

The Quebec Election

Will the Quebec general election, set for Nov. 14, be the curtain raiser to another national election? There is speculation in some quarters, at least, that the national campaign, when it comes, may be influenced substantially by the results of the Quebec polling next month.

In keeping with established custom, the national Liberals would point to a Liberalism was still on the upswing in Canada. And, by the same token, Conservative spokesmen would be quick to point to a Lesage defeat as a Liberal setback of major proportions.

Premier Lesage was not required to call an election before 1965, and the fact that he wants one as a mandate to expropriate electric power companies has raised criticism in unexpected quarters.

"Let us suppose," says La Presse editor, "I am in favor of nationalizing but would I be able to express this distinction on one and the same ballot? Let us suppose that the Union Nationale declares itself in favor of nationalization: how is one then to interpret the result of the voting?"

Secondly, La Presse asks: Who is to guarantee that the issue of nationalization will be in fact the major issue of the election? It may turn out that the Opposition will force the Government to campaign on another issue and the first will be forgotten.

The fact seems to be that private ownership of utilities is generally favored by Quebec voters, especially large control of the industry is vested largely outside the Province. Mr. Lesage would seem to have decided on an election because a strong issue has come to hand.

What we have dreaded has come about at last—a scheme for mechanizing the process of political campaigning. The perpetrator is U.S. Senator Javits (Republican, N.Y.) who has introduced an automated device for use in New York city to tell his voters his stand on 120 questions of the day.

vits deals with 'baseball. By pushing button 114 the voter gets this answer: "Senator Javits won United States recognition for Cooperstown (N.Y.) Hall of Fame. He was disappointed when the Giants left New York, but he is looking forward to an all-New York world series between the Yankees and the Mets in 1963."

What other grave issues the senator is prepared to give mechanized answers to we don't know; this is the only example cited by the Milwaukee Journal, from which we take the news item. The Journal comments, gloomily, that "if there is one thing we don't need it's canned answers to canned questions"; a view we wholeheartedly share.

Let's hope it will be resisted in Canada, at least. Imagine plugging in to a machine to find out what Prime Minister Diefenbaker thinks about the European Common Market, or Mr. Pearson about the "new Canadian flag" issue, and getting the same stereotyped answers every time, instead of the oddly assorted ones we now have to exercise our ingenuity over.

What makes politicians human is that they are never precisely of the same mind from one week's end to the other. They may claim to hold fixed opinions; but they are not parrots, or phonograph records, and in every speech they betray those inconsistencies that are the common failing of all of us. Perhaps we could do with a little more consistency from them—but heaven forbid that they should be metamorphosed into robots, and ourselves along with them, under the specious pretext of gearing our politics to the slot-machine age!

A Timely Warning

Canada's foreign exchange reserves have increased by some \$500 million (plus the foreign bank loans and credits) since the June austerity measures were announced but there is no way of knowing how much of this increase represents long-term investment in the country and how much is "hot" money which can be withdrawn as quickly as it was brought in. This appears to be the view of Mr. Per Jacobsson, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

At a recent meeting of the organization in Washington, Mr. Jacobsson remarked on the "strengthened position of the Canadian dollar since the emergency foreign credits were announced in June, and observed that these measures might have been too successful if they misled the people into thinking that the nation's problems have been solved.

"My concern," Mr. Jacobsson said, "is that the temporary measures taken by Canada are so successful that the Canadian government may feel a long-term program no longer is necessary." This warning is something which parliamentarians on both sides of the House would do well to keep in mind. The nation's fundamental problems—a chronic balance of payments deficit and a heavy over-indebtedness—remain and will not be cured either by foreign borrowing or restrictions on imports. As stop-gap measures, however, they have proved their efficacy; and that, as we recall, is all that the Government claimed for them in the first place.

What is retained now is a concerted effort to keep the progress made, and keep the ship of state on the right course. If the Government had a constructive means of dealing with the problem, it would have announced that in Parliament, they would constitute a very good reason why the Opposition should think twice about challenging it on a non-confidence vote and precipitating another general election at this time.

EDITORIAL NOTES The Union of New Brunswick weeklies, meeting in Bathurst last week, heard from the provincial director of dental services is considering fluoridation legislation passed after an Ontario act. Significantly, also, he revealed that the provincial minister of health felt that fluoridation was something the province "very much needs."



RUSSIAN "PEACE CORPS"

A FRONTIER DISPUTE

India, Red China Again At Loggerheads

National Geographic News Bulletin India and Red China are at odds again over the North East Frontier Agency, the political designation for a strange, wild area bordering Dhanu. Communist China has 23,000 square miles in the Indian state of Assam. Indians charged recently that Chinese carried off several hundred people and animals from the region, where dense forests and rugged mountains hamper the fixing of a boundary.

The World's Money

Montreal Gazette The annual five-day meeting of officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund has been under way in Washington in an atmosphere of great reassurances. The officials are hopeful the accounts will balance next year. If the withdrawal of gold can be stopped then, the redistribution that has taken place would have served to freighen the currencies of other large trading nations.

The Golden Years

Montreal Star It is a twist of fate that television, which created an uneasiness in Hollywood, is responsible for a brief but memorable return to the Golden Years of Hollywood. And yet perhaps it is appropriate for today's television symbolizes the highly respected, technically speedy age in which we stumble today.

Press Warnings

Windsor Star Newspapers often are subject to criticism and we have no complaint about the AB institutions or organizations benefit from constructive criticism. But what some of the other kind of criticism is the real value of newspapers. Two illustrations of these values appeared in a recent issue of the newspaper.

Early Symptoms Can Be Important NOTES BY THE WAY

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen The sign of prosperity today is not a car in every garage... A wife who has a way with money does it her way with her husband's money... A sponsor's idea of an ideal TV program is a show that gives the watcher a headache, followed by a commercial that sells him pills... Many a young fellow... Russia claims that she has a citizen who is 157 years old... A mother and her young son were shopping at a supermarket... The manager of a restaurant called his waitress together... A British woman received back a letter she had posted in what is described as a "lacy" condition.

The distance a car can go between a station and a long drive and longer. If this keeps up, and cars themselves aren't in a more enduring way, we may be taking our oil in the service station for a car change... A British woman received back a letter she had posted in what is described as a "lacy" condition.

At the time of Napoleon's army in Mexico, we can "rehearse" the idea of bringing in a post before every car... A mother and her young son were shopping at a supermarket... The manager of a restaurant called his waitress together... A British woman received back a letter she had posted in what is described as a "lacy" condition.

Cuba And Berlin

New York Times Once again Soviet Russia is facing a great and potentially dangerous confrontation between itself and the free world. This time it is over the Soviet proxy in Greece, Cyprus and Vietnam, but directly between the Soviet Union and the West, in particular the United States. Cuba and Berlin are the focal points of this challenge.

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THE POETS CORNER HARMONY HIGHWAY He possessed the warmest chuckle. And the kindest sort of grin.

OUR YESTERDAYS (From the Guardian Files) TWENTY - FIVE YEARS AGO (September 25, 1937) Thomas Linklater, M.L.A. was the first to be riding with a ditched to avoid a collision with the car in which was Kennington.

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