

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Day
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The Right Approach

While several of the provincial legislatures have endorsed the formula for constitutional amendment with little more than a nod and a yawn, Saskatchewan is taking a more circumspect approach to the subject. There the attorney-general, Mr. Heald, has introduced a resolution which, while assenting to the formula as drafted at the Charlottetown federal-provincial conference, recommends that it be given more careful scrutiny before any action is taken.

The Saskatchewan legislature will be asked to recommend to the Government of Canada: "That the proposed act be submitted to a committee of the House of Commons for consideration and that such committee be directed to hold public hearings and report thereon to Parliament; or, alternatively, that the proposed act be submitted by the Government to the Senate of Canada with a request that it be considered by a committee thereof appointed for such purposes; and that the committee hold public hearings and report thereon to Parliament."

Evidently the Thatcher administration in Saskatchewan has been doing its homework on this subject, and finds serious reasons for believing that modifications of the formula are still possible. In the normal course, there would be no committee study at Ottawa because Parliament proceeds in constitutional amendments by way of a joint address of the two Houses. But this is not an amendment of the usual sort; it is one which establishes rules governing all future amendments. There is therefore good reason for giving it the most careful scrutiny. The proposal that public hearings to be held on the subject is especially to be commended.

If our Island legislators hadn't been in such a rush to get through their business, they might have followed Saskatchewan's example by adding a similar proviso to their resolution of acceptance. However, there is hope that such a sound suggestion will win its own way at Ottawa. If it finds acceptance there, it will be reassuring to those in every province who look with misgiving upon any serious dilution of the federal power.

Grave Issues Involved

The use of non-lethal gas in South Viet Nam against invading Communist Viet Cong fighters has stirred up an international rumpus. That is unfortunate, for it has tended to confuse the much more vital issues at stake in this conflict. What is going on in Southeast Asia is one of the most crucial East-West showdowns since Soviet postwar expansion was checkmated by the creation of the NATO alliance. Let us strive to keep this in mind, for it is something in which we are all involved. If Red China's policy of expansion were to succeed in this area, chances of holding the line elsewhere would be seriously imperilled.

That is why both the British and Canadian governments have been cautious in criticising American actions in Viet Nam. They realize that there is a growing trend in the United States, to return to the isolationism of the 1930s. This doctrine is winning support largely as a result of American experience in trouble spots of this kind, where the U.S. has spent hundreds of millions of dollars toward the achievement of entirely laudable objectives. When the situation becomes difficult, too often she encounters attitudes which vary from admonition to downright condemnation.

A writer in the London Spectator puts it well when he says that if the United States should withdraw from Viet Nam it would not be because she lacks the military might to resist Communist attacks; it would be be-

cause of external pressures upon her government of the kind mentioned, and that would necessitate a major swing in present American foreign policy. Her withdrawal would not be from Viet Nam alone, but from the whole of Asia and America, and later from Europe too.

It would be a phased withdrawal, and would take place over a period of time, but it would be none the less complete for that. The Pacific frontier would be Hawaii, which is now one of the United States. Thereafter she would play no part in keeping the peace in Southeast Asia. Malaysia would face Indonesian confrontation and India the threat of Chinese invasion without any prospect of American help.

During the 1930s, when America was isolated and disinterested, Nazi Germany was carrying out a rapid aggression in Europe much as the Vietnamese and Chinese Communists are in Asia today. Voices were then raised to argue that the Austrians were, after all, really Germans, that Czechoslovakia was a long way off and its government was oppressive anyway. Today they argue the same way about North and South Viet Nam, and about Laos or Thailand. Appeasement was then, as now, the order of the day. But armed aggression thrives on appeasement, is encouraged by it, and eventually overreaches itself to such an extent that it can be appeased no more.

This is why the United States, and with it the whole Western alliance, is forced to take such frightening risks as it is doing now in Viet Nam. To be complacent about them would be foolish, but for the West to admit that it has neither the will nor the means to contain Chinese-inspired subversion would open the door to defeat after defeat in the future.

Sounder Legislation

Canada's student loan program, started last year, may prove more satisfactory in its operations than has been the case with similar legislation put into effect seven years ago in the United States. The program there has run into difficulty, due to an increasing inability to collect the loans after the students have graduated.

The American program is much like Canada's in some respects. Students may borrow \$1,000 a term up to a maximum of \$5,000 to help finance their education. The money is supposed to be repaid over a 10-year period starting the year after graduation. But in two essentials the U.S. plan differs from its Canadian counterpart.

The federal government puts up 90 per cent of the money in the U.S. with the universities supplying the remainder. Collection of the loans is left with the universities. And it is the universities' involvement and their collection responsibilities that have made for the large share of the difficulty. The universities are simply not equipped to serve as collecting agencies. Then too, it is an embarrassment for them to have to dun their alumni for the money.

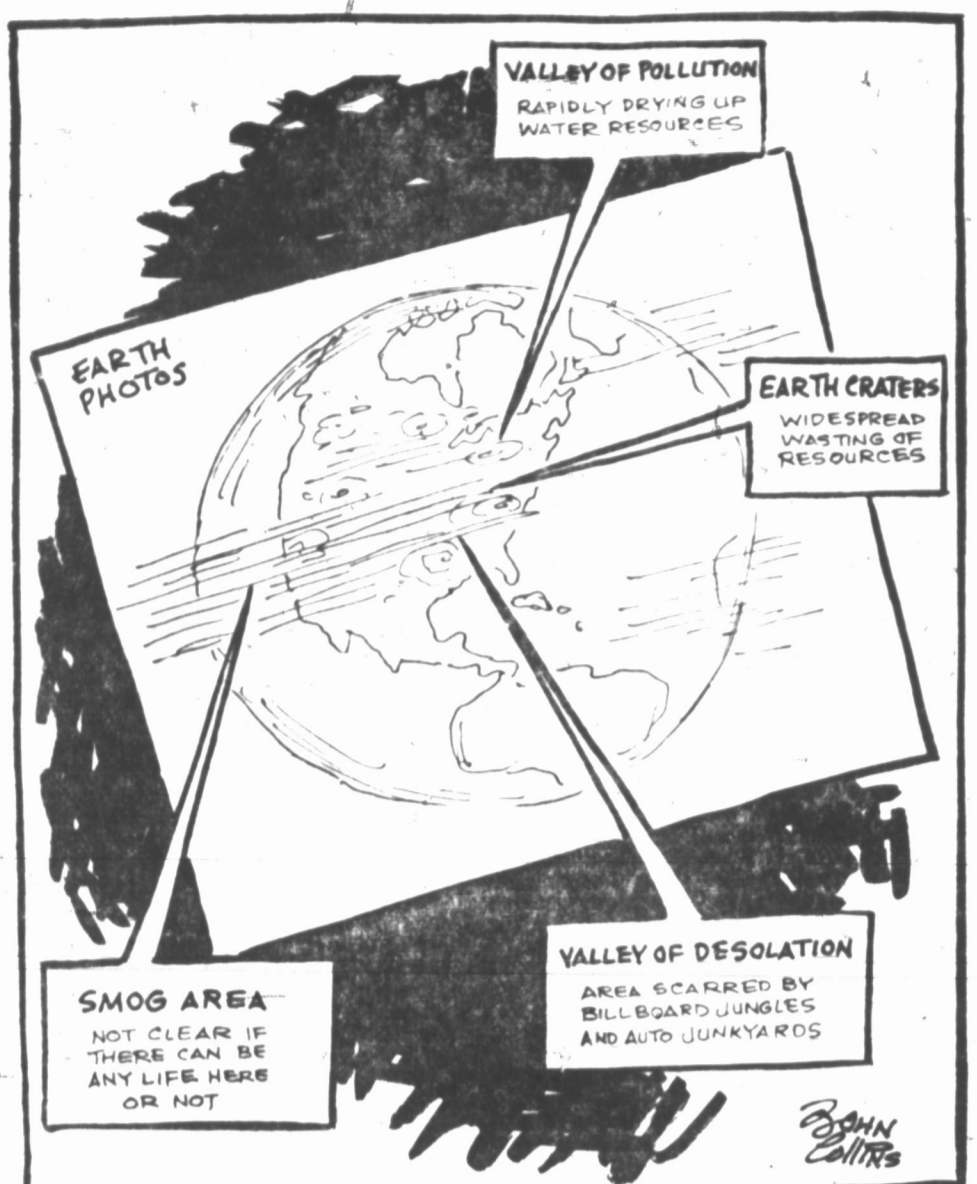
The Canadian loans, backed by the Government, are being handled by the banks which are better equipped to look after collections. Canadian universities are not themselves involved in either making the loans directly or in collections. It still may not be easy to get all the money back, but the chances are undoubtedly better under the Canadian system.

Our federal parliamentarians don't get many bouquets these days. They can take one for the more practical manner in which they have legislated in this case. Possibly they had the American example in mind, and the danger inherent in following it too closely. In any case, they acted wisely in bringing the banks into the picture.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A psychiatrist says people with inferior brains should be segregated on an island. What's wrong with keeping them segregated on the mainland, where they belong?

Since 1945, 25 countries under British administration have become independent. They have a total population of 692,920,553 and cover 4,608,632 square miles of territory. 17 of these new nations have chosen to become member nations of the Commonwealth which, with the older members—the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand—brings the total Commonwealth membership to 21. The United Kingdom is still responsible for the remaining colonial territories and protectorates, the total population of which is approximately 9,288,900



**IF THE MOON TOOK PICTURES OF US
COVETED DECORATION**

For Valiant Woman, Highest Award

Hamilton Spectator
No woman has been awarded the Victoria Cross since the decoration was founded by Queen Victoria in 1856, during the Crimean War. Now there is a campaign under way in Britain to change this and have the VC posthumously awarded to one of the heroines of the last war, Violet Szabo.

Mrs. Szabo, a wartime agent of the Special Operations Executive, a secret organization which sabotaged enemy-controlled railways, industries and other installations, was shot by the Nazis in Ravensbrück prison camp in 1945 when she was 23. Mrs. Szabo was awarded the George Cross, her citation saying she had shown a magnificent example of courage and steadfastness during torture and imprisonment following her capture by the Nazis in 1944.

A book entitled "Carve Her Name With Pride", telling the story of her exploits, was published some years ago and there was a film version of it.

STRONGEST ADVOCATE

The strongest and most persistent advocate for the posthumous award of the VC to Mrs. Szabo is Dame Irene Ward, Chief opponent of the proposal is Brigadier Sir John Smyth, B.C. MP, chairman of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, who thinks that to change Mrs. Szabo's GC to a VC would be an insult to holders of the GC.

The VC is Britain's highest decoration for "conspicuous bravery or devotion to the country in the presence of the enemy". The GC, which was founded in 1940, recognizes the performance of deeds of valor by civilians, both men and women. It ranks after the VC, but is worn before all other insidias and decorations. The GC has a military division permitting the cross to be awarded to members of the fighting services for gallantry not in the face of the enemy.

MANY AWARDS

In its first century, the VC was awarded only 1,346 times. Of these, 80 were Canadians. In 1920, George V issued a Royal Warrant making women of the military nursing services and civilians of either sex serving under the authority of the armed forces, eligible for the VC.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(March 27, 1940)

Sir Richard Squires, the second to last premier during Newfoundland's period as a Dominion, was buried today in St. John's, Nfld. Governor Sir Humphrey Walwyn attended the funeral.

Rev. H.L. Denton addressed the H.Y. Grads Club. He is the pastor of Charlottetown Baptist Church. Roy Sylvester acted as chairman and Lloyd Grant led the singing.

TEN YEARS AGO
(March 27, 1955)

The winning rink in the Bill Dunham Rose Bowl mixed competition at the Centennial Bonspiel in Charlottetown were Chris Gallant, Betty Rooney, Inez Gallant and skip Jim Vance of Moncton.

France agreed after 4 1/2 years of soul-searching argument to restore sovereignty to her old foe, Germany, and rearm it within the Atlantic alliance.

Influenza Precautions

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dolin
The cause of influenza was discovered in 1933. A single virus, influenza A, was isolated at that time. Seven years later a second type, B, was found. In 1950 influenza virus C was uncovered and since then many subgroups have been singled out including A2 Asian. This critter appears to be responsible for the current outbreaks in this country.

The designation of the three types is, by coincidence, their rank as causes of severe epidemics. There have been 31 recorded pandemics in the world since 1510. The 1918 episode was the greatest medical catastrophe in history. There were 20 million deaths within a 20-week period. The last pandemic took place in 1957 and the A virus was implicated.

The microorganisms are in the secretions of the respiratory tract and are transmitted from one person to another under conditions of close human contact. Prevention involves the usual precautions against other respiratory infections. Follow the letter good health habits such as getting plenty of rest and eating regular, well-balanced meals. Avoid crowded places, such as movies and dances, during an epidemic. Try to keep a good distance from those who do not cover their sneezes.

Influenza vaccine is the only practical preventive. There is some controversy as to its value but it continues to have many enthusiastic followers. It must be altered with each passing year because the strength of each virus changes from one season to another. Vaccines that worked like a charm five years ago may be of little value, even though the same type of organism is now. It is needed most by the elderly, the chronically ill, and by pregnant women.

Flu is difficult to distinguish unless special tests are conducted on the throat washings. The high fever, prostration, and aching set it apart from the common cold. There is less nasal involvement and more coughing. The best remedy is bed rest and the salicylates. Antibiotics, such as penicillin, are of little value unless complications develop.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Hear about the guy who came a ways from Las Vegas with a small fortune. Trouble was he went there with a big fortune. — Toronto Star

Who remembers when recipes were called "receipts" and cooks thought nothing of a receipt for turtle soup that began: "Kill the turtle by 10 o'clock in the morning and let it drip for at least three hours." — New Glarus Post

Tear Gas Controversy

By Arch MacKenzie
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The United States' government in its reaction to the future about the use of tear gas in South Viet Nam appears to feel it is being asked to use Mergal, of Queensbury boxing etiquette in a backalley brawl.

State Secretary Dean Rusk entered the lists Wednesday to defend the government position, denying with some heat any suggestion that the U.S. is engaged in gas warfare in South Viet Nam.

Defence Secretary Robert McNamara has taken the same line. The U.S. concern about this issue, which clouded some significant pointers to the future of the Viet Nam War, reflects real anxiety about domestic and foreign criticism. Gas has been a dirty word ever since the First World War.

Rusk said Wednesday, in seeking to offset the propaganda advantage handed the Communists by the Viet Nam situation is a "mean and dirty struggle by the Communist Viet Cong."

He indicated tear and vomiting gas supplied by the U.S. to South Viet Nam in the last three years will continue to be used as local commanders decide.

USED THREE TIMES
So far, it has been stated officially, South Viet Nam's troops have used the non-lethal riot-control gases three times, the last on Jan. 27. On no occasion was it much of a success. Criticism at home is reflected in an editorial in the Washington Post, a liberal newspaper headed "Blackening our name." It is difficult to find out how much damage napalm and gas are doing to the enemy but it is not hard to find out how much damage they are doing us.

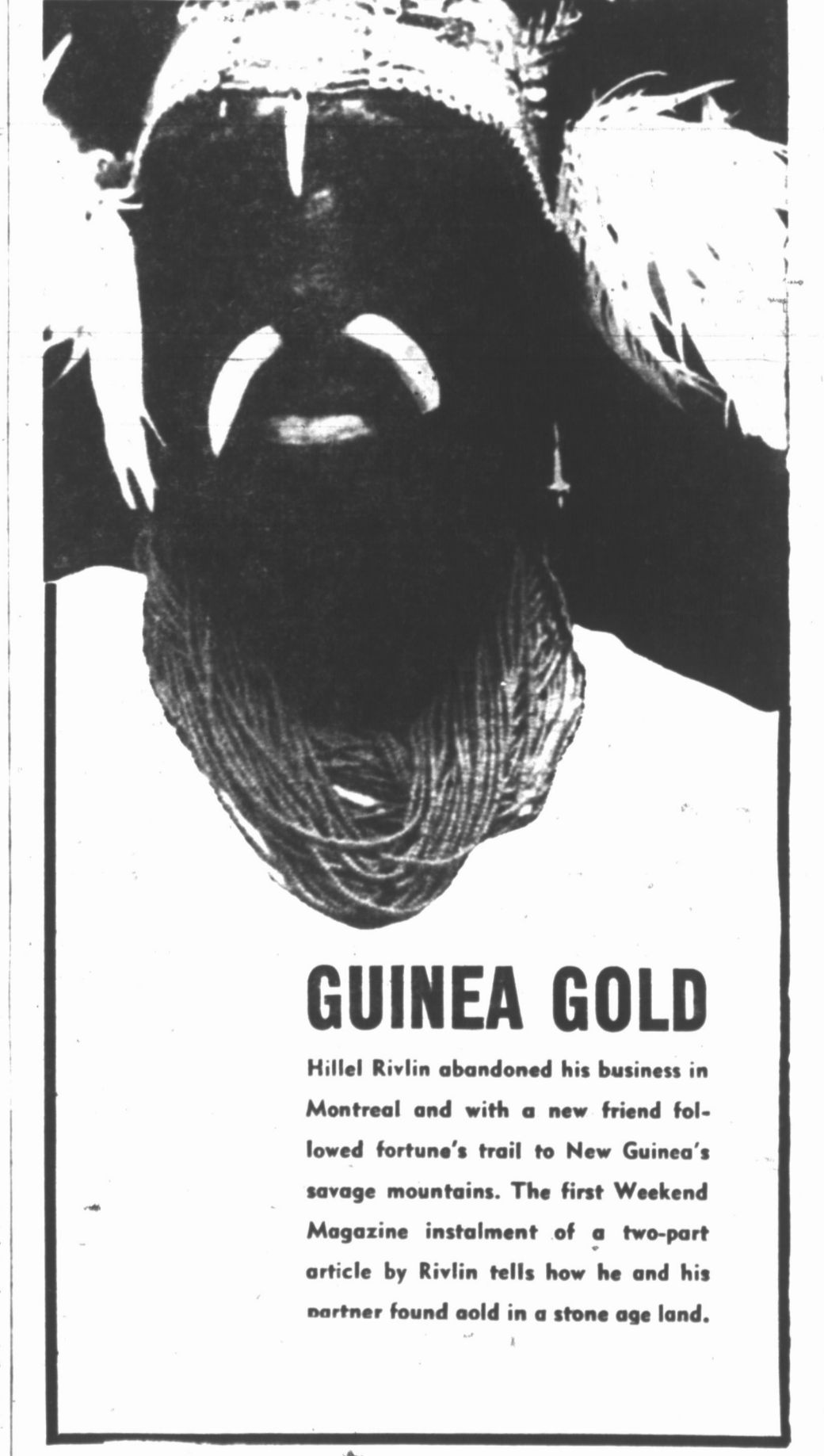
It urges President Johnson to stop the use of any more gas in Viet Nam, plus the use of napalm, the jetted-gasoline substance used in the Second World War, Korea and now Viet Nam.

The cloud of controversy about gas—napalm has aroused little reaction in the U.S. compared with Britain—obscures a significant conclusion from the discussions this week by British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart with President Johnson, Rusk and McNamara.

This conclusion, observers agree, is that there has been a hardening of the pattern of Viet Nam hostilities. There is no sign of any possible diplomatic alteration to the pattern, because Soviet Russia cannot or will not intervene and Communist North Viet Nam remains intransigent about feeding the civil war in South Viet Nam.

Similarly, the U.S. remains committed to a growing military effort against the Communist north.

McNamara reiterated Wednesday to a congressional committee that the U.S. believes it would have to "face this same problem all over again in another place or permit them (the Communists) to have all of Southeast Asia by default."



GUINEA GOLD
Hillel Rivlin abandoned his business in Montreal and with a new friend followed fortune's trail to New Guinea's savage mountains. The first Weekend Magazine instalment of a two-part article by Rivlin tells how he and his partner found gold in a stone age land.

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DISCUSS AUTOMATION
OTTAWA (CP)—Automation's impact on the worker and how West Germany is coping with this problem will be discussed here April 13 in an address by Dr. Guenther Friedricks, an economist with the German Metal Workers Federation. The International Association of Machinists (IAM) is sponsoring the Ottawa visit.

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