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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

PAGE 4 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1966

A Stern Reminder

It is a sad commentary on the state of our troubled world, at this season in particular, that the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem almost 2,000 years ago could not be repeated today.

The chief foreign correspondent of the Daily Mail of London, writing in the current issue of the New York Times Magazine, has this to say after three trips made in the past year to the Middle East and Israel: "The very air of this corner of the Eastern Mediterranean is filled with the sound of sabres being rattled, with the high keening noise of Arab hatreds. It is no wonder that the Israelis, looking out over the barbed wire and gun emplacements of their garrison nation, should feel themselves under perpetual persecution."

And again: "The Arabs would long ago have embarked on a holy war against Israel—if only they could have agreed on how to do it, when to do it and who should do it. Every Arab's heart is filled with the longing to see the Israelis pushed into the Mediterranean. This is the thought that has sustained him for years and it is possibly the only unifying factor in the Arab world."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Justice Minister Cardin informed the Commons the other day that his department is considering amendments to the Criminal Code dealing with impaired driving. He added that while the impaired driver was a hazard, there were other perils to take into account in reducing the highway toll; also that road safety is not solely a federal responsibility.

The Japanese are enjoying the most lavish Christmas season in their history. Christian religious holidays have sacred significance for fewer than 10 individuals in a thousand in the country, but the enormous influx of Americans since 1945 has made "Meri Kurisumasu" a well-known greeting in Japanese.

DesBrisay, but in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick they are vital problems. They prove that the policies and programs for regional development have only been valid in a very special context. The remedy does not lie in fiddling with the machinery to make it work better; it is a question of a major reconstruction of the machine.

The solution to the problem, admittedly, was complex. But much could be done by decentralizing federal agencies and services and by providing, through the Canadian Development Corporation, greater equity capital in the region. Also it was suggested that the winter house building bonus, which has done much to spread construction seasonally in Canada, be adapted regionally to offset higher mortgage costs when national policy requires it.

Many of our industrial projects, as well, are too narrow in concept, Mr. DesBrisay maintained. Designed on the basis of central Canadian experience, they work in central Canada; but even when inflated to the proportions of national policy they still work only there.

How Long In Cyprus?

External Affairs Minister Martin has announced that Canada, at the request of the United Nations Security Council, will maintain its peacekeeping force in Cyprus for another six months. It would be awkward, no doubt, for Canada to withdraw from this responsibility which it assumed back in March, 1964; but it is discouraging to note that the racial and constitutional problems of the island seem no closer to a determination now than ever.

Under the terms of the Security Council's original resolution, the UN force was to be required for three months to restore something akin to "normalcy" between the feuding factions of Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The former were demanding "enosis"—union of the island with the Greek mainland—and the latter threatening invasion to protect Turkish minorities. It is probable that the UN intervention at that time averted a war, but in the many months that have passed the peace is still an uneasy one.

Canada throughout has paid the cost of her own contribution to the peace force—originally 1,022 men, now of the order of some 800 Canadian servicemen. The overall cost to this country to date is in excess of \$7 million, while to the UN the price of policing Cyprus is more than \$60 million.

Canada can take pride in its continuing gesture. But it has been pointed out, and rightly so, that Canadians also have a right to know how long they are to be saddled with this operation, without any apparent effort being made either by the UN or by the major powers to strike a balance between Greek and Turkish rights.

Let us hope that as a result of the recent federal-provincial conference of finance ministers at Ottawa, more attention will be paid to regional economic problems across the country, which do not seem to get into the picture when federal budgets are being drafted and federal pronouncements about the expanding national economy are promulgated.

The slowdown of the Dosco plant, the closing of a fish processor, or the drastic and rapid decline of home construction in major cities may disappear in the national totals, said Mr.



"ON DONNER, ON BLITZEN"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Members Relax In Seasonal Jollities

Part of the traditional Christmas on Parliament Hill is the "office parties" held by the various political parties. This year the Conservatives combined Christmas with a 6-8 p.m. celebration of the 10th anniversary of John Diefenbaker's election as their leader. Every Conservative senator and MP was invited to chip in \$10 for a presentation; most did, though not all attended the party at which he was given a large desk "at which to write his memoirs."

The party was already swinging when I went into the Railway Committee Room in the main Parliament Building. Mac McCatchee, MP for Lambton-Kent, was pounding the piano, and the guest of honor was among the chorus belting out "If you were the only girl in the world..." but I could not see on whom his twinkling eyes were focused; it might have been Quebec's Senator Jessie Quirt.

LIBERAL HOSPITALITY

Perhaps it was Die's ditties which attracted former Liberal Minister Maurice Lamontagne, who made a smiling entry with his wife. But this was not the first time he has put a foot wrong on Parliament Hill, and the happy smile on his face changed to bewilderment and then to embarrassment as he realized that he had come to the wrong room. For the Liberals' party was about to get off to a later start in the impressive newly-decorated Confederation Room in the West Block, complete with Christmas tree, four bars and a dance combo.

After the formalities of presenting a pair of sealskin snowboots to the Prime Minister (for winter electioneering?) and a bullhide lash to the Party whip, the celebration of the impending short Christmas holiday became the serious task. As the night wore on, the Diefenbaker cowboys and even the Tory whip arrived in force to drink toasts—to their unwitting hosts?—and to trip over someone else's light fantastic toes until 2 a.m.

The Air We Breathe

Hamilton Spectator

The air pollution control officer for Los Angeles County has advised for immediate plans to ban cars from downtown areas. This measure would ensure that those who work or visit cities would have a chance of breathing air that was not completely filthy. Naturally, he was opposed by a car apologist who said that such stringent measures would not be necessary because by 1970 automobile exhaust would be almost nonexistent, if there at all.

PUBLIC FORUM

FOR SAFER DRIVING Sir.—If space could be afforded I would like to comment on an article which appeared recently in the Guardian (titled Sunday Driver). First of all I would say the writer chose a poor time of year to air his views. In that we are getting into a season of poor driving conditions in which at times 40 miles per hour would not be considered a safe speed to operate a vehicle. Being what the writer might consider a Sunday Driver myself I feel justified in saying that more motorists are involved in serious accidents who travel over the 50 miles per hour speed than those who coast along below the 50 mark. Statistics have proven time and again that speed is the No. One killer on our highways, so why criticize those who are trying to drive at a sensible speed? I am convinced that our highways would be a much safer place to be if there were more so-called Sunday Drivers and fewer speed demons.

Outwitting Germs

By Dr. Theodore K. Van Dellen Microscopic adversaries that caused infections were our number one killers for many centuries. We were completely oblivious to the enemy until the microscope was invented. Through magnification the critters that caused disease became visible. Epidemics were feared more than guns and swords and, until this century, pestilence decided most wars.

The tide of battle turned when antibiotics and vaccines were found on a definite change occurred with the discovery of the sulfonamides and antibiotics. Penicillin was comparable to the atomic bomb and within a few years bacterial infections were no longer a threat and have been bypassed by heart disease, cancer, and accidents as our top killers.

Our microscopic and ultramicroscopic foes are clever and tough. Infectious diseases caused by bacteria are returning and many physicians are beginning to wonder whether germs are winning the war against people. We have known for some time that bacteria are able to develop an immunity to antibiotic drugs. This is bad enough but the culprit also have the cunning ability to transfer this resistance to their offspring.

The situation has been observed in many countries and the percentage of resistant strains is rising year by year. There are many commercial antibiotics and some degree of resistance to certain bacteria has been noted in the majority. These compounds do not necessarily have to be used because when some germs develop resistance to one antibiotic they also are resistant to the newcomers on the market. The problem is more serious in treating certain diseases with antibiotics but in general it has not been so serious that infections are becoming major killers.

In 1962, one scientist found that four per cent of the Germ E. coli were resistant to ampicillin. In 1965 the percentage increased to 13 per cent. There is no need to panic because the wonder drugs are truly wonderful but they should be used properly or not at all.

INFLAMMATION OR INFLAMMATION

A. M. writes: Does the term inflammatory mean an infection? I have chronic inflammation behind the ear drum. Five weeks ago my dentist extracted two teeth which he thought were responsible. Now he said I have a gum and throat infection. Is he right?

REPLY

Infection is only one cause of inflammation. Others include allergy, irritation, and burns. Focal infections of the teeth are rarely a cause of inflammation, especially of a rash behind the ear.

PLEURISY RECURRENTS

R. A. writes: Does pleurisy usually return again and again after the first attack?

REPLY

Complete healing occurs as a rule after the first attack. Now and then pleurisy settles in one area and has a tendency to return with each cold or period of overfatigue.

TOXEMIA AND UREMIA

E. V. writes: Are toxemia and uremia the same?

REPLY

No. Uremia stems from failure of the kidneys to function properly. Toxemia comes from the accumulation of poisonous (toxic) substances in the system as a result of the uremia.

DROOLING

E. T. writes: Why do old people drool?

REPLY

Distures or sagging corners of the mouth. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT.—The Christmas tree should be well anchored to avoid tipping.

Superpower Opposition

By Alexander Farrel Canadian Press Staff, United Nations

The 21st session of the General Assembly demonstrated that although there is no veto in the assembly and all 122 countries have an equal voice, nothing important will happen against the wishes of either the Americans or the Russians.

On the issue of Chinese representation, Canada tried to move the UN on to new ground, while the Americans were determined to keep it where it was. On peacekeeping, Canadian hopes and plans ran afoul of Russia, not to mention France.

Of course, nobody can gag the assembly and the session reaffirmed one other important truth. The issues that take up most of the time are those considered important by the 38 Arab and Negro countries of Africa, who, when they act together, are the largest viable group in the assembly.

A visitor would have come away from the session without any real sense of urgency about Vietnam, which wasn't on the agenda anyway. But he would have concluded that the world is in grave danger unless white rule in southern Africa is somehow ended quickly.

Canada is totally committed to the cause of independence and majority rule in all Africa. But Canadian diplomats have begun to worry about the stultifying effect of so much talk that has little or no practical effect. They worked hard to persuade African delegations to accept a 14-country committee search for some way to end South African rule in South-West Africa, in place of a blunt but meaningless declaration that South Africa had better get out or else.

It was perhaps Canada's finest effort at the 21st session. But it must be said that no big power put any obstacles in the way, although Britain and France made it clear they wouldn't serve on the committee.

This time Canada joined in the annual effort to get an ambassador from Peking into a UN seat. It wasn't prepared to pay the usual price demanded by Peking's older supporters, namely expulsion of the Nationalist Chinese, so it abstained when the issue came to a vote.

This was a significant break, however, from the past record of solid support for the United States against admitting the Communist Chinese and it can be said that it didn't pass unnoticed among other delegations.

Canada's desire to strengthen and put some system into UN peacekeeping machinery was treated by Russia and France as an insult to the authority of the Security Council. The final Soviet statement, a denunciation of "instruments of imperialism," stirred fears of crisis if the assembly passed the Canadian resolution.

France's closing arguments, more sophisticated than the Soviet, credited Canada with good intentions but said, in effect, the resolution was a poor job of drafting, leaving too many loopholes through which the UN Charter could be violated. This impressed some delegates who had supported Canada in committee.

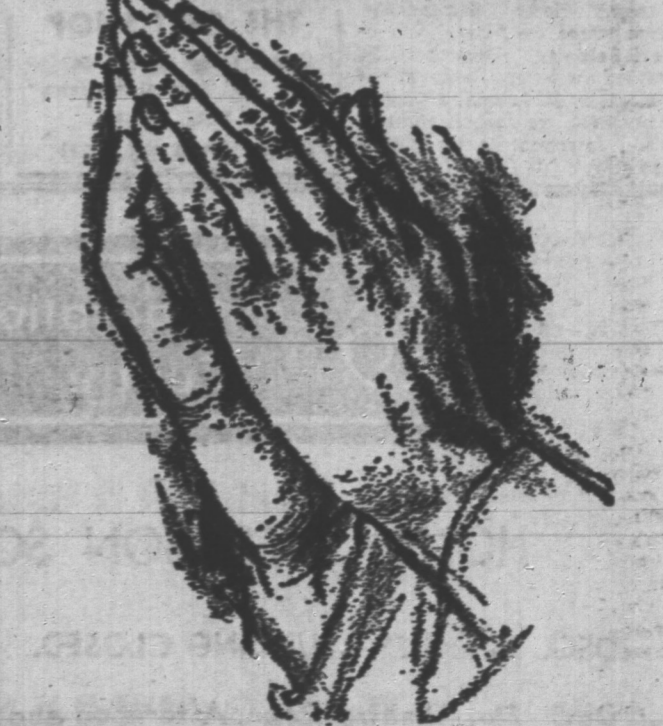


We'd like to express best wishes!

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CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



Let us pray, we thank thee Lord for this beautiful year and wish all of our friends and partners a special Christmas blessing.

May Christ be with you always.

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