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Still Unexplained

In his statement in the Commons on Tuesday denying that he had asked the RCMP to investigate the private lives of MPs or give him information on their past conduct, Mr. Pearson was quoted as saying that the rules of procedure and his own principles prevented him discussing the testimony given at the Munsinger inquiry by Commissioner McClellan; but he wished he could. Perhaps, he added, the occasion will arise later.

What the press had reported and commented on was the statement given under oath by RCMP Commissioner McClellan that Mr. Pearson had asked him, back in November 1964, whether the RCMP had any information indicating "any impropriety or anything of a scandalous nature involving any MP in any party over the last 10 years." This, in effect, was what the Prime Minister repudiated on Tuesday, when he denied having asked for information on the past conduct of members of Parliament generally.

We find it odd that if his principles prevented Mr. Pearson from discussing the testimony of the police commissioner when the non-confidence motion based on this testimony was being debated, his principles nevertheless allowed him to smear the press as well as the Opposition by insinuating that they had distorted the testimony for their own purposes.

We suggest that the testimony as quoted was open to no other interpretation than that the Prime Minister was snooping for all the scandal he could get. His denial that he made the statement, of course, is another thing. It was accepted by a majority of the House as putting his motives in a different light. But this denial was not forthcoming until four days after Commissioner McClellan's testimony had been made public and called to the Prime Minister's attention in Parliament. The fact that it gave rise, in the meantime, to widespread expressions of indignation was the fault neither of the press nor of the Opposition, but plainly of Mr. Pearson himself.

The situation was well summed up by Creditist House Leader Gilles Gregoire when he said, in accepting the Prime Minister's version of the affair, that it contradicted the testimony by Commissioner McClellan. "One of the two expressed himself poorly or did not tell the whole truth," he said. "They cannot both remain in office." He added that Mr. Pearson had a duty to resign or dismiss the commissioner; there was "no other alternative."

Not even the alternative of "blaming the press," which of course would save a lot of embarrassment if only the public would swallow it!

Hit Both Ways

The federal government has a long established policy of encouraging investment in Canadian stocks. It does this by allowing a tax credit of 20 per cent of net dividends received from Canadian taxable companies. But the savings of Canadian bond buyers are surely no less important to the national economy. What happens to them when inflation hits the country?

A Toronto investment firm has addressed an open letter to Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp on this subject, citing figures which are of interest and concern to every government bond holder. They relate to the case of a person who owned a \$1,000 government bond through 1965, at the current rate of 5.5 per cent. This offered the purchaser \$55 in interest. But the decrease in value of his \$1,000 bond during the year, resulting from the rise in the consumer

price index, was \$28.40. This left actual income of \$26.60. Supposing that the bondholder paid income tax at 25 per cent, the tax on the bond's \$55 interest was \$13.17. Thus, without spending any of his principal, he is left with \$12.85 actual income from his \$1,000.

Governments are often accused of secretly welcoming inflation of this sort since in the long term the burden of debt is greatly eased. The bondholder, like the ultimate consumer whose fate is underlined in the consumer price index, is likely to suspect the truth of the accusation. Both are the unwilling and hapless victims of trends which may affect their months and even years hence. Only the bondholder gets a double dose, his investment being slashed in value while ordinary prices rise.

Wages, profits and the rate of investment are factors which have their role in inducing inflationary trends. As the Toronto firm suggests, many factors are responsible for fixing interest rates as high as they are today. One of them, undoubtedly, is the dawning realization of the investor about what is happening to his bond holdings.

It is not only federal bonds that are affected by the argument but bonds issued by all levels of government, as well as by corporations—and not forgetting preferred stocks and savings accounts. All these represent fixed returns which even a controlled inflation policy undercuts.

The investment house suggests one protection for the public savings would be to make bonds payable in "constant" dollars so that, if inflation caused the buying power of the dollar to shrink 25 per cent over the term of the loan, the owner of a \$1,000 bond would get back \$1,250. As an immediate reform it is proposed the bondholder should be allowed to deduct his loss of principal due to inflation from the taxable income from all fixed return securities and savings.

Nuclear Weapon Check

The United States has developed a new device in the nuclear field which could be of far-reaching importance in keeping the world out of trouble in the future. Its purpose is to check whether international agreements on production of material for nuclear weapons are being kept. William C. Foster, chief American delegate to the Geneva disarmament conference, told of a "safing tape" in a tube which can be passed through a nuclear reactor. Inspection teams can collect the tube and tests would show whether nuclear materials had been changed clandestinely.

The Russians immediately charged that this was a "spy device", which of course it is, in a way. It's an automatic spy controlled internationally to make sure that all concerned are living up to their agreements. The Russians countered with a proposal that all nuclear weapons be destroyed—but without verification. They profess to be puzzled at why other nations won't take their word about disarmament. But the fact is that no nation can afford to take another's in a matter of this kind. Without verification of agreements, there is no hope of achieving disarmament.

This is where the new gadget may be helpful. And certainly it hasn't come before time. Five nations can produce nuclear weapons today; there may be 10 or more in another decade. And we are reaching toward devices, which, as Foster said, may have death dealing potential "the world has fortunately not experienced." The more safety checks we can devise the better.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Census takers will be abroad this month, making an interim check on the population, merchandising establishments, and farm assets. Population counts have been taken only once every ten years, the last one falling in 1961. But officials at Ottawa have decided that a five-year check will be advantageous.

Our provincial election campaign will soon be in full swing. Perhaps this is as good a time as any to reflect on the moral pointed up in a post-election story from Newport, Tennessee, as told in an Associated Press dispatch. The defeated candidate in a recent Republican primary inserted an advertisement in the local paper to thank the people who had voted for him. Nothing unusual about that, of course. But just below the ad was a similar one, signed by the candidate's wife. It too began with "Thanks" and it went on to say: "I want to thank the voters of Cocke County for not voting for my husband. Now that he is out of politics I may be able to get him in church."



APRIL FOOL COMES AT THE WRONG TIME

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

More Than "Free Thought" Involved Here

The need to protect the listener against the intrusion of the personal beliefs and preferences of interviewers and editors, whose educational and intellectual qualifications certainly match those of supporters of "Seven Days", commented to me that the producers of that program assert the right of the individual, but overlook the basic essential of any modern industrialized nation that society also has rights.

"Seven Days" has been criticized for bias, for depicting only one side not only of controversial and political topics, but even of dangerous topics. Examples of this were seen in recent programs describing far-out abuses of modern chemicals or in bordering the field of harmful drugs. Last month viewers saw a group of children inhaling the strange craze of inhaling aeroplane glue. Tubes of this glue can be bought at hobby shops. The glue is squeezed into a paper bag, and the child then puts his or her face

Focus Of Sights

National Geographic Society

The daily flood of visitors to St. Peter's in Rome makes even the world's largest church seem smaller than it is. Twelve thousand people drift in and out of St. Peter's on an average day, and 20,000 may come for the weekly papal audience. Eighty thousand have attended the canonization of a new saint. Up to half a million—Roman and outsider, Catholic and non-Catholic—crowd into the church colonnaded piazza on special occasions such as Easter.

The great stone basilica stands on a sun-swept rise west of the Tiber. This centuries-old masterpiece of architecture dominates Rome, yet the atmosphere inside is that of a pleasant park where a visitor may ramble peacefully seeking out familiar things. Nowadays, throngs of visitor head straight for Michelangelo's Pieta to see how the sculpture that was exhibited at the New York World's Fair "looks back in the chapel where it belongs."

Whatever one's religion, attending Pope Paul's public audience in St. Peter's at 11 a.m. on Wednesday can be a moving experience. Ticket-holders are asked to be in the basilica an hour before the Pope's arrival. The cavernous aisles, the hundreds of soaring columns, the legions of stone saints, the chapels, arches, and richly embellished ceilings are bathed in soft, gray shadows.

Suddenly the lights go on, and 800 crystal chandeliers glitter like fireflies. The papal altar glows. Everywhere, gilt comes alive. Tension grows, and with it the muffled buzz of voices. At last there is a moment of utter silence followed by a torrent of applause when the Pope is borne into the church on a portable throne. He is dressed all in white; his slim pale hand lifts again and again in blessing.

Waves of applause follow the Pope and his procession to the main altar. A recent American visitor gave this impression, "The sound went up into the domed ceiling and came back again. It sounded lovely and cool, full of joy and respect." The Pope makes the same brief address in several languages—Italian, English, French, German, Spanish. The occasion is not a religious ceremony, but thus no one minds that particular groups of pilgrims or tourists, clap their hands and shout when they are welcomed by name.

"Iron Curtain" Origin

Windsor Star

The "Iron Curtain" separating Communist Eastern Europe from the free Western Europe is perhaps less rigid than it once was. But the origin of the phrase still is argued. It first came to the attention of North America when Sir Winston Churchill used it in March, 1946, in his famous speech in Fulton, Missouri. The Iron Curtain, he said, had been drawn down across Europe from Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic. He used this graphically to describe the partition of Europe by the Communists. It was not, however, original with him. In his recent book, "The Last 100 Days, John Toland quotes a Nazi as having used it. He was Schwernin von Krossick. There being no feasible way to heat a church as big as St. Peter's, the practical minded Vatican maintains a little coffee

Competitive Sport Events

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

What competitive sports are most dangerous? Automobile racing accounted for more than 150 fatalities during the five-year period from 1960 through 1964 according to a survey by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. One-third of each occurred in stock car and one-fifth in sports car racing. There were 148 deaths from football in this period. It is estimated that 25,000 drivers participate in various types of races each year. In contrast, 600,000 high school and 66,000 college students played football.

During the period mentioned above eight jockeys, 20 boxers, and 25 motorcycle racers were killed in competition. Baseball is one of the safest, there were no fatalities even though millions of boys and girls compete annually. More and more Americans are participating in judo. According to Dr. E.K. Koival of Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, Kodokan judo was founded originally as a procedure that was safe, sound, and enjoyable for anyone. Safety first is stressed.

But despite the best intentions minor injuries such as bruises, abrasions, contusions, sprains, and black and blue marks occur. Dr. Koival consulted the U.S. Judo federation and found that only 70 major injuries had been reported during the past four years. There were 21 fractures and 27 dislocations. The remainder were severe contusions, sprains, torn knee cartilages, etc. Fifty per cent of the serious mishaps resulted from improper throwing techniques. The organization is trying to determine why the injuries occurred. To date, improper technique and the small mat area loom as good possibilities.

The number of injuries is negligible considering that 200,000 participate in judo. Of 50 to 70 thousand marines instructed in judo in Parris Island, there was only one broken leg. The sport carries the stigma of being dangerous but statistics show that it is among the safest.

V. E. writes: I get such a feeling of pressure over my abdomen after I eat I have to take off my girdle. I have a slight gall bladder condition. Do you think this could be responsible for my uncomfortable feeling?

REPLY Yes. Abdominal distention may result from food, air, or gas. It occurs in those with gall bladder disease, but faulty eating habits and stomach disorders also could be responsible. LIVER SAMPLE N. J. writes: Does a liver biopsy mean an abdominal operation?

REPLY There are two ways of doing a biopsy. One is to insert a needle or a peritoneoscope through the abdominal wall to obtain a sample of liver tissue for examination. The second way is to take a bit of this tissue during abdominal surgery. PAINFUL THROAT F. M. writes: Can sinus disease cause the throat to be red and scratchy all the time?

REPLY This possibility exists, especially if a discharge drips into the back of the throat. If sinus disease is severe enough to produce throat symptoms, it is severe enough to cause headache and other symptoms of nasal trouble. HOSPITAL INSURANCE E. F. writes: Are voluntary hospital insurance plans a form of socialized medicine?

REPLY No. If anything, they are quite the opposite. They are voluntary plans through which groups get together to pool hospital risks. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—The alcoholic needs medical care. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

May And Violets

New York Times

They are not necessarily synonymous, but it is hard to think of May without violets. And May Day, back when it was sentimental rather than socially significant, was always marked by May baskets brimming with violets. Springtime, May, young love and violets—they were all there, together, in those fragile paper baskets. Spring brings earlier flowers, a few, but none better known or more widely distributed. More than 80 species of violets grow in the United States, in damp meadows, rich woodlands, upland pastures, at rural roadides, and on dry, sandy plains. In color they range from white through yellow to all shades of blue and purple; and their close cousins, the Johnny-jumpups or wild pansies, mingle these colors in the same blossom.

Now It's Iceland

Kitchener - Waterloo Record

Iceland opens a national television broadcasting agency this month, leaving Greece as the only European nation without TV. Perhaps more than an ideal climate, a friendly people and an ancient culture lure tourists to the Aegean. There are now a few places to hide from the invasion of home privacy by people from the Ponderosa, from ubiquitous UNCLE, the baggy-eyed sameness of Dean Martins and the eternal format of Ed Sullivan.

Iceland will bring the number of nations transfixed by television to 110. There are a few holdouts. One of them is South Africa where the prospect of a national network is considered dangerous to the state gospel called apartheid. Most of the countries with television are too poor to be able to produce their own programs. This creates a market that the United States producer is delighted to fill. As a result people like Lorne Greene of Bonanza are better known around the globe than most of the world statesmen.

EYE DECEIVES HAND

The eye's reaction time for a wink is 1/20 second, three times faster than a deliberate blink.

Signs Of Stress At The Top

By Arch Mackenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

The latest dropouts from the United States power apparatus indicate an unprecedented, consumption of manpower. President Johnson is losing his 12th and 13th personal assistants—he has about a dozen—since taking office in November, 1963. Thomas Mann, No. 3 in the state department, has resigned on health grounds and George Ball, No. 2, is believed to have submitted his resignation after five years on the hot seat.

This does not mean the government is collapsing, some of the attrition simply reflects the transition from the late president Kennedy's New Frontier to the Great Society of President Johnson. But there is no doubt a hard-driving, tireless and often irascible president, combined with world events and domestic problems spell unprecedented physical and mental pressures for the men at or near the top.

Rarely if ever before in the U.S. have the levers of the power structure been concentrated in so few hands or manipulated so busily. WORK-LONG DAY President Johnson's band of helpers consider routine a work week of six days 12 to 16 hours daily with a half-day thrown in frequently Sundays.

The state department can equal that pace depending on just what part of the globe is currently erupting. In the third year of the Johnson reign, the president, Secretary of State Dan Rusk, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Ball, Deputy

Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance and a presidential aide, Bill Moyers, are the hard core of the establishment. Both McNamara and Rusk have been on the job since 1960 without much break and each seems to thrive on more work. However, there have been signs of stress as when McNamara recently snapped angrily at a press questioner regarding possibilities American troops in Europe would be tapped for Viet Nam. McNamara said no and then 15,000 "specialists" were diverted.

Meanwhile, the list of former help is lengthy and Moyers, press secretary and troubleshooter secretary and trouble-shooter left from the original retinue of 1963. McGeorge Bundy, from Kennedy's time a key international adviser, is gone to head the Ford Foundation. Jack Valenti, closest personally to President Johnson, is leaving to be president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

In fact, the high-salaried positions seemingly available to Johnson insiders is a sign that fatigue alone is not the only answer to the turnover. PLAN VISIT TO CANADA OTTAWA (CP)—An eight-man delegation of Czechoslovak parliamentarians will make a 12-day visit to Canada in June and visit at least seven cities, it was announced Wednesday. The delegation will spend about two days in Ottawa and visit Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Calgary and Vancouver. It will tour several industrial, agricultural and scientific establishments.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 5, 1941) It was felt that Hitler's hint in his Reichstag address that the war might run into 1942 probably was based on "the calculated effects of American intervention."

TEN YEARS AGO (May 5, 1956) UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld returned to the United Nations, N.Y., to a chorus of praise and certainty of Security Council approval for his month's Middle East negotiations on Israeli-Arab peace.

Among those attending the convention in Ottawa the Liberal women were: Mrs. B. Earle Macdonald, Charlottetown; Senator Elsie Inman and Mrs. L.H. Poole, Montague; and Mrs. Russell Roper, Charlottetown.

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