The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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A Great Undertaking

President Johnson's undertaking to launch a $1,000 million offensive against poverty in the United States is no doubt motivated, in part, by political considerations. The race for the presidential nominations, as a prelude to the presidential election, is on; and while Mr. Johnson's nomination as the Democratic candidate is assured, it is necessary for him to present a platform that will have nation-wide appeal. But the calibre of the man is revealed in the choice he has made of this issue as one of paramount importance.

Last week Mr. Johnson breezed through the last days of his first working vacation back home in Texas, and there were hints at that time that he was preparing to propose to Congress some form of "poverty package" to meet the problem of distressed living standards in the midst of general prosperity. He did this on Wednesday in his first State-of-the-Union message and accompanied it with proposals for trimming expenditures in other directions to the tune of some $97,900 million while pledging that the "full strength of our combat defenses" would be maintained.

This anti-poverty drive on the most massive scale ever attempted by any nation in world history is something to fire the imagination. It is, we gather from Washington commentators, to be a many-pronged attack through specialized channels such as housing, education, unemployment assistance and other projects. While it falls into the category of domestic policies, its implications will be world wide, for it could well set a pattern for other nations to follow.

It has been the existence of poverty in the midst of plenty that has provided Communism with its best propaganda weapon in the past. President Johnson evidently realizes this quite clearly. He can well claim that in meeting this challenge headon, he is championing the cause of democracy in the most effective manner, and channeling the nation's resources into the most important of all competitive fields.

Even if he fails in achieving all he has set out to do, he will have started a race much more profitable to mankind than rocketing a man to the moon, or developing more nuclear power in a world already capable of blasting all its inhabitants into eternity ten times over.

Costly, But Necessary

Higher education in Canada is in need of more money, and this is not a matter that can either be shirked or postponed. The urgency of the problem was stressed before Prime Minister Pearson last May by the Canadian Universities Foundation, and in presentations before the Royal Commission on Taxation. More recently, the Foundation submitted its case to Finance Minister Gordon for consideration in his forthcoming budget.

Briefly, the situation is that the total requirement of capital for our universities and colleges, and for the creation of research facilities at university-affiliated teaching hospitals, for the three years 1963-64 to 1965-66, will approximate $800 million. Setting aside revenue anticipated from provincial governments, from gifts and from loan funds available through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the remaining need still totals more than $300 million for the three-year period

It is urged that the Federal Government deal directly with this problem by establishing a $300 million fund for matching capital grants to universities and colleges, and that in view of the urgency of the need the fund be made retroactive to include projects undertaken after June 30, 1963.

Other proposals have been advanced by the Foundation which are worthy of consideration. Canada, it is suggested, should take the initiative in establishing a program of scholarships and fellowships for exchanges within a world-wide French cultural community—a plan comparable in its conception with the successful Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

It was also urged that with a view to increasing gifts and grants to universities, no limit be placed on donations which might be deductible for income tax purposes, also that both the Income Tax Act and the Estate Tax Act be amended to treat as tax deductible, donations made by Canadians to universities in other countries. The object of this is not only to encourage Canadians to make such donations but to encourage other countries to adopt similar legislation for the benefit of Canadian universities.

Other proposals include exemption of universities from the federal sales tax, and a revision of the provisions of the Income Tax Act affecting the taxability of full-time students, for the purpose of recognizing realistically the present cost of higher education to student and parent.

What the Canadian Universities Foundation is really concerned with is the future of Canada's younger generation. Money must be raised somehow to insure that university standards are adequately maintained. The complexity of Canada's constitutional position in matters of education is recognized, but it is argued—convincingly we think—that Ottawa has a responsibility here, at least to the extent of initiating action with the provinces so that the problem, one way or another, can be met.

Precarious Peace

The presence of reinforced British troops and agreement by leaders of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey to meet in London have momentarily calmed the crisis in Cyprus. The cause of the renewal of civil war is not cured, however, nor is there much hope that it will be.

The Greek Cypriots want enosis, or unity with Greece. The Turk Cypriots still want the island divided on nationalistic lines. Such a division would invite economic chaos and would not end the fighting between the two groups.

Archbishop Makarios, president of Cyprus, didn't remedy the situation by his abrupt declaration that he wanted to negate the treaties under which his nation was born. The British promptly pointed out that he could not legally do that, and he has withdrawn his proposal while letting it be known that this is his goal.

Reviewing the troubled situation, the Milwaukee Journal says: "Here is a case where, even at the risk of being called colonialist, one wishes that a new state had not rushed out from under British control before it could guarantee its economic and political security."

True indeed. But it will be recalled that Britain got more abuse than thanks for its attempts to maintain control in the interest of economic and political security. Now it is doing what it can to keep the peace, and its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are hoping devoutly that it will succeed.

For the situation, as the Milwaukee paper points out, has import far beyond the tragedy that renewed civil war would mean to Cyprus itself. Greece and Turkey are members of NATO, and should they fall out over the Cypriot crisis the NATO security belt would be damaged in a vital part.

EDITORIAL NOTE

On a farm in New York state, experimenters used an electronic brain to guide them in developing a new breed of "placid" chickens. The hens, it is claimed, will keep on laying eggs under conditions which send lesser fowl into a gabbling tizzy

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

No 1 Problem Still Threat Of War

If the average Canadian was given one wish, he would probably say—politely if he is a father — wish for peace: permanent peace on acceptable terms with no future threat of war. Many people in many lands would use one wish the same way — even in Russia.

Our present state of "peaceful co - existence" between two heavily armed camps is called a cold war; in fact it is the risk of a nuclear death. Remember that during the Cuba crisis about one year ago, our then Foreign Secretary one day declared in all sincerity that, when he went to bed the previous night, he had not expected to wake up again; he had anticipated that Toronto and Montreal and Vancouver and other cities in Canada and elsewhere would be obliterated by unheralded nuclear attacks during the night. Remember too that military experts have estimated that such an attack unleashed by one of the great nuclear powers would trigger 60 minutes of reciprocal horror which would leave 360 million people dead and our globe largely uninhabitable.

MUST SEEK REAL PEACE

There are surely more happy ways of living one's neighbour and even of turning the other cheek.

But we exist on a precipice, a dangerous precipice over which mankind may be pushed by a costly precipice which demands so much wasteful expenditure of our taxes and of our resources and of the skill of our scientists, which could be applied to more humanitarian ends. We should leave no toe - hold untried to climb away from it a precipice, while yet preserving our freedoms. And I believe that the people on the other side of this precipice feel the same.

So, when Russia's Premier, Nikita Khrushchev, last week wrote a letter to the heads of western governments appealing for steps to ensure peace, I did not clap my hands with glee when it was reported that USA's Foreign Secretary Dean Rusk had given a brusque reception to this toe-hold which deserved study.

Russia's ambassador Ivan Shpedko delivered a similar letter to Prime Minister Pearson — in Russian with an "unofficial translation" in English. Mr. Pearson renowned as a skilled and conciliatory diplomat, reacted less coolly than Mr. Rusk, and appeared to detect in it a ray of hope for peace.

But nobody else had been told exactly what the letter said.

NEW RUSSIAN LINE?

So I spoke to Ambassador Shpedko, and asked for a copy of this letter addressed to the heads of government in Canada, Britain, France, USA and many other countries. Was there was one other copy of the "unofficial translation"; so my initiative paid off and I surprisingly obtained the document which every journalist and every ambassador in Ottawa would have liked to see.

If its words mean what they say, it is an eye - opening letter.

It is an offer and an appeal to renounce war as a means of settling territorial disputes. It describes the historical danger to world peace of even the smallest boundary dispute, and stresses how this can escalate into global war. The 21 - page letter is far too long to be quoted in this space. But I can honestly say that it appears to indicate a new line of thinking in the Kremlin.

Russia now buys bread before bombs. Khrushchev's Russia, in contrast to Stalin's Russia, will not compel its citizens to die from hunger rather than spend on wheat the gold which could be used to build more pie - in - the - sky communistic future.

The Moscow Treaty banning nuclear tests in the air and seas has made a start towards "general and complete disarmament", to quote Khrushchev's stated objective. Every technique must be explored to keep up that progress, or we will lapse back into an uncontrolled nuclear arms race. This letter many be a turning point for the world.

He Used His Veto

Montreal Gazette

President Johnson has faced a test very early in his office— a test of his attitude toward restrictions on trade with Canada. This has come about with regard to lumber, one of the commodities that, over the years, has had a particularly insistent lobby in Washington. Only last September over 100 members of the House of Representatives petitioned President Kennedy to curb imports of lumber from Canada. "The industry is asking only an opportunity to compete with Canadians on an equal basis," said their spokesman.

President Johnson has had to come to a decision over a bill which would have restricted the use of Canadian lumber by requiring a country- of-origin label on all imported products, each time they were repackaged in the United States. "There is no need for this bill," said Mr. Johnson. And he vetoed it.

If restrictions on Canadian lumber were to be imposed, the result would most likely be higher prices for lumber in the United States. The reason why Canadian lumber is thought to be overly- competitive in the United States would seem to be due mainly to artificial conditions. U.S. policy, by hindering the acquisition of public sawn-timber, has resulted in over-bidding for stumpage. And the Intercoastal Shipping Laws tend to raise timber prices by requiring the use of U.S. vessels, even if this creates higher costs for U. S. shippers.

As far as the lumber mills are concerned, a study by the Canadian - American Committee found that the costs of manufacturing lumber in the United States (while differing widely among the mills) showed no basic disparity with the cost of manufacturing lumber in Canada. The hourly wages in the United States are somewhat higher than in Canada, though the ratio is decreasing. But, on the other hand, labor productivity in the United States is higher.

The satisfaction that Canada should feel in this decision by President Johnson is not simply in regard to lumber, important as that is to Canada. It is, more broadly, the president's explanation that he used his veto in this instance for the broader purposes of good relations with Canada, and in the interests of more liberal trade. It is these reasons for using the veto, even more than the use of the veto itself, that gives encouragement to the future.

RACING DRIVER DIES

DERBY, England (AP)—Reg Parnell, 52, onetime star of British motor racing, died in a hospital Tuesday night four days after an operation for peritonitis. Parnell began his racing career in 1934 but it was not until after the Second World War that he scored his greatest successes.

EXTEND BANK OF CANADA

OTTAWA (CP)—The Bank of Canada said Wednesday it is buying the rest of the downtown Ottawa block on which its head office is located and will start razing the other buildings this summer, to make way for a new group of interconnected Central Bank buildings. The project will take several years.

PUBLIC FORUM

MORE ABOUT CO-OP CASE

Sir:— Since when has the Appeal Board become a publicity committee for the City Council or for that matter, for co-op housing?

These publicity agents made the statement that it cost the Charlottetown tax payers $1,500 per lot to develop our project. Pray tell us on what basis did the mathematicians work in order to draw this conclusion. And who are the Charlottetown Taxpayers? Are we included? How much did it cost us to develop—let's say the lots on Water Street?

We cannot imagine a progressive Council incorporating land and passing up an opportunity to have it developed in order to allow it to lie dormant producing very little if any revenue. To the public may we say that we have contributed much to the development of the land which we now occupy and which now nets the City of Charlottetown an increase in revenue in the vicinity of $10000 per year.

If the City of Charlottetown had granted us a tax concession, it could then be said that they not so much granted us a favour —but more correctly gave assistance to a project which is much in line with the election platform of our Mayor and Council of providing low cost housing or low cost rentals. Incidentally there is such a thing as tax concessions and if the City Council has not the power to grant tax concessions, why then have they not sought such powers?

Surely the Committee set up to delve into all aspects of low cost housing—an expensive research programme—must have uncovered in their findings record of tax concessions granted in other municipalities. In our neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia the town of Sydney granted tax concessions providing fixed taxes of $10.00 per month for 10 years.

To the comment that if we were granted a tax concession we would have to accept the rating of second class citizens, we say with all sincerity that we would only be too proud to be placed in a class with our veterans to whom we all owe so much.

Further we humbly say that those who were willing to bend their backs to manual labour under the scorn of those who deem themselves the high and mighty, and who did not hesitate to apply themselves in the face of what would seem insurmountable obstacles, to the arduous task of providing for themselves and their families suitable accommodations—these are men we can say without boasting of the caliber that will make worthy citizens of any community regardless of their classification.

In our discussions and meetings during our study of Co- op Housing, a phrase that was often used was this: Co-operatives will not fail the people, but people can fail co-operatives. Co-operative Housing or rather the Prince Edward Island Housing Commission has failed—not through lack of interest and aggressiveness. They have not achieved and therefore cannot safeguard the true goal of co-operative housing and that is to provide low cost housing.

We are, Sir, etc.

Chairman's Committee
North River Co-op Housing

Meningitis Needs Care

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

MENINGITIS is inflammation of the membranes (meninges) covering the brain and spinal cord. Almost every microorganism has been implicated at one time or another. But the bacteria and viruses that inhabit the respiratory tract are the most frequent culprits. The list includes meningococci, pneumococci, streptococci, staphylococci, and the tubercle bacilli as well as the viruses responsible for influenza, mumps, and polio.

Thirty years ago, more than 90 per ent of all victims died because no specific remedy was available. The sulfonamides and antibiotics changed the outlook but some of the causative agents are becoming resistant to these remedies.

As a result, researchers are trying to develop a protective vaccine against the varieties that appear in epidemic proportions. This is more likely to occur in crowded quarters such as institutions and military installations.

The disease strikes suddenly and the person may be so ill there is no time to determine the causative agent. Instances have been reported of patients who died within an hour after diagnosis was made. This is the reason why treatment is started first and tests are made later.

Whenever irritation of the meninges sometimes exists, the neck becomes stiff and headache, nausea, and vomiting occur. Marked restlessness, drowsiness, confusion, incoherence, even screaming may ensue, followed by stupor as the condition progresses. The temperature is elevated, frequently as high as 104 degrees F.

A small amount of fluid is withdrawn from the spinal canal to confirm the diagnosis and identify the causative agent. Treatment is started immediately, particularly if the physician suspects a bacterial origin. Various drugs are useful but sulfadiazine, one of the old reliables, is especially valuable in the epidemic forms of meningitis.

PLAYPEN SAFETY

Mrs. J. writes: Why don't you stress the fact that babies can be quite happy for long periods in playpens and, in addition, will be spared many falls and hurts? I know a mother who will not keep her 13-month-old boy in the playpen because he cries when put there. But he had been badly hurt while walking around.

REPLY

This is the purpose of a playpen. Nothing more need be said.

PHOBIA ABOUT DOGS

J.R. writes: My 11-year-old daughter is deathly afraid of dogs. It doesn't matter whether they are large or small — when she meets one she loses all control and even dashes out into the street to get out of its way. How can I cope with this situation?

REPLY

Let well enough alone or buy her a puppy she can learn to love and grow up with.

LIGHTEN THE LOAD

R.P. writes: I have an enlarged heart due to being 60 pounds overweight. Will it go back to normal if I take off these excess pounds?

REPLY

Reducing will help considerably, depending upon the cause of the enlargement. If high blood pressure is responsible, taking off 60 pounds will lighten the work load of the heart.

SMOKING AND SINGING

C.D. writes: Is smoking bad for a student of voice?

REPLY

Smoking irritates the respiratory passageways, including the larynx. I would not smoke if I were going to make singing my career.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Meals without friction bring good digestion.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO
(January 10, 1939)

George Skillan, noted English actor, who is the adjudicator for the Dominion Drama Festival this year, will arrive in Charlottetown Jan. 12, to adjudicate in the P.E.I. sub-regional contest which takes place here on the evening of the 13th. The groups entered in the contest are the Summerside Little Theatre, the Brighton Players and the Holy Redeemer Players.

Roderick MacDonald and Estelle MacNutt were chosen as the most graceful skating couple at the Forum skate held last night.

TEN YEARS AGO
(January 10, 1954)

"Persons in this class are found in all walks of life", said Chief of Police MacArthur in describing "Goat Getters in Life" in an address before the Rotary Club at their weekly luncheon in the Charlottetown Hotel yesterday. The speaker continued, "This type of person has been here from the dim and distant past.. no one is immune from their wisecracks or satlies, and all, at one time or another have felt the sting of their barbs and arrows".

HASTINGS, England (Reuters)— A 44-year-old British foreign ministry official Friday shook the sober world of chess and caused some disappointment in Russia—by beating two Soviet chess masters in the same day.

MAN'S MARK

Anthropologists believe one of the marks of a civilized society is its transformation of the mask from a magical purpose to the theatrical stage.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There may be no cure-all for life's trials and irritations but an unbreakable shoe lace would go a long way.—Ottawa Journal.

A single girl, with more than 30 summers in her past, was asked what she desired more in a husband—brains, wealth or appearance. "Appearance," she replied dryly, "and the sooner the better."—Financial Post.

Extra care should be exercised this Winter in the realm of lost goods. Absent minded persons who insist on leaving their goods behind might do well to tie their prize possessions to them with a piece of cord.—Perth Courier..

By the time a man can read women like a book, he's wearing bifocals.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Some wives are incorrigible. A man shaved his wife's head to keep her from running around with men, but next day she bought a wig and went right back into circulation.—Timmins Daily Press.

It is all too easy to emphasize juvenile delinquency without regard to the fact that it involves but a small proportion of the whole generation. Indeed, there are perhaps fewer juvenile delinquents than there are adult delinquents.—Windsor Star.

Toward Closer Relations

By Harold Morrison
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The United States and West Germany, whose new leaders recently held their first official meeting, appear to be moving towards an intimate relationship that raises doubts about the exclusiveness of the so-called French-German axis.

When French President Charles de Gaulle a year ago signed a treaty with former German chancellor Konrad Adenauer, there was concern in the U.S. and other Western countries that the treaty, hailed as ending four centuries of French-German enmity, might also usher in a third force in Europe that would stand between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The treaty pledged the two neighbors to close and frequent consulation in the fields of diplomacy, defence, education, culture and youth programs. The foreign, defence and education ministers were to meet every three months and the heads of state twice a year. The chiefs of staff of the two armies were to meet every other month.

This appeared to be the beginning of an interweaving of actions and decision -making that would unify the core of European strength in Paris and Bonn, raising the prospect that Britain would be held at the very periphery of Europe while France added to her own leadership under de Gaulle's nuclear force de frappe.

LEADERSHIP CHANGED

But German leadership has changed, as one day French leadership will change, and the new German chancellor, Ludwig Erhard, is a hard-headed economist, bound less by sentiment than the realities of trade.

While de Gaulle talks of building a hydrogen-bomb force, Erhard openly states he feels far more secure under the U.S. nuclear force than he could ever feel under any French force.

Other evidence of friction has emerged. The French were reported concerned because the Germans worked out a deal to build a tank jointly with the U.S., without consulting Paris. And the Germans were taken aback when French secret agents apparently captured and spirited to Paris former Col. Antoine Argoud, who now has been sentenced to life imprisonment for participating in the Algerian revolt against de Gaulle.

These may be small points in the over-all structure of relationship but they lead to the question of whether there is really full harmony between Bonn and Paris.

Erhard now is reported to have agreed to consult with President Johnson about affairs in Europe in a manner which again questions whether Erhard has taken de Gaulle's views into consideration.

JOINT STUDY

The U.S. State Department has been quick to deny reports that the two leaders—Erhard and Johnson—agreed to set up a special joint working committee on common market affairs but spokesmen for the two leaders said in Texas that the leaders agreed that "the actual fine print of the Brussels agreement" would be "studied by a joint U.S.-German group."

De Gaulle has attempted to reduce U.S. influence in Europe. His German partner now may be seeking to protect and raise U.S. influence.

Nuclear Dispute Declines

Montreal Gazette

Nuclear warheads have now arrived in Canada for the country's Bomarc missiles at North Bay, Ontario. As a result, this base should soon be fully operational, and capable of performing the role it has been assigned by the North American Air Defence Command.

No doubt some protests against the installation of these missiles and warheads will continue to be made. But, by and large, the country has either accepted that they are necessary, or has agreed that they constitute no damaging commitment on Canada's part. The issue of whether they make Canada a nuclear power, or a member of the "nuclear club", which caused so much sound and fury a year ago, has virtually vanished.

To a considerable extent, this is true even of Parliament. In its report of last December, the House of Commons Defence Committee approved, with only one dissenting member, the nuclear arming of the Bomarc missile, the Voodoo jet interceptor and the CF-104 bomber. This is highly significant since the Committee is composed of members of all parties.

It now appears that Canada may be returning, to a large degree, to a bipartizan defence policy, especially as far as the two major parties, the Liberals and Conservatives, are concerned. This is not only helpful for the country. It is also a matter of common sense. For despite the subtle arguments of the last election, the Liberal government has carried out commitments that were made by the previous Conservative government.

The debate over this issue during the last campaign did not have much effect on the electorate. The election results were more easily explainable by other factors. It was only right that a calmer view should come to prevail in Parliament itself.

The Ombudsman

There is hope yet for those who insist that "you can't fight City Hall." Canadians with a beef might soon be able to have an ombudsman to do their fighting. An ombudsman is a citizens' defender who investigates complaints of injustices caused by official action, and there are strong supporters of a plan to have one or more in Canada. This Saturday, Weekend Magazine Staff Writer Robert McKeown explains how an ombudsman might be of service to you.

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