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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, 1963.

Peace Aims Reiterated

While making no new major policy announcements in his speech before the United Nations Assembly in New York yesterday, President Johnson performed a valuable service by reiterating his "unswerving commitment to the keeping and the strengthening of peace," and by making it clear that the assassin's bullet which put an end to the life of President Kennedy did not alter the national purpose to see the cold war ended "once and for all."

This is a time when such assertions from world leaders can be construed as being something more than hollow platitudes. The Soviet Union, with Red China breathing down its back in a struggle for world Communist supremacy, is anxious to produce a tangible symbol of further progress toward reduced tensions with the new administrations in the United States and Britain. Its protestations of good will may need to be accepted with reservations, but it would be folly not to make the most of this opportunity of furthering the cause of peace.

The Soviets are reportedly anxious to renew negotiations for a non-aggression pact, and have offered to couple this with a call for eventual settlement of the division of Germany and "normalization" of West Berlin. When this offer was made last fall the Western powers turned it down as inadequate. The Russians, they pointed out, could interrupt Berlin access by all kinds of measures short of force.

Britain has shown more interest than the United States in probing the subject to determine if the Soviet offer can be improved by bargaining. At Washington the official outlook has been sceptical, and President Johnson said nothing in his speech yesterday to indicate that there has been any change in attitude in this respect. Nevertheless, his emphasis on his government's determination to continue President Kennedy's "pursuit of areas of agreement" can be interpreted in a very broad sense.

Certainly if Premier Khrushchev is really bent now on achieving a victory on his food front, the results could include a less bristling and angry variety of Communism and a Soviet state less isolated from the Western world. This is a consummation to be desired, and to be encouraged in every rational way.

Ripe For Preferment

Among the rumored changes in the federal cabinet it is said that Justice Minister Chevrier may be transferred to a diplomatic post. This, of course, is a matter of speculation; but Mr. Chevrier would seem to have at least one qualification that is in great demand in the world of diplomacy. He can talk fulsomely and subtly without saying anything to the point.

A brilliant demonstration of this faculty was given in the House of Commons a few days ago, when Mr. Chevrier, as acting Prime Minister in the absence of Mr. Pearson, undertook to explain that there was no conflict between the Prime Minister's assurance to the Canadian Labor Congress in the matter of deficit financing, and Finance Minister Gordon's pledges to produce a balanced budget.

Mr. Chevrier did a neat job of rationalizing his leader's views, but he was brought up short by Opposition Leader Diefenbaker, who asked him if it was true that Mr. Pearson had told the CLC that he had not

consulted Mr. Gordon and did not know if he agreed with him about the virtues of deficit financing.

"Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Chevrier, "I was present at the meeting which took place yesterday. It was an excellent meeting, as my Rt. Hon. friend knows. It was one of the finest meetings I have ever experienced." Then he added that Mr. Diefenbaker should not be disturbed about budgetary deficits "in view of the \$3,000 million budgetary deficit which it took place while he was in office."

Further pressed, Mr. Chevrier repeated his remarks about the first meeting of labor and government. Then Mr. Stanley Knowles wanted to know if deficit financing would be part of the next Throne Speech, and Mr. Chevrier replied that to what he had seen Mr. Knowles and his colleagues at the meeting agreeing with things said by Mr. Pearson. "I cannot add anything more than was said on that occasion," he stated.

Asked by another member if the anticipated deficit was planned by the Government, Mr. Chevrier said: "Well, Mr. Speaker, if one has regard to a comparison between what is taking place now and what has taken place before, the comparison is as between night and day, and I would not want to go into the matter any further."

It would be hard, indeed, to carry diplomatic double-talk any further. Next day Mr. Terry Nugent, Conservative member for Edmonton Strathcona, was impetuous enough to call the Justice Minister's statements "reminiscent of the Artful Dodger." That gentlemen, it will be recalled, was a character in Oliver Twist who was adept in teaching younger charges how to pick pockets while smiling in the face of his victims.

There was no intent, Mr. Nugent explained, of suggesting that Mr. Chevrier was a pickpocket. But the Artful Dodger is also well-known for his ability to wriggle out of any difficulty he got into. That, said the Tory member, was what Mr. Chevrier had displayed so artfully.

Or diplomatically, as perhaps he should have said.

Should Be Considered

When Premier Shaw announced some time ago that his government was not contemplating any changes in liquor legislation, he added that no representation by organized groups had asked for a change. Yesterday's formal request by the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities to consider bringing down an act which would conform to the liquor laws in other provinces and cities of Canada, may have been prompted by this implied invitation. In any case, the request comes from a responsible body, which by no stretch of imagination can be regarded as the mouthpiece of the liquor interests.

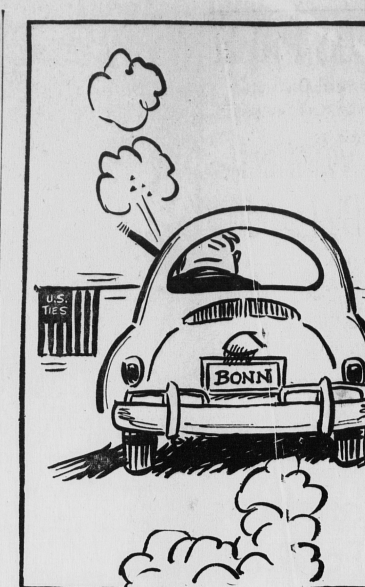
The resolution—one among several presented by the federation to the Government yesterday—made two points in connection with the need for revising the present legislation. One was the encouragement of the present law gives to bootlegging and other illegalities; the other was the hindrance it causes to the tourist industry.

Both these grounds, we believe, are valid. Certainly they deserve consideration in view of the fact that events that are being planned for the Province next year in the way of tourist attractions. And there is another point to which we had occasion to refer recently, that is the growth of licensed clubs which has developed under the present law and which, in effect, makes for two classes of citizens in the Province—those who are privileged to drink socially under this system, and those who are not.

We have come a long way from the old Prohibition days, but there are anomalies in our law stemming from those days that still need to be adjusted. Our legislators should be prepared to stand up and be counted on this question when the House meets in February. And it will be for the Government to take the lead in proposing amendments that will make sense to the majority of our people.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The mid-November percentage of the Canadian labor force unemployed was only 4.5—the lowest for the period since 1956. But for the Atlantic Provinces the figure remained at 7.5 per cent, which is scarcely a matter for complacency.



DIRECTION SIGNALS

LITERARY OUTPUT

They're Not Waiting For Centennial Year

Whenever the talk gets around to centennial ideas, the suggestion inevitably comes up that there should be a great outpouring of Canadian books about Canada and Canadians. Let's produce for the occasion new Canadian histories and biographies, Canadian poetry and fiction, and the enthusiastic exhortation: "As late as this Fall's meeting of the National Conference on the centennial, delegates were talking about commissioning a special history for 1967."

When is someone going to say there's not enough time left now to plan, to write and to publish a history worth the name? The great histories are the work of many years; not something to be produced on demand in a "crash" program.

Another Thing

Another thing wrong with the idea of centennial literature is that it is often accompanied by the assumption that little Canadian history or biography is now being produced. The fact is we are in a period of extraordinary productivity. Centennial publishing will need to be prolific indeed to surpass the number of books, especially the histories, now coming off the presses.

In the last months new and a substantial additions to the biographies of George Brown by Arthur Meighen and Mackenzie King have appeared. One account of Duplessis has recently been written; more are coming. The first volume in an important new Canadian history series was published this Summer.

The story of ordinary Canadians, not only the great dramatic political events, is more and more being told. Our histories are coming closer to the actual concept of social history, accounts which tell of the state of the roads as well as of politicians' minds.

CENTRAL DOCUMENTS

The great central documents of Canada's past, the primary sources of history, are also being made more easily available.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events of national interest. The Guardian does not accept for editing and condensing where necessary. The Guardian is unable to return to contributors material regarding letters submitted.

HIGHER EXAMPLE

Sir—In a back number of your interesting paper there appeared a letter from Rev. A. Toner that gives us the information that he is not co-operating in the coming Col. Graham's m.p. because of an Episcopal Bishop who is working and co-operating with this m.p.

I wonder if Mr. Toner has forgotten that our Saviour allowed that the high priests and workers, also the despised Zachaeus who climbed into a sycamore tree that might see Jesus. Jesus did not ask for this man's credentials, but he did ask for his heart. If he comes down, for today I must abide at thy house. And what a different man he became by the love and sympathy and the touch of the "Master's hand."

So may we trust that this Bishop may see the truth as it is given in the Bible. Now instead of wrapping our robes about us, we should join in with the sweet voice of Beverly S. P. in singing "The Great Thou Art," then whisper a prayer for Billy Graham, that he may be given wisdom and strength as he earnestly proclaims the Bible to be the remedy for our sinful hearts.

I am, Sir, MRS. A. SIMPSON, Cavendish.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (December 18, 1938) There was a full house at the Prince Edward Hotel last night when the annual Christmas Charity Concert was given in the Grand Ballroom. The Rev. Charles H. A. Sings, assisted by the Chorus from the Ladies Music Club.

Fire caused slight damage to the interior of the W. H. Dunlop at Keppoch shortly before noon yesterday. City firemen responded to the alarm, but no damage with the chemical engine.

TEN YEARS AGO

(December 18, 1953) Rev. E. H. Bean, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Kensington was among the recipients of the Coronation Medal from Her Majesty, the Queen. He recently received it by mail from Hon. Lester B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Bean is a native of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

The complete absence of snow has not lessened the spirit with which the various organizations have been made in Summerside for the Christmas season. The National Service League on the lawn at the Town Hall is of such size and beauty that it will be difficult to surpass.

Formation Of Cataract

By Dr. Theodore R. Vandell The cataract that develops in older persons is a degenerative disease. The change is likened to the way egg white turns opaque when heated.

The cloudiness may not interfere with vision a number of eye surgeons have observed early signs of cataract formation 10 to 15 years before the individual complains, he no longer sees clearly. It is noted through the room were full of smoke or the person were trying to see through mist or a waterfall (from which the word cataract comes). Spots appear when looking at the sky, water, snow, or a light colored wall.

There is much confusion as to what is necessary to be done. Most ophthalmologists agree that the lens ought to be removed when vision is so poor that it meets the needs of the individual. This is sooner for some than others and it is not to go about with falling vision for months or years.

When it is time to undergo this type of surgery. The procedure is designed for the elderly and cataract removal can develop before age 60. The majority go through the procedure without clearing the eye. The rule the patient gets out of the room on the second day and goes home on the third day. The patient is able to remain quiet for three or four weeks thereafter. Bending the knee or four weeks. If the work are verboten. Good results can be expected in 9 out of 10 undergoing this type of surgery.

Many are disappointed when given a temporary lens after the third or fourth week. They do not see as well as they did before the cataract was removed. The thick-lens spectacles enlarge the image (30 per cent) on the operated side, leading to double vision.

This work is a temporary situation that clears up when the nerves and brain adjust to the loss of the lens. Correcting lenses are most helpful in correcting this situation.

CHOLESTEROL AND ARTERIES

A. E. Whitford There any difference between an elevated cholesterol and arteriosclerosis?

REPLY

Yes, cholesterol is a fatty substance found in the blood and other tissues. An elevated amount is associated frequently with hardening of the arteries. There are two conditions, a or not synonymous.

WHISKY HEIGHTENS COLOR

C. C. writes: "In 75 years old and look awfully pale. Do you think four ounces of whisky per day will bring back the color to my cheeks?"

REPLY

It may but it won't cure the cause of your pallor. Artery a or arteriosclerosis. This is your normal complexion, considering your age.

WATCH AND PULSE

M. S. writes: "My new wrist watch runs 3 minutes fast in a week. Someone told me it is because my pulse is fast, which I don't think it is. Is there anything to this?"

REPLY

No, your problem will be solved by avoiding stress, or by taking your watch to a jeweler.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If you want to let the rest of the world go by, all you have to do is drive at the legal speed limit on our highways—Sparta Herald.

Menfolk aren't the only ones trying to break the cigarette habit by resorting to cigars or pipes. A traveller back from that wondrous city of Toronto found a woman who had specialized in pipes. He noted a small pipe, and quite fancy. Some, indeed, had their bowls decorated with sequins or other ornaments. These were pipes for women. Windsor Star.

NATO Opinion Divided

By Joseph MacSwinee Canadian Press Staff Writer

Three shades of opinion on Western-Soviet relations are apparent as NATO meetings in the Washington area get under way.

France and West Germany are inclined to a cautious view of the much-discussed Russian-West detente. If they believe in it they are not saying so in a wholehearted way.

The United States is cautiously saying, in effect, that it would not be surprised if Russia-West detente is possible, but doubts remain because of such Russian actions as the cancelled American military convoys on the East German autobahn.

Some Canadians are much more forthcoming—they are showing more optimism about the chances of building a bridge between the two superpowers.

INCLUDES TEST BAN The details of the test-ban treaty, the agreement to ban nuclear vehicles from outer space, the Washington-Moscow "hot line" and the liberalization program in eastern Europe.

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He Lost Two Horses

Colin Cameron (NDP-Nanaimo-Cowichan) in the House of Commons

I have always been rather sceptical of the estimates of military experts, ever since I lost two horses for the government of Canada. In fact, I was almost before my time. Since my loss I have put horses on the payroll: I took two of them off.

This was almost 50 years ago, here in Ottawa. This is unyielding part of Canada's history, in what I mean to reveal. On this occasion I was asked to bring a number of horses from our riding stations in Lansdowne Park. We were all given one horse to ride and another to lead.

We were riding them bareback, I might say. The pair of horses that I had were very well suited in their gait, and their estimates of costs, because I can lose two horses 50 years ago I presume I must have lost a few more. I might say that I have been fortunate in that I have been able to recover the cost of the horses I have lost.

SYDNEY, Australia (Reuters) An American family which left the United States to escape atom bomb "refugees" arrived here Saturday. They are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Price and their four children, from Cottage Grove, Ore., who said they plan to buy a farm in Queensland.

Price told reporters: "With the threat of war hanging over our heads the effects on most people and particularly the children are not the best."

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