in the post-war period of inflation, the Consumers Association's work was soon extended to related fields. Hygienic production and distribution of foodstuffs, honest advertising and the abolition of resale price maintenance became its concern. As the needs of the consumers changed, so did the association change. Within a loose federation of local branches, strong provincial and national organizations were developed. The consumer's case was put effectively to government and to industry.

Membership had initially been confined to women. When the constitution was changed, more and more men—chemists, engineers, civil servants, teachers—joined the association, until almost every walk of life is represented today.

This, of course, is not a movement confined to Canada. While here it is struggling to reach a 20,000 membership figure, its British counterpart has close on half a million members. Its income of less than \$100,000 may be compared with the six million dollars a year which Consumers Union in the United States has at its disposal. Nevertheless, the Canadian association has done excellent work in obtaining legislation to protect the consumer, in seeking to put the consumer's view to industry and to help Canadians get better value for their dollar.

1965 was a year of consolidation for the organization. It looks to 1966 as a year of progress, and we wish it every success in its endeavors.

Parliament Wins

The reversal of the Pearson government's previous stand in refusing an inquiry into the Spencer case was rightly hailed by Opposition Leader Diefenbaker as an indication of "the power of Parliament to preserve human rights." It also afforded an example of governmental befuddlement and obfuscation rarely paralleled in Canadian political history.

The Prime Minister acted wisely in finally yielding to the storm of criticism the government's policy had provoked. But it was humiliating that he should have to do this after having assured Parliament that all was well and that the alleged spy whose right to a proper hearing with regard to the manner of his dismissal from the civil service was in issue, had throughout been treated with "scrupulous fairness." His minister of justice and solicitor-general were still harping on this theme, and insisting that even a closed legal hearing could not be justified, when Mr. Pearson pulled the rug from under them by announcing his capitulation.

It will be noted that Mr. Diefenbaker spoke of the triumph of "Parliament," not of the Opposition alone, in forcing the issue to a showdown. One of the most outspoken critics of the government's policy had indeed been a Toronto Liberal, Ralph Cowan, who relentlessly compared the answers given in the Spencer case with those offered earlier in the affair of Lucien Rivard, and accused the government of "trampling on the rights of every Canadian."

Mr. Mackasey, Liberal member for Verdun, was not very far behind in demanding that "if a man like Spencer cannot have his case presented to the House of Commons, the highest court of the land, where can he turn for protection?" "If this high court becomes so callous that we are not in-



HELICOPTERS OVER VIET NAM

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Efforts To Broaden Divorce Law Grounds

An unprecedented number of MPs have introduced bills intended to broaden the grounds upon which Canadians may obtain divorce. And a similarly unprecedented move by the government suggests that Prime Minister Pearson and his cabinet colleagues have decided to lead Canada out of the biblical dogma that marriages are forever.

Jim Byrne from Kootenay East would simply add to adultery the three reasons: incurable mental illness, desertion, and frequent conviction for crime resulting in prison sentences totalling at least three years. At the other end of the scale Arnold Peters, New Democrat for Timiskaming, suggests twenty-one grounds for divorce while Ian Wahn, Liberal MP for Toronto-St. Pauls, sets out twelve grounds.

Perhaps the bill which will be studied with the greatest respect is C-133 introduced by Conservative Bob McCleave of Halifax. This is worded exactly the same as Senate bill S-19 introduced in the Upper Chamber by Liberal Roebuck of Toronto. These two worked in close harmony for several years in processing the annual six hundred or more divorce cases from Quebec and Newfoundland submitted to the Senate Divorce Committee and thence

through the House of Commons. So they have considerable experience of the problems attendant upon broken marriages. But this bill would add, to adultery, only the additional grounds of desertion for three years, cruelty, and insanity over five years. Many MPs, now as never before determined that the time has come to loosen our divorce practice, would include some of the other grounds proposed by Parliament's Hill's "group of seven." Some of these are failure to pay maintenance; attempting to murder or grievously harm the spouse; the commission of rape, sodomy or bestiality; refusal to consummate the marriage; inability to maintain a normal marital relationship through excessive use of alcohol or drugs; and "absence" which is defined as "the defendant having been declared dead by a court of competent jurisdiction."

Commendable though their arguments may be, health officials and public-spirited members of Parliament who are urging Ottawa to require printed health warnings on cigarette packages are wasting their time. After a long and bitter battle in Washington, compromise legislation was passed last year and American cigarettes now come in packages bearing a small-type legend warning that smoking may be injurious. "May" is a mild word. Statistically, the link between cigarettes and lung cancer and circulatory ailments has been proved to the hilt for more than a quarter of a century. But cigarette sales go up, up and up.

Any amateur psychologist understands he's endangering his life, and has decided to take the risk. He just might be lucky. When the smoker goes through the act of buying another pack he does so to enjoy a puff—not to read the package.

Wasting Their Time

London Free Press

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Computers Can Do It

Milwaukee Journal

Imagine, if you can, multiplying 10 digit numbers correctly in a millionth of a second. A computer can do it. Until recently these amazing machines could store about 50,000 to 100,000 numbers and retrieve each with precision and fantastic speed. Now computers are available with storages of 250,000 numbers. Miniaturization techniques are being developed that will shortly produce computers with storages of millions of numbers. Reflecting on this development recently, Dr. Richard Bellman,

professor of mathematics, medicine and engineering at the University of Southern California, remarked: "Computers have irrevocably changed the world." Yet, most individuals who make decisions and hold positions of power, are unaware of the intellectual revolution brought about by these new information handling machines. Bellman believes that the present use of computers in the scientific, engineering and business worlds is trivial compared to what they can do to solve problems of everyday living. "For the first time in history, we are at a point where Americans can have a choice to find out what is on the moon, what is inside an atomic nucleus, or how to solve the problems of heart trouble," he said. Bellman's observations weren't original. Others have said much the same thing. Still, it is always exciting, if sobering, to have emphasized anew the potential of computers for mankind's good.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 7, 1941) Dispatches from Sofia, where the German censorship functioned rigidly, indicated that Hitler had his hand on the bell ready to signal the advance of his army, possibly into Greece, but later information said that German spokesmen predicted a quiet weekend in the Balkans.

The Daily Telegraph said in a dispatch from its Lisbon correspondent that 300,000 German soldiers and airmen were then in Italy.

TEN YEARS AGO

(March 7, 1956) Senator Iva Campbell Falls, 62, the first woman belonging to the Conservative Party to be appointed to the Canadian Senate, died in hospital in Peterborough, Ont. An Italian priest's deathbed wish came true when a 12-year-old boy lunched forward in his hospital bed in Milan, Italy, and shouted "I can see. I can see." The cornea of the priest's eyes had made it possible. Father Gnocchi bequeathed his eyes as he lay dying, expressed the hope that they would "remain alive through a child." The blind boy was made to see just 12 hours after the priest had died of cancer.

I am, Sir, etc., ARCHIE CLARK Summerside.

Air Pollution Health Aspects

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen The air we breathe has been polluted since man first lit a fire. Waste is exhaled from every community and it is difficult to incriminate any particular culprit. Progress has been made where dirty air stemmed from inefficient combustion of soft coal in industrial and home furnaces. Los Angeles has a problem that goes beyond smog and smoke. It is engine exhaust and sunshine. Certain unburned hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides react chemically to the rays of the sun. The city is plagued with thermal inversion in which warm air lies above cooler air—a phenomenon that is just the opposite to all the laws of physics.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"Billy, get your little brother's hat out of that mud puddle." "I can't, Ma. He's got it strapped too tight under his chin." — Toronto Star. On his way out of church last Sunday, a young man stopped at the door for a few words with the minister. "Would it be right" he asked, "for a person to profit from the mistakes of another?" "Absolutely not" replied the pastor. "In that case," said the young man, "I wonder if you would consider returning the ten dollars I paid you when you married my wife and me last August?" — Montreal Star.

A computer can spot teacher prejudices, experts have decided. Old-timers will recall that a way back red, rosy apples were supposed to produce similar results. — Vancouver Sun. Patient — "Doctor, I'm bothered with a queer pain. When I bend forward, stretch out my arms and make a semicircular movement with them, a sharp sting comes in my left shoulder." Doctor — "But why make such motions?" Patient — "Well, if you know any other way for a man to get on his overcoat, I wish you'd let me know." — Montreal Star.

African Nationalism

By Joseph MacSweeney Canadian Press Staff Writer The split over Ghana's new military regime shows Africa has a long way to go before achieving anything like real continental unity — and small wonder.

Walkouts from the Addis Ababa meeting of the 36-nation Organization of African Unity have aggravated frictions already existing over Rhodesia's defiant white supremacists. To many diplomats the wonder is not that the OAU is having difficulties but that it ever came into existence at all. From one standpoint, the struggling and largely impoverished African nations managed to establish in a few years of independence what has eluded Europe for centuries. But only nine of the 36 have followed a previous OAU meeting's dictum to break relations with Britain unless Prime Minister Wilson employed force to overthrow the Rhodesian rebel regime.

Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah was a prime mover in that recommendation and, indeed, in all aspects of the OAU on which some of his fellow leaders have long suspected he hoped to ride to pan-African dominance. Now that Nkrumah is more occupied with trying to overthrow the illegal regime in Rhodesia, the whole exercise has assumed an air of unreality to observers. The danger and even likelihood is that frustrations will increase with consequent further strains on the OAU. Oil shipments to Rhodesia, despite an international embargo, appear to be increasing.

A Little Of Everything

New York Times

March hasn't a really verdant ring to its name, but still — it doesn't have the brusque sound of February. And it is worth remembering that the Roman god who gave his name to March was a god not only of war but of growing things, of life renewed in root and branch. March was the beginning of a new year in the early calendar: a time of hope and change for the better. The March we know, thanks to the weather patterns that make our climate, is a little of everything. It can be snow and ice, and it can be cold and sullen rain. It can also be balmy days and clear skies and greening grass along the brooks. It usually is pussy willows opening their silvery catkins; spring peepers yelping and red-wings and robins back from the south. It brings crocuses to bloom, sometimes with grimy snowbanks still at the roadsides. You never know whether a March tomorrow is going to be an invitation to an early case of spring fever or a belated dose of sniffles.

NOT SCABIES

Mrs. P. writes: Can scabies attack the scalp?

REPLY Not as a rule. Scabies prefers the webs of the fingers, the armpits, and the abdominal areas.

PROMOTES ENERGY

L. W. writes: What is glucose and what is it used for?

REPLY It is sugar that the body uses for energy.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Beware of medical quackery. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

PLODDED THE MILES

DIGBY, N.S. (CP) — Lloyd Mullen, 60, estimates he covered 83,000 miles as a rural postman before his retirement after 42 years. He walked for the first few years and later bought a bicycle, but has never used a horse or a car for his rounds.

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