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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

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Awaiting Posterity

In one of the articles dealing with primitive conditions in the Congo it is noted that "like many Africans, the Congolese politician has a passion for argument but not decision."

Well, we're all brothers under the skin. The Windsor Star goes so far as to suggest that had it not been for the use of closure, the Canadian Parliament might likewise have argued four years about a flag.

Thumbing over the pages and pages of Hansard devoted to chronicling the platitudinous speeches on this issue, one wonders what the future will make of them and whether even the most dedicated student of parliamentary history, cramming for some thesis on the subject, will ever have the hardhood to wade through them.

They will take up more space than the works of Shakespeare, Milton, Plato and Aristotle, and will be there, gathering dust but still intact, when we are all dead and gone.

But perhaps we're too pessimistic. Scholars are finding meanings in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and Babylonian inscriptions, and it's not inconceivable that some day the speeches in our Great Flag Debate will be studied for their antiquarian interest, and as the key to a lost culture that produced them.

U.S. Farm Legislation

According to a Washington dispatch, this will be a big year for farm legislation across the border. First of all, three major farm programs will expire and must be acted upon during the year, so that farmers will know how to plan for 1966.

Second, President Johnson will send his first farm message to Congress. His thinking on farm issues and long-range planning has never been spelled out.

category of land retirement and expansion of the food-for-peace campaign.

Provision for the retirement, more or less permanently, of sub-marginal land not needed for farming was discussed at a recent Agriculture Outlook Conference by Undersecretary of Agriculture Murphy, whose reasoning was based on the fact that somewhat less than a million farms in the country sell more than \$10,000 worth of products annually.

President Johnson's national Agricultural Advisory Committee expressed the same view in a recent report. The committee's proposal would call for the "voluntary" retirement of whole farms, as well as the short-term retirement of croplands from crops in overproduction.

The food-for-peace program is a surplus disposal scheme designed to help feed the hungry of other lands. It is now proposed that the government start shipping commodities that are not in surplus, making the program an even stronger foreign policy arm.

It is also likely that any large-scale land retirement program would meet with some congressional opposition. It would also be costly, since the government would pay, in accordance with past practices, for the idling of the land.

Whatever decisions may be reached on these major farm issues, the progress of the legislation will be followed with keen interest in Canada.

How's That Again?

Mr. Thompson, national Social Credit leader, has now denied having presented Prime Minister Pearson with an ultimatum to "clean house" or lose the support of the nine-man Social Credit group in the House of Commons.

Just what this means in concrete terms is anybody's guess. Originally Mr. Thompson was quoted as saying that unless Mr. Pearson initiated a thorough clean-up in his government through a cabinet reorganization and the firing of four (unnamed) ministers, Social Credit would have no choice but to withdraw any support that normally would be available.

Like the preacher in the story who was against sin, Mr. Thompson obviously is against having the House cluttered up with a mess. Also, quite definitely, he is against dishonesty or coercion, though he is careful now to point out that this is a personal expression of opinion and does not necessarily involve his party.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Lopping off some government bureau in the cause of economy, notes an exchange, doesn't seem to be much trouble. The tricky part is to avoid replacing it with something that costs even more.

The Moscow press has assailed President Johnson's State of the Union message as being self-contradictory and "larded with anti-Communism."



HE WANTS A STYLE CHANGE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Highway Slaughter Must Be Curbed

The beginning of a new year is enshrined as the moment when the human race should individually and collectively make resolutions for better conduct.

As a motorist who daily is terrified and aghast at the unskilled, selfish and incautious driving on our roads, I hope to see 1965 the year in which every driver exhibits total and perpetual observance of the Golden Rule.

Four months ago in this space, I said: "Would you tolerate with complacency a repetition of the slaughter of our boys in uniform during the Second World War?"

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary.

THOSE PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Sir—Many times we have attended gatherings, parties public and private, where Mr. John Doe was the guest, and on other occasions where Mr. So-and-So was making a public address or speech from the platform.

The point is why are they called speakers? Why not call them public readers? During my two short college times we were taught public speaking to a certain extent and we had to speak not read. Many of us were chased off the speakers' platform because we were unable to speak from our own knowledge.

EDITORIAL NOTES

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been released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and the toll was slightly higher than my early estimate. 4,210 killed and 126,086 injured. These human tragedies have increased by approximately 15 per cent in each of the past two years analysed, and are running similarly enhanced for the year just ended according to early figures.

At the 1963 level of road tragedies—nearly all of which were avoidable—this is equivalent to having a city the size of Regina struck by disaster such as an earthquake, which killed or injured every person in that city.

Why then do our federal, provincial and municipal governments turn a blind eye to tragedies of similar total impact which are taking place on our roads?

The answer is simply our politicians have developed into such a gutless bunch that they are terrified of taking any action which might alienate a single voter—such as the drunk driver, the owner of an under-maintained jalopy, and the irresponsible citizen who prefers

to spend his money on alcohol rather than on insurance.

The dictionary describes "police" as the department of government which is concerned with the maintenance of public order and safety and the enforcement of the law. Note the order. But the average police force is much more concerned with enforcing the by-laws about parking than in maintaining safety.

Our typical policeman today is stopped over a perfectly parked car, writing out a ticket, while behind him one car crashes through a red light, another car stalls its victim out of the darkness with only one headlight functioning, and a small boy threatens chaos by bicycling the wrong way down a one-way street.

The highway toll in 1963 was like the total casualty of a city the size of Regina. If the increase continues at the present rate, the toll in 1969 will match the total casualty of a city the size of Hamilton or Winnipeg or Calgary.

Big Sale In Russia

The king of postholiday sales must certainly be going on in Russia—half price clearance of clothes, shoes and fabric—worth it is claimed, nearly three billion dollars.

Announced by Premier Kozlov at the Soviet parliament's winter session, the sale reflects two serious problems of the Soviet economy.

One is the waste of manpower and raw materials that the country's centralized planning produces. The goods that will go on sale were made without reference to Soviet consumers' tastes. The items have gathered dust for months on store shelves and in warehouses simply because Soviet citizens don't want them.

Since last summer the Soviet press has been suggesting ways to improve consumer goods production and marketing. The idea attracting most support calls for direct contract, negotiations between consumer goods factories and retailers.

delivered according to a Moscow approved plan. To Westerners living in a consumer-oriented economy, this may seem an elemental scheme. But Soviet habits change slowly and central planning is an institution, involving vested interests of powerful bureaucrats.

The sale also reflects the difficulty of balancing wages and consumption to avoid inflation. This is an increasing threat. One reason is a round of salary raises for more than 18 million Soviet workers and new pensions for about 6.5 million peasants.

These will pump more than five billion dollars of new spending power into the Soviet economy next year. Further, the current emphasis on bonuses—"material incentives"—as a means of increasing labor productivity will increase the wage fund.

Hence, the Soviet government is particularly concerned over production of unstable consumer goods. It not only puts more money in the form of wages into consumers' hands, but fails to drain enough of it off—a classic inflationary situation.

Still Among The Bad Guys

Reports out of Washington indicate that there is unlikely to be any change of attitude toward Fidel Castro's Cuba in 1965, despite the repeated overtures that the government of the island nation has made in recent months.

In the mind of the U.S. State Department, there are Communist "Go-od guys" and Castro, like China's Mao-tse-tung, has the misfortune to be among the latter.

Considering that the United States must share a considerable part of the responsibility for shoring up the regime of Castro's predecessor, Fulgencio Batista, one of the world's most rapacious dictators, Washington has a lot to answer for in continuing to boycott its tiny neighbor.

After six years of Castro, Cuba still has no organized political opposition, and there is no doubt that the Cuban premier exercises an iron grip on his country. But precisely the same can be said of Russia, after nearly 30 years of Communism, and the United States negotiates with the USSR because

Achondroplastic Easy Recognised

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen The achondroplastic dwarf is easily recognized by his distinctive appearance—short arms and legs in proportion to head and trunk. The cause is unknown. Inheritance may play a role but the condition seldom occurs in a second generation.

Anchondroplasia involves the growth centers of all the bones but is most noticeable in the extremities because of shortening of the long bones. In addition, the natural curves of the spine are exaggerated. The forehead tends to bulge over the face and nose to make room for the brain as it grows. The skull cannot expand because the growth centers are not functioning.

These pint-sized men and women do not enjoy the prestige they had at one time, although during World War II they were valuable in the aircraft industry for their ability in maneuvering into the small spaces of the wing and tail.

Dr. Francis E. Johnston writes that years ago dwarfs were given special recognition as shown by the number of figurines that have been unearthed by archeologists. Two Egyptian deities were in this category. Dwarfs also held positions of honor among the Roman emperors. The wealthy kept them as jesters and they also fought as gladiators.

There are so many statues, drawings and paintings of these people, their high positions in the past cannot be questioned. They no longer are regarded as having supernatural powers or special wisdom. They are normal individuals with defects of the skeleton but they have the distinction of having one of the oldest known diseases of men (and also of some animal groups, including dogs).

Brinton's skeleton from the Neolithic period in Great Britain is an achondroplastic, going back more than 7,000 years. The causes of dwarfism vary. They include nutritional, metabolic, and endocrine disturbances. Bone diseases such as rickets may be responsible. Dwarfs are not the same as midgets, who are small but of normal proportions. Chondrodystrophy is classified with bone disorders and is not amenable to treatment.

INFERTILITY AND TIPPING

Mrs. H. writes: Does a tipped uterus prevent a woman from having children? REPLY Occasionally, but it is not as common a cause as was believed 40 years ago.

URIC ACID AND CHOLESTEROL

S. R. C. writes: Is gout linked to heart disease? REPLY No, but many people with an elevated blood cholesterol also have excessive amounts of uric acid in the blood. The latter also occurs in gout but the relationship is not known.

SHAVING AT 12

H. H. writes: Is there any reason why a 12-year-old boy with an unattractive moustache cannot shave? REPLY No he will shave sooner or later and starting now will not make the moustache grow faster or heavier.

WARTY TUMOR

C. T. writes: What is squamous carcinoma? My husband had an operation on his lip for this condition. REPLY This is a surface cancer and the results of treatment are excellent when the lesions are removed completely.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Chronic alcoholism damages vision. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

A Surplus To Burn

Too great a dependence on one crop has proved the economic ruin of many countries in the past and still poses a threat for some countries today.

Currently the countries in trouble as a result of this are a number of the newer West African republics which are the major world suppliers of cocoa.

Production of cocoa has been so heavy in the past few years that there is now a big surplus on hand, one which threatens to lower the world price.

The situation has been met with the classical response by the Cocoa Producers' Alliance, made up of Ghana, Ivory Coast, Republic of Liberia and several other West African nations—the surplus will be burned to hold up the price of cocoa, as the producers of coffee and other commodities have done in the past.

Destroying the surplus crop, of course, provides no sort of long-term answer to the difficulties facing these countries.

What is represented in fact is a tremendous loss in terms of manpower and agricultural land utilization which the countries can ill afford.

The one-crop economy is one of the worst legacies left to many nations from their colonial pasts: Egypt and cotton, West Africa and cocoa, the East Indies and sugar, earlier, Brazil and coffee, are a few examples of this.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A prisoner escaped from a Tennessee jail disguised as a laundry truck driver. He made a clean getaway.—London Free Press.

Cowpoke: Why do you ear only one spur? Another cowpoke: Well, I reckon that when one side of the horse starts off, the other side will, too.—Globe and Mail.

The older generation thought nothing of getting up at 6 o'clock in the morning—and the younger generation doesn't think much of it either.—In Mid Country Times.

The news that 29,000 university students borrowed nearly \$20 million in the first few weeks of Ottawa's new student loan program may surprise some Canadians. They might wonder that so many students are so desperate for money as to go into debt to this extent.

Meanwhile, we have a new and surprising assessment of student stringency. In view of this pressing poverty it seems strange that overcrowding of student parking lots remains such a problem.—Vancouver Province.

Cool Heads Called For

By Boris Miskew Canadian Press Staff Writer

Communist Viet Cong forces kept nibbling contentedly at South Viet Nam as that troubled Southeast Asian country tried desperately to give birth to a new government.

Above the sound of shouting and rioting that echoed through out the land signs appeared after 19 strife-packed days that some form of settlement between the military and the civilian forces was imminent.

Without the establishment of a unified government under civilian control South Viet Nam cannot even hope to launch a minor offensive against the Viet Cong guerrilla force which have chalked up a series of victories in recent days.

A committee of Vietnamese military and civilian officials as well as American diplomats was reported in Saigon Thursday to have begun to lay the foundations for what they hope will be a new government for the chaotic republic.

VIRTUAL COUP

The most recent crisis started in December when a clique of young generals staged a virtual coup d'etat and dissolved the high national council—the provisional parliament—although they left civilian Premier Tran Van Huong in his office.

The 17-man council had been set up last Nov. 1 as a provisional legislature to carry out the transition from military to civilian control.

An anti-government general strike in the ancient imperial capital of Hanoi in central Viet

Why don't they build service stations somewhere near the spot where you run out of gas?—Sarnia Observer.

An educational drill, in the opinion of the average parent—is anything his own child isn't interested in.—Calgary Herald.

Ethiopia has changed the rule of the road from the left side (British style) to right side. They tried that in West Pakistan, where the motorists—at on quickly, and the pedestrians might have caught on in time, but the camels simply couldn't, or more likely wouldn't learn.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Out in Southern Alberta, the deer and the antelope do roam, as witness a story from Lethbridge which reports that 500 antelope held up a CPR dayliner for an hour and 40 minutes while they walked ahead of it on the track that was hemmed in on both sides by deep snow. It's a story like that which makes Canada so fascinating to the people of other lands. Why, it's just like Africa, where animals roam at will!—Hamilton Spectator.

The confusion and uncertainty of the situation in South Viet Nam has made a strong impact on the United States Senate where many senators were reported to share a sense of frustration over the course of the American-backed war.

AMERICAN AID

Discussions to supply new American military and economic aid to South Viet Nam were halted following the coup by the young generals and there is increasing talk supporting American withdrawal from a country where practically any government that is formed or might be formed automatically is regarded as alien by the majority of the people.

President Johnson apparently is not interested in extending the war which would likely involve China, and possibly the Soviet Union, should it be carried into Communist North Viet Nam. Both the Soviet Union and China have pledged their support in the event of an attack on North Viet Nam.

U.S. State Secretary Dean Rusk shed some light on the current American position when he said that the situation calls for coolness, not "reckless action which would move us over thoughtlessly in either the direction of defeat or in the direction of a very great catastrophe."

Different To Export

Toronto Globe And Mail

It doubtless came as something of a shock to members of The Canadian University Press assembled last week at McMaster University to be told by a press level that a free press is one of the institutions which Western democracies cannot export to the emerging countries of Africa and Asia.

It requires a hard-headed wheeler-dealer like Lord Thomson of Fleet to admit openly such a truth; to go further, to admit that he is prepared to compromise his principles to contend with the problem.

"This situation is regrettable," said Lord Thomson, "and I don't approve of it in principle. But if we are going to operate papers in these countries we must put up with it."

The ideal arrangement in Africa, he said, is for a publisher to operate a newspaper in partnership with the government. Such a paper cannot criticize the government, but it can provide some news, and it can interpret the world situation, and it may be preserved from degenerating completely into a propaganda sheet.

What Lord Thomson had to say about a free press may offend the idealists among the young journalists. But it can be applied to the whole range of democratic institutions which the West would like to export to the developing countries. Such countries do not understand democracy, they are not convinced that it would serve their purposes and, in fact, at their present stage of development it probably would not.

These countries are afflicted with mass poverty and mass illiteracy is a greater problem than the inability to read and write. Their whole political heritage is subservience to authority, whether it be that of the chief, the king or the colonist, or a combination of all three.

They want to be rid of some of their old masters but they do not yet want to be their own masters. It is a want which must follow behind the satisfaction of more urgent wants.

If we of the West were honest we would probably admit that authoritarian government is a more immediately serve the developing countries. If such government can resist corruption, it can compel people to do those things which it reasons are for their own good, and which frequently are. But it must be different from other forms of despotism, which harness the mass to serve the few.

DRUG STORE OPEN THIS WEEKEND GANTWELL'S PHARMACY 175 GRAFTON ST. DIAL 4-5132 Will be the only Charlottetown Drug Store open Saturday evening and all day Sunday. 25% off all Max Factor Cosmetics