

How Much In Taxes?

Unlike many members of his profession in some of the other provinces, Dr. Bonnell seems to be wholeheartedly for the proposed federal medicare plan and was highly critical, in his speech on the Draft Address in the Legislature the other day, of the Shaw government's failure to announce its participation in it. He did not say how the government was going to raise the revenue to do this, under the terms insisted upon at Ottawa. Only three provinces, indeed, have so far given a firm indication of doing so. The fact is that the costs will be so high that even the wealthy provinces are doubtful of their ability to finance their share of it.

Dr. Bonnell's argument is that if we don't accept the federal offer to pay half the cost, we still will have to pay our taxes and share of the cost of medicare plans for people in other provinces. This is very true, as we have pointed out in these columns on several occasions. But the blame for putting us on the horns of this dilemma does not lie with the local government but with the authorities at Ottawa. The same problem arises in connection with other shared-cost programs, but the financial involvement here is much greater. There are funds to be allocated to the provinces in meeting their obligation in this regard, but we do not yet know what our proportion of these funds will be, and there is reason to fear that it will fall considerably short of our requirements.

What is important, surely, is that we know precisely where we stand in the matter, and that we speak with united voice in pressing our claims for special consideration in view of our very limited tax potential. We all know that universal medicare would be a godsend to many of our people, and we should make every effort to bring it into effect as soon as possible. But we still haven't got the price tag, and our government has a responsibility here which Dr. Bonnell, were he in office, would be the first to appreciate.

What seems evident is that the Opposition, scenting an election in the offing and well aware of the vote-catching possibilities of the federal medicare scheme, intends to ride it for all it is worth. We suggest, in the circumstances, that the government concentrate on throwing the fullest possible light on the problem our taxpayers are confronted with in this issue. It has, we believe, a strong case. But it could lose out by playing its cards too close to its chest.

A Sorry Mess

A spokesman for Prime Minister Pearson has stated that he had been authorized "to deny completely and categorically published and broadcast reports that he plans to resign or that he indicated any such intention." Ordinarily this would have satisfied the public mind. But so many of Mr. Pearson's plans have gone askew of late, and he has demonstrated such little ability to make decisions and stick to them, that even his own supporters would hesitate to gamble on what he may do a week, a month, or three months from now.

What does seem apparent is that for the first time since he took over as Liberal leader, there has been talk of revolt in the Cabinet and caucus. The Toronto Telegram reports that a consensus of top Liberals, confirming these developments, is that the PM's resignation may come this summer, with a leadership convention in the fall. The Montreal Star reports some ministers as suggesting they would welcome his replacement by a caretaker leader such as External Affairs Minister Paul Martin, though they recognize that Mr. Martin is not likely to take office briefly and then

gracefully resign to Finance Minister Sharp, Defense Minister Hellyer or Trade Minister Winters.

What is certain is that what started out as a minor spy case, through governmental bungling on an almost incredible scale has erupted in a crisis of major proportions. An almost comic opera touch was given to it by the spectacle of a harassed and vacillating head of government offering to use a monitored telephone to call the spy suspect for direction, and leaving three members of his Cabinet—Justice Minister Cardin, Solicitor-General Pennell and Minister without Portfolio John Turner, in the humiliating position of being publicly overruled.

There was nothing comic, however, about Mr. Cardin's attempt to get back at the Opposition by suggesting in the House that Mr. Diefenbaker had improperly handled a sex-and-security scandal involving a member of his government, and later in stating, at a press conference, that "two or more ministers" of the former Diefenbaker cabinet were involved. He claimed to have discovered this when he was associate defense minister back in 1963-64 and that the RCMP had taken the information to former justice minister, Davie Fulton.

The Conservatives have branded this as a malicious attempt at blackmail and have demanded that Mr. Cardin either back up his charges or resign. This is the proper parliamentary practice, and it should be insisted upon. The scandal has all the smell of a rotten red herring, and it could bring down more than Mr. Cardin before it is cleaned up.

Poor Old Alberta

Not so very long ago, Alberta's bond-borrowing difficulties made it a problem child for the rest of the Confederation family. But in recent years its prosperity has verged on the fabulous. Fabulous, certainly—to our worried tax-gatherers in this part of the country—must seem the budget which Provincial Treasurer A.C. Aalborg brought down in the Alberta legislature a few nights ago, announcing a spending increase—with no new taxes and no direct borrowing—of 39 per cent for a budget of \$682 million; twice the size of the one in 1961-62. The increase—\$188 million—is the size of Saskatchewan's entire budget. And, if you please, Mr. Aalborg will be spending even more than B.C.'s high-rising Premier Pennett, who only has \$650 million to play around with.

Where's all the extra money coming from? Chiefly from natural resources (up \$69 million to \$257 million); plus healthy increases in income tax revenue, fuel taxes, and liquor. Tax-sharing arrangements and subsidies from Ottawa come to a piddling \$11,400,000—hardly worth taking in, we suppose, but one mustn't turn one's nose up at trifles.

But there's always something for worry-warts to beef about. According to the Edmonton Journal, there's anguished hand-wringing over a prospective deficit of \$68 million which MAY have to be covered by reserves. But this, it assures us, is traditional; anticipated deficits miraculously disappear in Alberta, oil season after oil season.

Another fly in the ointment—small but noticeable a watchful eye—is the grievance of municipal government authorities who are arguing for a more realistic distribution of duties and monies. It's preposterous to have the province's reserves mounting \$7 million a year to \$540 million (as happened in 1965-66) while municipal debts climb \$74 million to \$528 million (as also happened last year). "Something's got to give," says the Edmonton paper. "It's high time this government quit basking in its own glory and took the lead in municipal government reform."

Now where have we heard that refrain before? Closer home, certainly. But who would think that Mr. Aalborg would be so stingy to the municipalities, with all the richest at his disposal. That's the way it goes, always the municipalities getting shortchanged!

EDITORIAL NOTES

In 35 cities off the United States where parking meters have been removed, a survey shows retail sales have not been affected significantly. The findings could start a trend to meter removals in other centers.

John R. Matheson, parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, has suggested that convicts be employed to build wharves on islands in the Arctic. This plan, he says, would let convicts see "the glories of the north." That would be fine; but as the Windsor Star remarks, the Russians have done it already. They call the destination Siberia.



TIGER IN OUR TANK

REFORMED HEAD-HUNTERS

Tribesmen Press For Independence

The Nagas are restless again. These reformed head-hunters of India want independence. The tribesmen, who live in rugged hills along the Burma border, have been skirmishing with Indian troops on and off for nearly 15 years. In December, 1963, Nagaland was made India's 16th and smallest state, but some tribal leaders demand full independence. They maintain that the isolated region never was a part of India.

Naga representatives recently conferred with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. They broke off talks with members of Parliament after receiving reports of Government attacks on Naga villages. Another meeting is scheduled for mid-April.

Education In 10 Provinces

It remains one of the great mysteries of life how a highly organized society that can move mountains and reach for the stars is often totally unable to apply the most simple kind of logic to a given situation. Nowhere is this absolute frustration of reason more clearly in evidence than in the continued maintenance in this country of education systems that vary from province to province.

Sober Self-Protection

The suggestion has again been revived that the parliamentary restaurants where senators, members of parliament and their guests dine, should be allowed to serve liquor with meals. Proposals to take Parliament Hill out of the backwoods "dry" category—usually in the form of a rookie MP's private bill—come up repeatedly but, strangely, nothing is ever done about it.

Our Yesterdays

Twenty-five years ago (March 12, 1941) German bombers, flying so high they could scarcely be heard, subjected Liverpool to its largest raid of the year and struck simultaneously at London, the Midlands, East Anglia and southwest and southeast England.

TEN YEARS AGO

Mr. Joseph L. H. Livingstone, Chief Messenger in the Legislature for the past 21 years, was 70-years-old and although none the less active than in former years, decided that that year would be his last in the House.

Objects In The Ears

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Removing foreign objects from the ear of a child can be a difficult medical procedure. Small stones, pieces of wood, peas, beans, beads, ball bearings, paper, erasers, and the like are found. Now and then an insect will fly or crawl into the ear canal.

The physician sees the youngster after everyone has tried to remove the object. It is stuck but clearly visible and looks like it can be removed in a jiffy. The physician sterilizes a delicate forceps or a cerumen spoon used to remove wax. The trick is to get the instruments between the wall of the ear canal and the foreign body.

The child jumps because it hurts or he thinks it is going to hurt. This continues and finally it becomes necessary to use an anesthetic. Many physicians anesthetize the child first and then remove the object. It is easier, safer, less nerve-racking, and the medico makes a friend.

A Kansas City, Mo., physician uses suction when the object is round. Dr. George E. Volk connects a small rubber tube to the suction machine and inserts the flush tip gently and carefully into the ear canal. This procedure eliminates the danger of pushing the object further into the canal and damaging the drum.

Foreign bodies do not always produce symptoms and the lyke may forget that he inserted the eraser, stone, or pea. The doctor may find it during a routine examination. In others, the object irritates or festers and the mother realizes something is wrong when pus drains from the ear.

An insect may cause great distress by beating his wings and crawling about. A few drops of mineral or olive oil immobilizes and smother the critter. Then it is washed out.

RABBIT FEVER Mrs. L.C. writes: My husband goes hunting in the fall and often brings home rabbits. I have heard it is dangerous to eat these animals. Can you advise?

REPLY Wild rabbits sometimes are victims of tularemia. For this reason the hunter and the cook should wear rubber gloves when handling and preparing the animal for eating whenever there is any question about the animal's health. In addition, it must be well cooked. These preventive measures should safeguard the family in case the disease exists.

LATE EPILEPSY D. F. writes: Could epilepsy develop for the first time during the menopause?

REPLY Yes. Ordinary epilepsy usually begins earlier in life and when convulsions first appear after the age of 40 a brain lesion is suspected.

ANEMIA EFFECT R. B. writes: Does anemia cause nervousness?

REPLY Some individuals become nervous whenever they feel below par. In these circumstances anemia must be severe enough to produce symptoms such as fatigue and shortness of breath.

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Sober Self-Protection

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CUT PAYMENTS DEFICIT

LONDON (Reuters)—Britain's exports and re-exports reached an all-time record of \$48,000,000 (\$1,344,000,000) last month, the government announced Friday.

FARMER'S MEETING

VERNON RIVER PARISH HALL Monday, March 14, 1966 8:00 P.M. Speakers and Discussion Taxes, Potatoes and Dairy Policy Queens County Federation of Agriculture Knud Jorgenson, President

A Shrewd Bargainer

President de Gaulle can expect at least two short-term benefits from his current assault on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, whatever the long-range effects may be for France.

At home, he is effectively stealing a march on his left-wing opponents, at a time when the Radicals, Socialists and even Communists have been showing signs of uniting in an anti-Gaullist campaign for the National Assembly elections due within a year.

Abroad, de Gaulle will undoubtedly enhance his image among the non-Western nations as an independent force. With a two-week tour of Russia planned for June, he can be more certain of a sympathetic welcome in Moscow.

Both results can only be regarded as side effects by de Gaulle, although no less welcome for that reason. French observers seem convinced that the 75-year-old president's chief aims are the stated ones—to lessen American influence on European foreign policy and defence and to reassert French independence in those fields.

President Johnson has received support for the American stand against France from his chief NATO partners. The major NATO powers apparently regard the demand for withdrawal of American and Canadian bases from France as striking at the whole structure of collective defence.

De Gaulle's new NATO demands should endear him still further to Russia, which has waged propaganda against the Alliance since it was founded, as well as to those "third world" nations who resent American influence.

FEW PLAYS SURVIVE The names of 150 Greek tragedians of the 5th century BC are known but only three of their plays have survived.

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QUIZ:

How many people made a mistake on their tax forms last year in the government's favour? 000'83E Who found the mistakes for them? THE GOVERNMENT How much money was refunded to them? 000'000'41\$ Who may have a refund coming and should get his tax form in early? NOX

"Is this the year I fill out my income tax right?" DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE The Hon. E. J. Benson, Minister

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