

His Big Chance

"At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy," said the late Sir Winston Churchill, "is the little man, walking into a little booth, making a little cross on a little bit of paper—no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of that point."

That about wraps it up. Today the little man gets his chance again, and it will be his own fault if he doesn't take advantage of it. An election, on whatever level, emphasizes how close to each community a government is. All elections, in this sense, are local affairs, and in each election a community applies its beliefs about democracy to its choice of the people who actually take responsibility for making government work.

As pointed out in Norman Ward's "Government of Canada," the idea behind "representation" is old, for kings a thousand years ago were supposed to represent the interests of all their subjects and not rule as tyrants. The idea behind "elections" is old, for the Romans held elections two thousand years ago, and some English kings, such as King Harold, who was killed at the Battle of Hastings, 1066, were elected to the kingship. The idea behind "citizenship" is old, too; the Greeks and the Romans both thought of themselves in this light, as individuals enjoying equal privileges as members of a community united under a government.

Modern democracy is the only kind of government that combines all these ideas—citizenship, election, and representation. Only in a democracy do the citizens freely elect representatives to take responsibility for running the government on their behalf.

If nobody votes to give this responsibility, there can be no election. If only a few citizens vote, control over government falls into inefficient or unscrupulous hands. Undesirable candidates can be defeated easily in an election, but only if citizens use their votes to do so. Good representatives can be elected just as easily, if enough people take an interest in getting good representatives. If they don't, in a democratic community, they have only themselves to blame.

So off with you to the booth, little man, and do your bit!

Waiting For Spudnik 1

"Let's hear no more talk now about the 'humble' spud; it's destined for greater exploits than any of us can hope to achieve. The United States space agency has announced that it is planning to put a potato in orbit! In solar orbit, mind you, all on its own. The project will be known as 'Spudnik I'. Already a \$75,000 grant has been used to build a 'potato space cabin' for the chosen spud to travel comfortably in.

Such a cabin was scheduled to be sent aloft with a pioneer satellite on a solar orbit in the latter part of this year, but the oxygen system for the potato failed to function. This has been corrected, but the deadline for "booking passage" on the pioneer solar shot has gone by, and there will not be room for the potato on such a satellite until the late 1960's. But definitely, it's scheduled to play an important, even a vital part, in space history.

The theory behind Spudnik I is based on the fact that a potato, with a small supply of air, can survive darkness and cold for months and still grow and sprout. Biologists believe that if something as "durable" as a potato fails to survive in outer space, it would be "very, very tough" for a man. It has been suggested, too, that a study of a potato in solar orbit might reveal the secret of how all growth is regulated.

It is known that every living thing

receives the "messages" to run its biological clock just as a radio set receives broadcast signals and converts them into symphonic music. Such a "clock" may regulate sleep, wakefulness, cell metabolism, hormonal output and other things which are examples of daily or monthly cycles. Biological clocks are run with information received from sources outside the body, such as earth's magnetic field.

By 1970 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration hopes to send an astronaut to the moon, which is 240,000 miles from earth. About two-thirds of the way to the moon, the earth's magnetic field becomes all but non-existent. Other earth-related forces that may also help run the biological clock would, of course, be absent. These include gravity, electrostatic fields and barometric pressure.

Biologists have noted that even jet travel round the earth could involve painful recycling of body functions, and that such rhythms were imperfectly understood. If it turns out that these rhythms depend upon earth's environment and must not be interrupted, then distant space travel might mean death.

It is figured that if something happened to a potato "out there" in orbit, then NASA should "start working back" in its test of the influence of a completely strange environment. Man is much more vulnerable than a potato. What scientists want to know specifically is: Will the cells in a man's body take in oxygen and drive off carbon dioxide when he is in space, far from the 24-hour rhythm of earth? Will automatic response and glandular activity go on when there is no day and night as man knows it?

These are questions that Spudnik may help to resolve—to the greater glory of the spud race everywhere. Denizens of our "elite" potato farm in Spud Island, you may depend, will be snootier than ever now that this word has gotten out!

Did We Say Morified?

Perhaps the wish was father to the thought, but we were entirely off base on Saturday in gloating over Communist China's mortification in having failed to obtain postponement of the Afro-Asian conference scheduled to open in Algiers on Nov. 5. The conference has been postponed indefinitely, and the news has been greeted with jubilation at Peking. Among the main organizers of the conference in the first place, the Chinese began to make withdrawal sounds as soon as they realized it might permit the Soviet Union to participate.

This shows how far the interests of the two big Communist powers have diverged. In June, Peking thought it could get Moscow blackballed from the Algiers meeting and so have the floor to itself in its strident battle to win friends and influence people. By November, Russian stock was up and Chinese down. It looked as if a majority of the Afro-Asians would vote the Soviets "in," and so the only way left to the Chinese to throw a wrench into the works was to say that they would boycott the conference if the Russians were there.

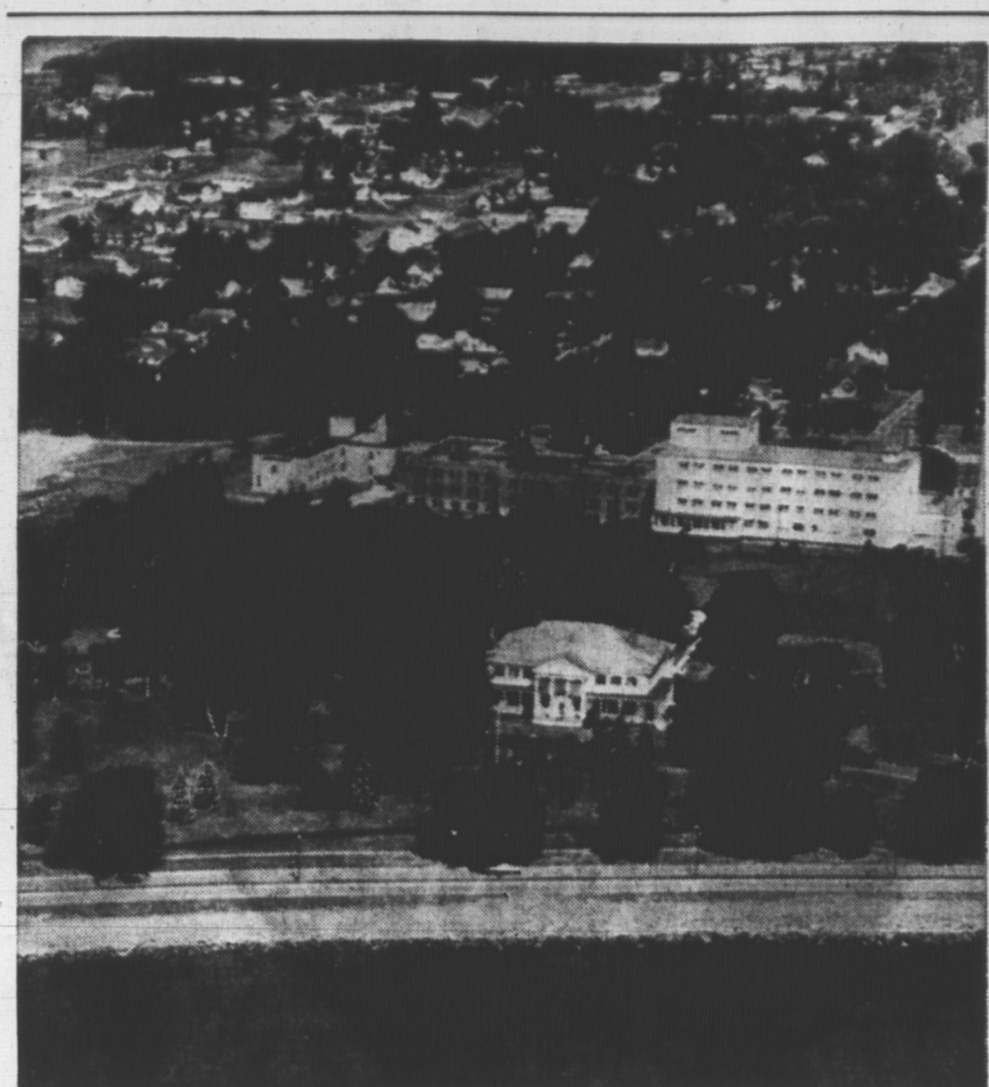
The preparatory committee in Algiers has apparently thought it better to put the conference off than face the onus of choosing between Soviet and Red China leadership. So China has gotten what it wants, for the time being. It may be the Afro-Asians are muttering "a plague on both your houses," but they can't afford to say it aloud.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Justice Minister Cardin," notes an exchange, "says he doesn't think a public inquiry into the Quebec bankruptcy scandal would do any good. Well, not until after November 8, anyway."

Who pays most taxes? Statistics indicate that the trend in Canada has been to a relative decrease in the low-income group and a sharp rise in the number of taxpayers in the middle-income tax bracket. And in terms of taxation, it is the middle-income earners, since there are so many of them, that pay the largest share.

In the last federal election the treasury gained over a hundred thousand dollars in lost deposits. The Liberals lost 28 and the Conservatives 85 out of their 265; the NDP lost 193 out of 232. The placing of a \$200 deposit to show "honorable intentions" on the part of a candidate was introduced in 1874, so it is no new regulation; it has played a significant part in our elections over the past 90 years.



AERIAL VIEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Plan Involves Complicated Book-keeping

Starting at 1st January next, every employed Canadian and every Canadian employer will start working a little more for the federal government—especially the employers, who will have some very complicated book-keeping to do while they serve as unpaid tax collectors.

New Year's Day is when deductions from payrolls (namely, taxes) will start for contributions to the Canada Pension Plan (i.e. the new welfare programme embracing all Canadians except those who live in Quebec.)

The deductions will be at the rate of 1.8 per cent from all wages and salaries, subject to an exemption of the first \$600 of earnings. Thus deductions will start with a worker earning \$11.56 in a week; he will pay one cent. The worker making between \$69.80 and \$90.14 per week will pay 87 cents; similarly the worker earning \$90 will pay \$1.23.

TRoubles FOR EMPLOYERS It is with all employees being paid more than \$5,000 a year that the trouble starts. The easy way to handle these would be to make the same flat deduction of \$1.52 from each every week, with the slight necessary adjustment. But no, that would be too simple for the bureaucrats' mind. Earnings above \$5,000 a year are not assessable for the pension plan; but it is the first \$5,000 paid to each employee, less the \$600 exemption, which must be subjected to the payroll deduction.

What it has done is reduce the value of other buildings as markers. It used to be, "Turn left at St. Paul's" or "Right on past the Abbey" or "Only a fool couldn't find Leicester Square." The modern word is "Just keep the tower on your right" or "Straight on to the tower" and everything is much simpler because the new tower can be seen from many parts of the sprawling city which is more than a could be said for the old Tower of London, crouched beside the river.

France has again made it bluntly apparent that the price for ending the paralysis of the European Common Market will, if paid, reduce that body to a simple customs union, not much more.

Foreign Minister Couve de Murville told the French national assembly that powers of the Common Market commission, the executive unit, must be sharply curtailed and that the system of majority voting for the council of ministers, highest ruling body, which is scheduled to go into effect automatically on Jan. 1, must be deferred or annulled.

Here are the two cardinal chapters on which the six must find agreement before all," he said. Only then will France end its boycott of the Common Market.

This presents a most difficult choice for France's five partners—West Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. They can give in and see the Common Market reshaped in a Gaullist mold; that is, the supranational elements reduced to a loose form of intergovernmental co-operation.

Or they can hold out for a much tighter political and economic arrangement, which is what the Common Market treaty intended. But this would risk a protracted freeze and inevitable deterioration, while waiting possibly seven years or longer for President de Gaulle to leave the political arena.

ORCHESTRA PERFORMS STANLEY, England (AP)—After practising for 20 years, the Stanley Civic Orchestra finally is going to play in public. Twenty years ago, a group of local amateur musicians began playing together but no one ever asked to hear them. But the Urban District Council has invited the orchestra to play at the new Civic Centre. After a final rehearsal, the orchestra learned its performance had been postponed. The building isn't ready.

TEN YEARS AGO (November 8, 1955) Thomas Joseph Dunphy, Peak Station, was selected by an agricultural committee to compete in the T. Eaton Company agricultural scholarships at the Royal Winter Fair scholarships in Toronto.

Community Centre Senior Square Dancers, winners of Senior Maritime Championships at Amherst Winter Fair, consisted of: Clifford Morgan, Rosalie Hennessy, LeRoy McConnell, Olga Dowling, Pat Connolly, Shirley Costello, Jackie Blanchard and Mary-Claire Smith.

Our Yesterdays (From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (November 8, 1940) Former Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was gravely ill at his country home, Highfield, in Hampshire. The King's physician, Lord Horder, attended the 71-year-old leader.

The U-boat replaced the bomber as No. 1 menace to Britain and with a German sea raider boom in the North Atlantic, naval experts in London agreed the Admiralty had one of the biggest problems of the war on its hands.

Medical Browsing

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Salt tends to raise the blood pressure when hypertension exists. It does not cause high blood pressure but too much may hasten the condition in a person destined to develop hypertension. Now and then the chemical is used in the treatment of hypotension (low blood pressure).

A group of University of Minnesota physicians were confronted with a man who complained of being dizzy when walking. They conducted a number of tests on his blood pressure and found that it fell considerably when he stood up and walked about.

He was given extra amounts of salt and his daily resting blood pressure increased from 98 to 144 when he received 30 to 37 grams (30 grams equal one ounce). The dizziness disappeared when this stage was reached. The average intake of sodium chloride by the normal adult is seven to 15 grams daily.

A stair-climbing wheelchair that moves with a caterpillar-like tread is capable of carrying a passenger in an upright position whether it is travelling up, down, or on the level. The new invention, operated by batteries, is controlled by push buttons. It can be adjusted to different positions and, when folded up, fits into an automobile.

Modern contests of gluttony usually involve single items such as beer, watermelon, or coconut pie. The world champion coffee drinker consumed 85 cups in eight hours. William Mungy set a record after drinking 80 ounces of beer in 45 seconds. A Minnesotan stripped the kernels off 50 ears of corn at one feast, and Max Baer was said to eat five pounds of steak in less than five minutes.

The emperors and kings of centuries ago were no pikers considering the menus that were handed down to us. Emperor Gaius Julius Verus Maximinus ate 40 pounds of meat and drank six gallons of wine in one day. Claudius Alvinus, a Roman general, consumed 500 figs, 100 peaches, 10 melons, 20 pounds of raisins, 100 snipes, 10 capons, and 150 large oysters at one sitting.

What do these records prove? Humans can survive more abuse than any other machine. HOW TO BE HELPFUL B. B. writes: My wife is going through the menopause and cries all the time. She says she is going to die. Is there any way I can help her?

Be sympathetic and see that she gets adequate medical attention. She is depressed and may need a tranquilizer. QUININE FOR CRAMPS E. E. writes: Is old-fashioned quinine helpful in night leg cramps?

REPLY Yes, but a close relative, quinidine is better. Taking one standard capsule of this drug before retiring may prevent cramping. VULNERABILITY D. K. writes: Are boys or girls more susceptible to tuberculosis?

REPLY Males are more vulnerable in infancy. During adolescence and early adulthood, the disease seems to favor females. PRESSURE NOT AFFECTED P. A. P. writes: Does the blood pressure go up with arthritis?

REPLY No. High blood pressure and arthritis may co-exist, but one condition is not influenced by the other. CHARLEY HORSE R. W. writes: Could a charley horse be the cause of poor circulation?

REPLY No. This is a hemorrhage into the muscle due to injury. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Remove doors from discarded refrigerators. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

DeGaulle's Appeal

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer In appealing for a return to office, President de Gaulle has employed a curious association of terms undoubtedly designed to convey an element of doom if the voters do not elect him. But his words also convey an admission of failure.

For seven years de Gaulle, now approaching 75, stood master over the destiny of France. He was able to create a new political structure, end an exhausting war with Algeria, dominate the politics of Europe and fill French coffers with gold and even throw his more-dominant allies off-balance.

But he has been unable to get political continuity. The republic will collapse, he says, if he is beaten at the polls. France can have confidence in no other political pillar than his own. Without him the country will face even greater confusion than it has known in the past.

De Gaulle undoubtedly will be returned to power by an overwhelming majority. Those who oppose him are mere shadows on the stage. They have not been given much opportunity or encouragement to show their talents. The spotlight is on de Gaulle and he intends it will shine as long as he so desires. He thus displays the egotistic element of weakness shown by other great men in the past. Some do not tolerate competition and are more inclined to pick successors who do not have the ability to challenge the unprecedented historical image of the master.

But what if he should die before the voters have the chance to reelect him to office? Does that mean, under his terms, that France must also perish? Why has de Gaulle delayed so long in ensuring the political continuity of his country? The answer may be that de Gaulle believes the country cannot guarantee stable government by democratic means without his help. Or he may have found that the successors who please him may not be popular with the voting majority.

Of greater concern is the possibility that in establishing stability, de Gaulle may not have erased the erratic nature of French politics but temporarily paralyzed the old traditions which may churn up new confusion on his own domination and control is stilled.

Those Offshore Rights

It is hard to see how the federal Government can insist on a strictly legalistic interpretation of offshore mineral rights, when the Government of the United States, faced with the same problem, had in the end to find a political compromise. The difficulties confronting Ottawa are seen again in the statement made this week by Premier Robert Stanfield. He said that if Nova Scotia loses its offshore mineral rights, it may lose its chance to achieve economic equality with central and western Canada.

What Premier Stanfield has particularly in mind is the possibility that oil might be discovered. If this should happen, the economic outlook of Nova Scotia would be drastically changed. The case of Nova Scotia has been to some extent established by long precedent. For generations coal has been mined from under the sea. Nova Scotia's right was never challenged. The determination now of the federal Government to take the matter to the Supreme Court opens up the possibility, supporting the court decision in Ottawa's favor, of oil being developed just off Nova Scotia's shores but beyond the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

Quebec has raised similar objections to Ottawa's move. So has Newfoundland, and so has British Columbia. The Government of the United States, having gained a Supreme

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