

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Star... Wallace Ward... Managing Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlotteville, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

The omission of a request for advice on this subject from legal advisers of the department of justice.

In the second case in particular, the commission's mandate enables in some way a justice of the Supreme Court to give a verdict on the political conduct of a former government—conduct for which it should be held responsible only before Parliament.

U.S. Takes Action

Ottawa has been talking about stiffening the rules on dietary food and vitamin labels, but it has remained for the United States to take the lead in this matter, as it has done in others of like concern to the consuming public.

The changes are designed to give consumers more information and to prevent their being misled, according to Dr. James L. Goddard, Commissioner of the drug agency. He said the new requirements should remove many misconceptions about the kinds and amounts of vitamins needed in the diet.

The retail value of the products involved is between \$375 million and \$500 million a year. Most of those on the market today do not conform to the new regulations, which will go into effect in six months unless expected objections from industry groups delay the schedule.

Under the new rules, the kinds and amounts of nutritional elements permitted in "fortified" foods will be strictly regulated. The use of the label "low calorie" will be restricted to foods and drinks containing 15 calories or less in each ordinary serving.

All multivitamin and mineral preparations will have to carry this statement on their labels: "Vitamins and minerals are supplied in abundant amounts by the foods we eat. The Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council recommends that dietary needs be satisfied by foods. Except for persons with special medical needs, there is no scientific basis for recommended routine use of dietary supplements."

The Brighter Side

Here are reassuring words from the Financial Post: Government obligations, in terms of the economy's pay-power, are getting easier to carry. Despite the big increases, government debt has dropped from the equivalent of 125 per cent of gross national product to about 100 per cent.

Thus, remarkably, total public and private debt has risen only slightly as a proportion of GNP in the past 15 years. Also, from a national point of view, our debts have remained within our ability to pay, and most of these debts we owe to ourselves, not to foreigners—a strong plus factor.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Peruvian scientist claims to have crossed the cabbage with the turnip, producing a new commodity, the "turbage" whose purpose is to provide low-cost cooking oil of superior quality. We are inclined to agree with an exchange which remarks that the achievement "leaves us not only unimpressed but also slightly nauseated."

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen, minister of national health and welfare, has given the annual meeting of the Canadian Dental Association one of the strongest endorsements of fluoridation yet to be uttered by a federal official of cabinet rank. "I can assure you," he said, "that my department regards the fluoridation of water supplies as an important public health measure and you will be pleased to know that steps are already being taken to fluoridate water supplies under federal jurisdiction."



THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Why The Secrecy At This Conference?

A secret two-day meeting recently convened by the federal government was described to me by a participant as one of the most prestigious ever held in Ottawa. The 35 invited conferees included provincial cabinet ministers, and represented federal departments and agencies.

First, there were those seven very good papers, prepared by the Motor Vehicle Study Group of the National Research Council. These were entitled: "Technical Notes on Motor Vehicle Safety. No. 1. The System; No. 2. Lignams; No. 3. The Driver A (alcoholically impaired); No. 4. The Vehicle." And so on, to "Conclusions of the Motor Vehicle Study Group."

That two-day meeting was a welcome start in the overdue business of tackling the motor vehicle. It was unanimously adopted three recommendations: (a) that standards should be enacted providing for maintenance and regular inspection of motor vehicles; (b) that provincial governments be urged to issue regulations that the application for a driving licence implies the licensee's consent to an analysis of his blood and breath if he is suspected of being impaired while driving; (c) that a national accident prevention research be established.

Tired Homes' On The Road

The advantage of owning a home on wheels (house or cabin trailer) brings a series of responsibilities to the owner. High among them are the tires for the trailer, and their care. The Canadian Highway Safety Council brings a few hints to the more than 500,000 owners of "tired homes" in Canada, based on advice from the Rubber Association of Canada.

The worst potential safety problem involving mobile homes is the tendency of some owners to overload or underinflate tires. Both can cause premature tire failure. There are tires designed exclusively for trailers, built in various sizes and requiring much higher pressures, often as much as three times more than car tires. At full-rated load and inflation, they should never be run at speeds exceeding 50 miles an hour.

Costly Carelessness

One of the costliest forms of theft, and one of the most common, is automobile theft. It runs into millions of dollars a year. Statistics show that in 80 per cent of the cases, the cars were left unlocked, and many, most obligingly, with the keys in the ignition.

In 24 cities of the United States, women's groups have organized patrols and accompanied by a police officer, on his regular beat, affix stickers on the parking meters saying: "Have you locked your car?" They also check parked cars, doors, record the registration number of the cars found unlocked and leave leaflets on the windshield commenting on the facts.

Barefoot On The Mall

People watchers on the Sparks Street Mall are of two schools over the new commonplace sight of barefoot youth promenading casually among browsers. The shod respectability. Those who approve, envy the free spirits who strut off conventions in favor of course, to adopt new ones and relieve the business-suit orthodoxy. The shaggy shorts and long hair which inevitably go with the bare feet constitute a declaration of independence which, far from being viewed with alarm, is considered a healthy sign of youthful exuberance. If a boy is going to be respectfully at it, why will he be at it? Besides, the sense of freedom all end.

Low Sugar In Blood

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen In hypoglycemia the level of sugar in the blood is abnormally low. This is normal in premature babies and during the first few days of life but may have serious consequences when it persists. The brain needs glucose to function normally and retardation may occur when the level falls below 40.

The condition is suspected whenever the child develops convulsions or spells of limppiness. The blood also should be tested when the youngster experiences nausea, or vomiting. Many of the children suddenly stare into space, roll up their eyes, sweat profusely, or appear confused or frightened. Tremulousness, rapid heart beat, and hunger also may take place.

These symptoms are not continuous and usually occur during the hour before eating, the first thing in the morning, or after exercise. It is at these times that the amount of sugar in the blood is the lowest. Food brings relief because the level goes up when carbohydrates are absorbed.

The condition sounds as though it is easy to recognize, yet often it is missed, especially in children. Parents may not recognize the symptoms when they are mild and the child does not complain. Blood tests also may be confusing because infants have sugar levels that vary from 50 to 100-30 in newborns and symptoms seldom develop unless the reading drops below 50. Adult levels vary from 80 to 120.

The cause is not known except that many of these youngsters have excess basal quantities of insulin and they cannot turn off production when the blood sugar reaches the normal level.

In many respects hypoglycemia is the opposite of diabetes. We know that many of their relatives have diabetes and some of the victims might develop the disease later in life. This is a strange paradox. The treatment is frequent, small meals, high in proteins and low in fats and carbohydrates. Diazoxide, a drug that produces diabetes in laboratory animals, is helpful in some cases.

HYDROCHLORIC ACID

G. R. writes: What is hydrochloric acid? REPLY: A combination of hydrogen and chlorine. The acid is manufactured in the stomach and is used principally to digest meats and other proteins. The substance is not absolutely necessary, because there are other acids in the stomach. Furthermore, many healthy individuals have no free hydrochloric acid.

NO ONE LIKES IT

B. T. writes: I hate to go to funeral parlors and cemeteries and find any excuse I can to avoid going. Does this represent a form of mental disease? REPLY: No. Many feel as you do but make these condolences calls out of respect to the deceased and his family.

GOUT IS SEX-LINKED

Mrs. D. writes: Do women ever develop gout? REPLY: Yes, but the percentage is low. Ninety-five per cent of the victims of this disease are men.

REGROWTH THE RULE

Mrs. A. writes: If a hair on the face is tweezed out, how many times will it grow back? REPLY: The little knob (bulb) at the end of a pulled hair is not the root. So long as the root remains active, the hair will return.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Never put drugs in a place accessible to children. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Pinned In Washington

The well-organized promenade of President de Gaulle of France, through the Soviet Union, could just possibly lead to a fresh judgment on the question of who in contemporary affairs is the real leader of the Western world.

Because of American wealth and nuclear supremacy, President Johnson naturally ascended to the leadership role and seemed to meet its terms of office with his Great Society theme. But that was before Viet Nam ensnared him and belittled his international reputation.

While de Gaulle roams the world, Johnson has yet to cross the Atlantic as President. Rumors crop up that the American leader is about to descend on Europe and hug it to his breast, to convince it of his sincerity and sadness over Viet Nam.

But those who should know say Johnson is not coming. There is some doubt whether such a trip would serve any useful purpose. The Viet Cong appear to have pinned Johnson in Washington.

It has been left to de Gaulle to make what may turn out to be the most glamorous and most dramatic trip of all. So far, de Gaulle has been given much more than he has given the trust of history, a paternal image bestowing aristocratic acceptance on the struggling, rustic revolutionists. And the U.S.S.R. has welcomed him with an air of expectancy, hope that this man who dared challenge American power and has virtually wrecked the North Atlantic military structure will provide them with a new alliance that will drastically realign the European power balance.

Some observers maintain de Gaulle's trip can only be a beginning; that he hasn't the power to make any really significant deals; that the friendship path he has chosen will have to be left for cultivation by his successors.

But the U.S.S.R. has it in its hands to add glory to de Gaulle's stature, even at this stage. The crucial issue is Germany, without which there can be no European settlement. The prospect of a reunified Germany could possibly weaken even Bonn away from Johnson's embrace. The Soviet Union wants recognition for East Germany as a separate state and to provide insurance against another German attack.

The North Atlantic Alliance has endorsed German dreams of reunification. If by chance de Gaulle should bring home—and it is unlikely he will—Moscow agreement to such reunification through agreed limitations on German militarism, he undoubtedly would become the new Western hero.

From such agreement might flow the Soviet idea for a European security pact, signed without the presence of the United States, a strong Soviet wish. These are moves in the grand manner of history, the kind that de Gaulle might cherish. And they are not beyond the realm of possibility, now that de Gaulle has moved beyond the Urals into Siberia.

Safety Over The Atlantic

Pilots flying the North Atlantic have won an important victory for greater air safety. They have convinced British, Canadian and American aviation authorities, who have principal jurisdiction that 120 mile wide flight paths should be maintained.

Last December the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations affiliate, recommended narrowing the corridors to 90 miles. This was to make more room on the busy North American-European routes at peak periods. The change was put into effect in January despite vigorous objections by the Air Line Pilot's association.

Air lanes are established by ground control stations in New York, Prestwick, Scotland; Gander, Nfld. and elsewhere. There can be as many as three or four parallel lanes in each direction, just as with a divided highway. Lanes are stratified into 1,000 foot layers below 29,000 feet and into 2,000 foot layers above that.

Planes are generally spaced at intervals of 15 to 30 minutes apart. There are 1,589 international commercial flights in and out of New York every week to Europe. The control stations also direct the many military flights.

The commercial pilots insisted that far too many flights would stray outside the 90 mile band, thus presenting collision dangers. At 600 miles an hour even the slightest uncorrected drift eats up enormous amounts of space in just a few minutes.

In reverting to the wider lanes the three countries insisted that this was just a temporary concession. Presumably, efforts to set a 90 mile limit will be made again. But before the change is made, government authorities should push for more sophisticated navigational systems and guidance techniques. With such improvements, pilots would have greater assurance that 90 mile wide corridors can be safely negotiated.

DETROIT (AP) — Seventeen city policemen now are under indictment on charges of lying about alleged gifts of money and liquor from bar owners. The one-man grand jury of circuit Judge Edward Piggins has accused eight policemen of perjury. The grand jury indicted nine officers on similar charges earlier. All 17 are under suspension pending court hearings.

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