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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1954

Bishop Peter And His Friends

As reported in these columns some time ago, the eleven accredited delegates from Churches in Czechoslovakia and Hungary to the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches now meeting in Evanston, Illinois, were admitted to the United States, despite much opposition from various individuals and groups, because in the opinion of the State Department they might be able to give as well as receive "a spiritual contribution which will serve the cause of world wide Christianity."

This action is not being supported in any way by State Department officials who doubtless feel that, once having extended hospitality to the eleven, it would be an unwarranted discourtesy to subject them to adverse publicity, so long as they confine their activities to the meetings they came to attend.

As a matter of fact the speeches made by Iron Curtain delegates up to this time have been quite ordinary with no noticeable political bias. If Bishop John Peter and any of his friends are indeed prominent in the Communist councils of their respective countries they seem to be keeping the fact to themselves.

Key To Near East Defense

Withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal, forecast in the recent Egyptian pact, will leave the Mediterranean island of Cyprus an important key to British defense in the Near East. A crown colony since 1925, Cyprus was leased to Britain by Turkey in 1878. The Suez Canal was young then, and the transfer was the fruit of an alliance between the two countries in the face of Russia's feared expansion south.

About 80,000 of the present half-million inhabitants of Cyprus are of Turkish descent. The overwhelming majority, however, are Greek in stock, language and religion. This cultural and blood heritage, dating from Greek colonization of classical times, has formed the basis of a perennial agitation for union, or "Enosis," with Greece.

For whatever power holds Cyprus—and there have been many over a prolonged, stormy history—this land is a strategic prize. About the size of Puerto Rico, it follows Sicily and Sardinia as the third largest island of the Mediterranean. Cyprus' red, eroded mountains and green hills rise 230 miles from the Suez Canal short-cut to the East. The island is close to the oil-pipeline outlets of Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

Archeological finds prove Cyprus played a part in the story of the eastern Mediterranean for nearly 50 centuries. Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Arabs, Frenchmen, and Venetians, among others, have ruled it. Legend says that Aphrodite, goddess of

love and beauty, rose from the waves off the port of Paphos. Saints Paul and Barnabas introduced Christianity to the island, which later became a center for Christians fleeing persecution. The Cypriotes presented Alexander the Great with timber for ships he used in the siege of Tyre. And Richard the Lion-Hearted seized the island when he rescued there his shipwrecked fiancée, Berengaria of Navarre. Their marriage took place near what is now the port of Limassol.

Life on Cyprus today is a mixture of the oldest and the newest. Jet fighters roar over farms tilled by tools unchanged since Biblical days. Shepherds watch their flocks in the shadow of ruined Crusader castles, as late-model trucks speed by along paved highways. In the cities, modern glass-bricked homes and smart shops rise near medieval Gothic churches. Uniformed Britishers and foreign tourists mingle with pantalooned Cypriotes and black-garbed Greek Orthodox priests.

More than half the people of Cyprus are farmers. With the aid of increasing irrigation to mitigate the long dry spells in this sun-drenched land, they raise fruit, olives, vegetables, grains, and carobs, a long pod with beans used for fodder. Cyprus wines and lace have been famous for centuries. Mining goes back to the Bronze Age when Cyprus was one of the leading copper producers of the ancient world. In recent times, the copper mines have made an important comeback, adding to other natural resources in iron, asbestos, and chromium. Another present-day industry in Cyprus is noted by the National Geographic Society. It is the manufacture of artificial teeth, including black ones exported to betel-chewing countries of the Orient!

Summoning Parliament

"The Governor General shall from time to time, in the Queen's name, by instrument under the Great Seal of Canada, summon and call together the House of Commons." Thus reads section 38 of the British North America Act. It is to be noted that no time limit is placed upon such a summons, although another section requires that twelve months shall not intervene between sessions.

During wartime the practice was followed of merely adjourning when the sessional work was completed. Then when Parliament met again there would be prorogation immediately and then the new session would begin. This practice is no longer followed. Instead proclamations are issued from week to week in special editions of the Canada Gazette.

This method is considerably more convenient than the former, particularly in the matter of keeping the statute book reasonably tidy. Nevertheless it still appears to be an unnecessary effort. Beauchesne, indeed, points out that although the opening of the session may be deferred by proclamation from the day to which it stands summoned, it cannot be called for an earlier date. The effect of the proclamation, therefore, is to establish the earliest date at which Parliament may meet.

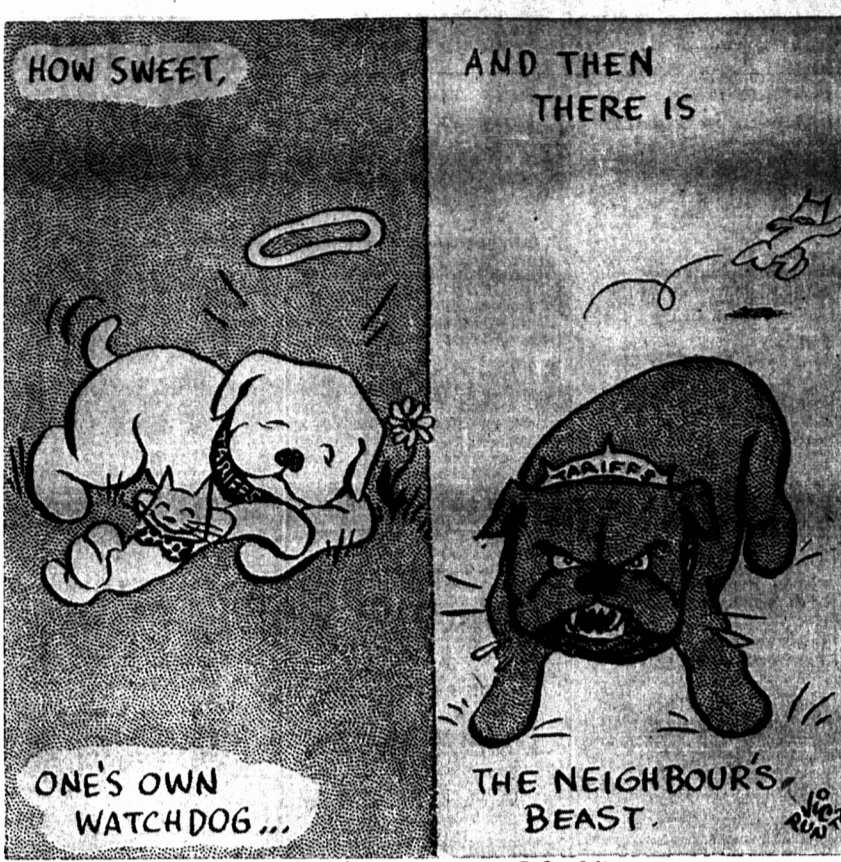
A curiosity of our constitution is that the Governor General is only required to summon the House of Commons, the Senate, presumably being entitled to attend without a special summons as peers of the United Kingdom claim to be. In practice, however, the summons is also directed to "Our beloved and Faithful Senators of the Dominion of Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The R. C. A. F. is acquiring six heavy-duty helicopters for search-and-rescue work. The Piasecki H21A will be the largest used by the armed forces and should provide useful experience in the operation of the machines, as well as making rescue efforts more effective.

This question of the spread between prices for food at farm level and on the retail shelf is causing worry. Recently the U. S. Department of Agriculture looked into the facts and found that in 1951 the farmer there was getting 51 per cent of the consumers' food dollar, but only 45 per cent in 1953. The farmer was only getting 17 per cent of the retail price of a can of tomatoes, 15 per cent of the cost of bread, one-third the cost of potatoes, but 66 to 67 per cent of the cost of beef and butter and 74 per cent of the cost of eggs.

Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny postal system, died this date 1879. Arguing from the unprogressive rate of revenue from the postal service, although 9 pence a letter was the average charge for transmission outside London, he concluded that a uniform penny postage throughout the United Kingdom would more than meet the costs of handling which he estimated at less than one-tenth of a penny per letter. The scheme was adopted in 1839 and within a year the number of letters carried had increased fourfold. It took 20 years, however, for revenues to reach the level of the old system.



All In The Point Of View

The Poet's Corner

ODE ON SOLITUDE

Happy the man, whose wish and care A few paternal acres bound, Content to breathe his native air In his own ground. Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread, Whose flocks supply him with attire, Whose trees in summer yield him shade, In winter fire. Blessed, who can unconcern'dly find Hours, days, and years slide soft away, In health of body, peace of mind, Quiet by day.

—Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

A National Symbol

The lack of a national symbol to represent Canada has never been felt very strongly; nevertheless, it would be a useful device to have, as the recent ceremonies at the opening of the St. Lawrence Power Project indicated. In actual fact, several symbols are used to picture the nation, but none of them is, so to speak, official. In the ceremony at Cornwall, a painting of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shared honors with Uncle Sam, and, indeed, the Mountie has sometimes been symbolic of Canada. But at times the beaver has been used, and very often the man in the Boy Scout hat, open-necked shirt, breeches, high boots, and a fatuous facial expression. Yet does any of these satisfy?

EDITORIAL NOTES (continued) The R. C. A. F. is acquiring six heavy-duty helicopters for search-and-rescue work. The Piasecki H21A will be the largest used by the armed forces and should provide useful experience in the operation of the machines, as well as making rescue efforts more effective.

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European Defense Community

By W. N. Ewer

It is a chastening and disturbing thought that debates, discussions and negotiations on a plan for a European Defence Community have now been going on for four years and that there is still no end product. Yet four years ago it was regarded as a matter of urgency — action was to be immediate. On August 11, 1950 the Assembly of the Council of Europe passed the famous resolution calling for "immediate creation of a European army under the authority of the European Minister of Defence subject to proper European Democratic control."

The fact, of course, is the resolution was passed — in a mood of enthusiasm. "This," said one British delegate to me that night, "means the end of all national armies." Another said, "We have founded a United States of Europe." There was much scornful comment on the action of some delegates who abstained from voting because, as one of them said they were "not quite clear" just what they were being asked to vote for.

In retrospect that caution, and also the much criticized caution of successive British Governments, seems to have been amply justified. For these four years have been spent in an endeavour — so far unavailing — to give the idea of a European army and European Defence Community a concrete meaning which would be acceptable to all peoples who were to form the partnerships. The idea had, of course, double parentage — one ideal, another practical. For some the Community was to be primarily an embodiment of the concept of European unity, a major step towards the creation of a European federation. Others saw in it an ingenious device for providing NATO with much needed troops (German troops) without allowing the recreation in Western Germany of a German army under the command of the German General Staff and under the control of the German Government.

The practical problem was to design workable and efficient machinery — both military and political. That included problems of relationship to the other NATO powers and to NATO itself. The first attempt to solve it was the so-called "Pleven Plan" produced in the Autumn of 1950 by the then Prime Minister of France. It was the beginning of a long and complicated series of negotiations which resulted at last in the signature of the European Defence Community Treaty in Paris on May 27, 1952.

The magnitude and complexity of the problems which had to be solved may be judged from the fact that the Treaty itself contains 132 Articles, apart from eight protocols and six additional protocols agreed to later. But if practical difficulties were great, the psychological difficulties were even greater and have so far proved intractable. For the Treaty had not only to be drafted and signed. It had to be ratified, to secure the approval and endorsement of the Parliaments of all six signatory states — France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. It soon became evident that there was strong opposition — especially in France and Germany — not only to details but to some of the fundamental features of the whole plan.

In Germany the opposition — largely but by no means entirely from the Social Democrats — was mainly on two points. First, there was feeling that the Treaty does not give that "equality of status" which all Germans so ardently desire. The Federal Republic, for example, does not become a member state of NATO. Second, there has been fear that perhaps the existence of the Treaty may prove another obstacle to the reunification of the country. Ratification was at last obtained but only after much difficulty and many doubts. And then not by a large majority.

In France, the opposition has been mainly an emotional one — and emotions are in politics often stronger than reasons. There is the first deep reluctance to agree to any sort of German rearmament. There is associated with it a reluctance to admit Germany to an equality of status which might in practice mean a preponderance. Quite distinct from neither of these there has been a steadily growing repugnance to accept the idea that the French army with all its traditions and long history should vanish and be dissolved and become no more than a memory. It is these psychological factors which have so far prevented the conception of the European Defence Community from becoming a reality. Perhaps the lesson of these four long years in that no planning is worth the paper unless it takes account of those emotional and often irrational factors which sway men's minds and which therefore in democracies are apt to play a decisive role in decisions of policy.

TO ADDRESS MEETING MONTREAL (CP)—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt widow of Franklin D. Roosevelt, late president of the United States, will address a meeting of the Montreal co-ordinating committee of the Bonds of the Israel Government campaign Sept. 9. It was announced Thursday.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Adolescence is that period when many children feel their parents should be told the facts of life.—Galt Evening Reporter. When our preacher and our banker fell out we would have taken the preacher's side if we hadn't needed a little loan right at the time.—Farmer's Advocate. An interesting recreation these times is to peruse the seed catalogues received last spring and compare the pictures with the results now.—St. Thomas Times-Journal. Think what Mack Sennett's custard-pie comedies would have been like if they had been made in this era of pressurized whipped cream.—Hamilton Spectator. Fortunately, nature foresaw that mankind would develop this penchant for sunburn and equipped us with enough layers of skin to peel all Summer.—Winnipeg Tribune. It's downright pitiful to see a young couple sitting on the porch, slowly dying of thirst, and no auto to take them to the drug store a block away.—Galt Reporter. If he's any kind of husband at all he can tell right away from his wife's greeting whether the candles on the table are due to gracious living or a blown fuse.—Winnipeg Tribune. Canadian experts say the Russian "burp" gun fires fast but not too accurately. The Russians probably believe if they don't hit those whom they are aiming at, they probably will hit somebody else.—Windsor Star. Nature in her wisdom makes provision for every eventuality. Science has now discovered that the sense of hearing is dulled after eating — thereby helping the system to cope with the after-dinner speaker.—Hamilton Spectator. Angered by obscene remarks from a young Detroit hoodlum, a sixteen-year-old girl hit him over the head with a pop bottle, then jammed an electric fan into his face. The thirty days the foul-mouthed youth subsequently got from the court was strictly anticlimax.—Windsor Star. Judgment and common sense are just as necessary in operating a boat as a car. First essential is a good boat, strong and water tight, capable of carrying whatever the load is to be, of a shape and design that will not tip over, of an over-all type adapted to the kind of service, weather and water in which it will be operated.—Leamington Post and News. Two residents of Sault Ste. Marie reported they saw a mirage, a picture of the Memorial Gardens of that city imprinted upside down in the sky. Without wishing for a moment to cast my aspersions in the direction of the good people of Sault Ste. Marie, this much can be said: If any citizen of Fort William reported having seen our own park in front of the City Hall upside down, gossip-mongers would soon be trying to find out where he had been the night before.—Fort William Times-Journal. Five to eight-pound speckled trout have been so often caught in Shoofly Lake, a 436-acre stretch of water north of Sudbury, that ichthyologists are going to investigate. What is there about this greenish lake that produces fish of such a size? It is agreed that the trout do so well because of ample supplies of plankton available but what stimulates the plankton? Is it due to large quantities of calcium? We hope they come upon the secret of king-size trout because they are excellent fish, and if we find out, we can produce them elsewhere. It has been proved in Scottish lochs that fertilizing the plank-

"Some women are excellent housekeepers. Every time they get a divorce, they keep the house."—Stratford Beacon-Herald. A scientist says worms can utter a low moaning sound. Maybe that's what scares the fish away.—St. Thomas Times-Journal. ton will increase fish size and the same thing may apply in fresh water lakes. It is a fascinating horizon.—London Free Press. Now we can wear to the office clothes we hesitated about before — and blame it on high costs.—Sudbury Daily Star. When the population is doubled, food will have to be grown on the frontiers or beyond. All the good farm land will be covered with homes and factories.—St. Catharines Standard. These big consolidated schools are taking much of the charm out of the rural education system. The little red school had a new charm almost every year, because the previous one got married.—Farmer's Advocate. Mayor Saunders of Toronto complains that members of his city council have been hypnotized by looking too long at venetian blinds in the council chamber. But, as the Globe and Mail says, the silly season is about over for this year — and Mr. Saunders was entitled to make a contribution.—Ottawa Journal. Our vote for the most effective way to lose friends and alienate people, particularly when visiting the editorial department of a newspaper office, is for a facetious visitor to greet the staff with words to the effect that it must be nice to have nothing to do but sit around all day and read the newspaper!—Brockville Recorder and Times. A news story on the giant Comino smokesacks reminds us of the fitting retort which at least one Trail business man makes when visitors comment on the unpleasantness of the smoke which can be seen pouring from the stacks. "I'd be a lot more worried," is his comment, "if there wasn't any smoke coming out."—Trail Times. Britain's teacher shortage was severe enough before the current exodus to Canada began, and it will be measurably worse by fall. It may oblige the government to review salaries and conditions of work in the schools. Meantime Ontario is getting all the teachers it can from Britain—it could use more than 500; Saskatchewan has signed up 140, British Columbia wants about as many, and probably other provinces are in the market also. But the real remedy in Canada is to attract a greater number of young people into the teaching profession.—Ottawa Citizen.

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The Age Old Story Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us; for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. O Lord our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name.