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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

PAGE 4 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1966

Time For A Showdown

In a further press statement on the closing of Gulf Garden Foods Limited at Georgetown, Dr. Sinnott, MLA for Fifth Kings, says the people he represents are shocked and angry at the Campbell government's withholding of the financial support required by the company at this time.

Certainly on one point in Dr. Sinnott's accusations there can be little dispute. That is that the issue was the subject of heated political controversy before the last election. The former Shaw government was persistently badgered by the Liberal opposition in the Legislature for its alleged failure to enlighten the public on all phases of the Georgetown plant's operation, as well as those of Bathurst Marine Limited with which it is associated in the project initiated by the Conservatives to exploit our deep-sea resources and develop an industry for the people of Eastern Kings.

In the circumstances, the Campbell government owes the public a full and complete explanation of the course it has followed with regard to these industries. As we suggested yesterday, the issue is important enough to warrant another special session of the Legislature. Failing that, an independent commission should be set up to inquire into all the ramifications of the situation. The Premier now says that he is considering this course, should the Opposition request it officially.

We note that another private meeting with company officials and others is scheduled to take place on Thursday. A good beginning could be made by inviting Dr. Sinnott, and other Opposition members interested, to attend this meeting. There is no reason why it should be conducted by the government in a secretive manner, if it has done all that it claims to have done in the public interest.

On Collision Course?

Ottawa and Quebec appear to be heading on another collision course, this time with respect to Premier Johnson's decision, as announced in the Quebec Speech from the Throne last week, to stake a claim to the whole field of old age security. At present this program consists of the \$75-a-month federal old age pension, financed through federal sales, corporation and personal income taxes; but Ottawa is in process of legislating additional assistance, to a maximum of \$30 a month, under its guaranteed income program for the aged. Finance Minister Sharp has said that he will introduce new taxes to meet the cost of the guaranteed annual income program. Presumably Mr. Johnson will demand that Ottawa vacate these various tax fields in favor of Quebec.

The Globe and Mail recalls, in this connection, the dearly bought compromise reached by the Pearson government with former Premier Lesage over the Canada Pension Plan, and expresses the hope that history will not repeat itself. The original federal proposal had been a pay-as-you-go pension plan, and at a provincial conference this had apparently been approved by the English-speaking provinces. The Quebec premier, however, left the conference in anger, demanding a funded plan that would eventually place large

capital funds at the disposal of Quebec. In a flurry of secret negotiations Prime Minister Pearson yielded to Mr. Lesage's demands and imposed on the other provinces a Canada Pension Plan which nearly doubled the premiums levied on individuals and companies and increased benefits only negligibly.

Certainly such a system of negotiation should not be used to deal with Mr. Johnson over old age security. As the Toronto paper says, it is highly unlikely that the other provinces would again submit to having foisted on them a plan cooked up in secrecy by Ottawa and Quebec and primarily designed not to meet pension needs but Quebec capital-fund needs. But it warns that clearly Ottawa and the other provinces will have to prepare themselves for hard and realistic bargaining. The new plan will involve more taxation in any case, but the whole of Canada cannot again be subjected to more than the necessary taxes in order to provide extra capital for any province.

Incidentally, it is worth noting that Ottawa last year paid old age pensioners \$927.3 million, of which \$201 million went to Quebec residents. The new guaranteed income plan will cost an estimated \$275 million more next year, of which \$55 million would go to Quebec.

A Challenging Move

There will be nationwide interest in the outcome of the executive council order signed by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, claiming all the offshore B.C. continental shelf and its wealth, and thus pushing the boundary of the province from 100 to 300 miles into the Pacific. As stated by B.C.'s Attorney General Robert Bonner, the order enlarges the province's recognized area of 366,255 square miles by between 30 and 50 per cent, the purpose being to protect provincial interests "in view of technological developments in exploitation of the sea." He added that it might have some effect on the current dispute between the federal and provincial governments over offshore oil jurisdiction.

The action was taken under the province's Petroleum and Natural Gas Act and the Provincial Land Act and the reserve is not related to the 12-mile fishing limit, which is a surface measure. It concerns the continental shelf which, says Mr. Bonner, "is part of the province and it's only an accident that so much of our territory is under water. If the tide went out to the end of the continental shelf, all of it obviously would be part of British Columbia."

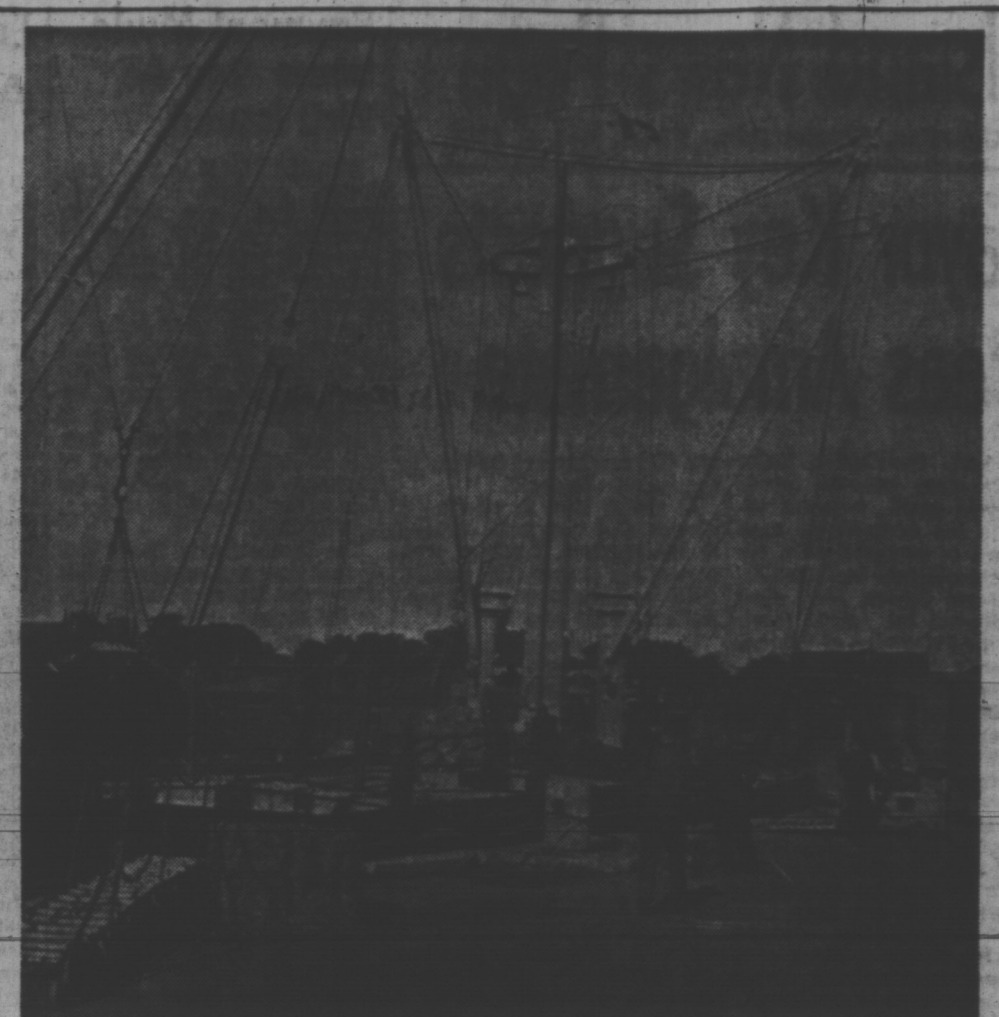
This attitude, he says, had also been taken by the Atlantic provinces although they have not put it in formal terms such as the B.C. cabinet order. But he maintains that the order is in line "with our public responsibility to the people of British Columbia and for that matter to the people of Canada." That, however, is something the courts have yet to rule upon.

The Supreme Court of Canada is due to consider early next year a delayed reference to it by the federal and provincial governments to determine which has the constitutional jurisdiction over off-shore mineral rights. Both governments are currently issuing exploration permits to oil companies drilling in waters up to 12 miles beyond the straight-line limits of the B.C. coast.

Prime Minister Pearson is quoted as saying he had expected the B.C. move but could not comment on it as it's a matter of law. Which did not prevent a "spokesman from the Prime Minister's office" saying that he doubted whether British Columbia's intentions would comply with provisions of the British North America Act which governs all changes in provincial boundaries. Two bills are before Parliament, he noted, associated with boundary changes in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Ottawa takes the position that offshore resources belong to the whole country rather than the provinces.

EDITORIAL NOTE

New Democrats claim that it's the Conservatives, in view of their leadership difficulties, who should be called the "splinter party" at Ottawa. They also point with glee to a Gallup Poll which shows the NDP and the Conservative Party equally favored by 26 per cent of the people. Which could be the reason why Camp supporters among the Tories are reportedly trying to work out some kind of compromise with the Diefenbaker loyalists to undo some at least of their mischief by allowing the old chief to retire with honor.



LOADING P.E.I. SPUDS FOR PUERTO RICO

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Murder Trials And Cabinet Decisions

Ralph Cowan, the very independent Liberal MP for Toronto's York-Humber district, has a shrewd knack of cutting through the periphery and getting right into the kernel of any question. Thus in the House of Commons he posed to the Solicitor-General, Hon. Larry Pennell, this significant question: "Since the Santos Claus murderer, Marcotte, is now doing life imprisonment for murdering two policemen, would it be possible that the Cabinet might dispense with any trial for the chap in Edmonton, who has shot only one policeman, so that his parole six years from now will not be unduly delayed?"

But Mr. Peaker Lamoureux, being duty bound to preserve the rigmarole rather than the common sense of Parliament, closed off that sarcastic but realistic line by calling "Order, please."

What Mr. Cowan in effect was suggesting was that the taxpayers should be saved the cost of the ritual of trial, leading perhaps to conviction and sentence of death. If such sentence were imposed in this case, we can assume from precedents that there would then be an appeal against the sentence, and then the case would be reviewed by the Cabinet, and the sentence commuted to "life" imprisonment. In practice, suggested Mr. Cowan, this means six years incarceration before being paroled into freedom.

The new justice Behind Mr. Cowan's question was the implicit criticism of the new Pearson formula of justice, which is in itself a denial of the law and a contempt of the expressed wish of Parliament. A man charged with murder trial is tried in open court before a jury. Then follows a second trial, a Star Chamber consisting of the cabinet, with no prosecutor; no defendant and no witnesses; and of course, no public.

If any citizen called for jury duty in a murder trial expresses his opposition to the death penalty, he would normally be excused and a substitute appointed to serve on the jury. But the jury of 26 cabinet ministers includes 18 who have specifically voted in favour of the abolition of the death penalty yet were overruled by a majority of the House of Commons.

All legally admissible evidence is presented in open court, and the guilt or innocence of the accused is judged there on inadmissible evidence, like hearsay, conjecture and irrelevancies, are not submitted to the jury. But in this too we find a flagrant contrast when we come to the final stage under the Pearson practice. After the open trial in a judicial court, comes the Cabinet review, from which the public is excluded and whose deliberations are blanketed by the Privy Council oath of secrecy. In these conditions, evidence not admitted in court is considered and weighed, but never made public.

Then, no doubt, amid scenes of high emotion, the Pearson cabinet invariably decides to commute the sentence of death to one of "life" imprisonment—or, as Ralph Cowan ridicules it, six years before being paroled into freedom. Not even one convicted murderer has paid the penalty prescribed by the law during the Pearson Years. In fact, since the House of Commons voted on 5th April last by 143-112 to retain the death penalty, the Cabinet has ignored

that express parliamentary decision and set aside the judicial sentence, commuting each of the three death sentences submitted to it for review, regardless of whether or not the jury made a recommendation to mercy. For the cabinet to retain the privilege of exercising clemency in certain cases is admirable. But for the cabinet to override Parliament by effectively abolishing the death penalty is contemptuous of Parliament and mocking our courts. One of the basic responsibilities of Parliament is to ensure, so far as possible, the security of the individual. This is not necessarily achieved by executing every murderer, provided the parole system is not too lenient. But the preservation of law and order does call, in the view of most qualified critics, for the execution of anyone guilty of murdering a police officer or prison warder.

Big Power Hypocrisy

Vancouver Sun The big four on the Security Council have acted with rare unanimity in condemning Israel for the flare-up on the Israeli-Jordanian frontier. This is a severe blow to the Israeli case and it now becomes a question what encouragement its Arab neighbors, especially the Syrians, will take from it.

The unanimity of the powers is understandable, perhaps, because of the danger of full-scale war developing out of these constant border incidents. This danger was present earlier in the fall with Syrian aggression. The Security Council had its opportunity to crack down on Syria at the time but a Soviet veto prevented it. It appears Israel's sin in the present instance is that it retaliated on Jordan for the injury it had sustained from Syria. Its record of passive endurance of Arab demonstrations bears scrutiny.

The average person will be unwilling to pass judgment because, despite the constant stream of propaganda from both sides, he will find it difficult to

disentangle the facts. He may agree, however, with the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Arthur Goldberg, that while condemning Israel because its retaliation surpassed the previous terrorist acts against it, the Council should take into account the "total situation." The truth is that the great powers themselves, Russia, the United States, Britain and France, have small moral right to sit in judgment. They have been supplying the arms that these troublesome little nations use against each other. The big fellows may justify themselves by saying that they shipped the arms solely for defence. But since in modern times offence is claimed to be the best defence, the result is the same. In any case those who dread a big-scale Middle Eastern war with all its potential for bringing on a bigger war should examine their own conduct. It cannot be denied that in their condemnation of Israel there is no little hypocrisy.

Young Canucks Abroad

Ottawa Times Canadian involvement in international affairs is being featured more prominently all the time. Our representatives are seeking to end the Viet Nam war. At the United Nations, the Canadian initiative is strong. In the organizations associated with the UN, many Canadians play key roles.

Another group of Canadians also renders worthwhile service with little publicity in these fields. It is the Canadian University Service Overseas. In the five years of its existence the organization has grown rapidly. Young Canadians are recruited who have special skills or knowledge to serve and to learn in developing countries overseas. The organization is non-denominational and free of government control. Its volunteers are dispatched only at the request of an official agency of an overseas country. The volunteers work under the same conditions and at the same rate of pay as others.

Victims Of 'Progress'

Guelph Mercury There seems to be no stopping progress. University of Guelph scientists are now confident of developing a new breed of bee. The Turkish Anolian bee, according to the scientists, is thrifter, needs less food—and is more productive than the Canadian bee. That's all well and good. But what's going to happen to Canadian bees when these so-wonderful Turkish delights take over? We suppose we'll hear some honeyed phrases about the importance of efficiency, but how many Canadian bees are going to be put out of work because of it? Our own bees, bless their lit-

tle hides, came to Canada from Italy a half century ago. Since that time they have established, through hard work and in spite of the language barrier, a honey of a business empire, probably worth millions. Is stealing their business and throwing them out of work just reward for their industry? And how's it going to look to visitors with millions of burning bees hanging around street corners all over the country, developing bad habits, making stinging remarks to passerby? We don't like it. Those Turkish bees better be darned good, that's all we have to say!

Toothpick Trees

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Most toothpicks in the United States come from "tooth pick trees" (the white birch) in Maine. The trunk of the tree is cut into thin sheets (veneers) which are then run through another machine that, in one operation, cuts them into toothpicks ready for shipment. The Japanese use balsam wood and those manufactured in Portugal are made from cragwood.

The old-timers practiced oral hygiene even though they lacked electric toothbrushes. Water floss and other gargles. According to Dr. Paul N. and Claire Baer, the toothpick played an important role in cleaning the teeth for many centuries. The implement is mentioned in the Old Testament and in Buddhist and Moslem literature. Ancient Romans picked their teeth with lentisk wood or porcupine quills. Toothpicks of gold, silver, ivory, or other hard materials formerly were common but are no longer in demand because they may damage the enamel.

Humans are not the only animals who practice oral hygiene. The crocodile permits small birds to enter its mouth and remove food lodged between the ivory. Cows chew on a bone or bite the horns of another cow. Chimpanzees use bits of straw in much the same way as does a farmer.

The Pederson shrimp has a symbiotic relationship with certain fish in the clear waters of the Bahamas. This crustacean swims back and forth when approached by a fish. If the fish is in need of dental cleaning it will swoop in the shrimp, stopping a few inches away. He shrimp enters, gets out his vacuum cleaner, tidies up the teeth and mouth, and is permitted to leave. Now and then the services of the shrimp are in such demand that fish line up awaiting their turn.

Keeping the toothpick in the mouth all day was a common habit in the Middle Ages. The practice was regarded as a desire for personal cleanliness.

SCOTOMA

C. R. writes: For several years I have been seeing gold chains or saw-toothed ards before my eyes. Can you advise? REPLY Your imagination is more vivid than that of people who see specks, strings, blood corpuscles, floating bodies, rainbows, flying saucers, or pink elephants. There is no need to worry so long as vision is not affected and the distortions do not precede headache or muscular weakness.

SCRATCHING

T. O. writes: Does scratching correct itching or is it just a diverting sensation? REPLY Scratching is a normal response to itching and, in this respect, relieves the sensation but does not affect the cause. When scratching is overly vigorous it may break the skin and lead to infection.

PARDON ME

N. B. writes: I know a gentleman of 32 who beches constantly. Could this be from smoking too much? REPLY Smoking may play a role, especially if he swallows air with each puff. More common causes are habit, nervousness, and gall bladder trouble.

EAR BONE HARDENING

Mrs. L. G. writes: Would calcium taken during pregnancy be responsible for the development of otosclerosis in a woman at that time? REPLY No. The body uses only the calcium that is needed and excretes the remainder.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Drive your new car 1,000 miles and it becomes a used car. Buy a car which has been driven 1,000 miles and it is just broken in.—Guelph Mercury.

Just as an auctioneer was saying "Gone!" his audience went through the floor into the cellar, but happily without hurting any of them. The auctioneer, as soon as he found his legs, remarked that the accident would enable him to sell low or than before, and called for a bid, and they bid him "G o o d-night." — Montreal Star.

We shouldn't criticize young people for wanting security, says a columnist; their parents wanted it too. But their problem was they couldn't find a way in which someone else paid for it. — Peterborough Examiner.

The Mistress — "My last maid was too familiar with the policeman. I hope I can trust you!" The Maid — "Oh, yes, madam. I can't bear them. I've been brought up to hate the

very sight of them. Pa's a burglar." — Hamilton Spectator. "Where am I?" the sick man exclaimed, waking from the long delirium of fever and feeling the comfort that loving hands had supplied. "Where am I — in heaven?" "No dear," cooed his wife; "I am still with you." — Windsor Star.

Mistress — "Mary, these balusters seem always dusty. I was at Mrs. Brown's today, and her stair rails are clean and as smooth as glass." Servant — "Yes, ma'am, but she has three small boys." Galt Reporter.

Every family should have the TV set out of order now and then, just to show how the kids can stand up under disaster. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

When someone tells you nothing is impossible, ask them how to get off a mailing list. — Plymouth Review. Very often the chip on a person's shoulder is just bark. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

New Facts From Old Wine?

Windsong Free Press Wine that was bottled at the time of Waterloo was on sale in London... when the famous firm of auctioneers, Christie's, held its first wine auction since the war. There was a bottle of Madeira of 1815 and two ancient bottles of Madeira whose exact year is not known. The connoisseurs were also able to taste cognac of the vintage that may have been drunk by both Napoleon and Wellington: it was bottled in 1815, while another, "younger" bottle bears the date of 1830.

Claret of 1845 will delight many a wine drinker who may have ambivalent memories of that vintage if he was among those who drank it fresh from the vineyards while in uniform; both the wine and the drinker being then much younger and with much less body.

The late Ian Fleming once dived for Greek amphorae filled with 2,500-year-old wine carried on board a ship that sank in classical times outside the Marseilles harbor. The amphorae that lay for two and a half millennia on the bottom of the Mediterranean were brought up, the seals broken, and the creator of James Bond tasted what the Greeks in those far-off days were selling to their

well-to-do colonials who had settled Marseilles. Alas the wine had turned into pure vinegar, and we shall never know the taste of the wine with which Homer refreshed himself as he paused in writing his epics, and that inspired him to call the sea "wine-colored." It is equally possible that we may never know the taste of the brandy that sustained, or failed to sustain, Napoleon during his last effort to regain supremacy in Europe. There are various explanations for his strange and unaccustomed lassitude during his last battle. Could the secret be found in that bottle that was offered at Christie's? Here is a new challenge for historians, scientists and all lovers of the grape. They should not refuse it.

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