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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest link.

PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1965

Should Be Abolished

It is reported, unofficially, that the Commons committee on drug prices favors the complete removal of the 11 per cent federal tax on prescription drugs. Finance Minister Gordon in his budget speech promised that the government would reduce or eliminate this tax should the committee recommend such a course; so it would seem that this benefit is in the offing.

But why was it deemed necessary to make this particular tax subject to a committee report? It is, after all, as much a direct government responsibility as any other form of taxation. Mr. Gordon conceded that representations had been made for the removal of the tax and that the government had considered them. But that was as far as it was prepared to go until it got the green light from a committee which has no taxing powers whatever and which is only incidentally concerned in this phase of the food and drug question.

To the shame of both major political parties, the tax on prescription drugs has endured for almost 30 years against strong opposition, and the effect has been to increase substantially the prices of retail drugs in Canada. There can be no moral justification for any government deriving income from what is, after all, a levy on the means of alleviating suffering.

All provincial sales taxes exempt prescription drugs, and there are exemptions under the federal tax for five specific drugs, including insulin, cortisone and polio vaccine. But why have it on the others? The revenue accruing to Ottawa from the tax is only \$7,000,000 a year, yet because it is imposed on the wholesale price, the retail cost to the sick is about \$11,000,000.

Whatever the findings of the House committee when it emerges from the involved studies it has been making during the last two parliamentary sessions, it is to be hoped the government will realize its responsibility in this case, and act without further delay.

Farm Policy Changes

A radically new tack on national agricultural policy is seen by an Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Times of Canada in the easing up of direct government support for dairy products. Instead of paying a subsidy on all milk used to produce cheese, whatever the grade, the government now pays subsidies on top-quality cheese only. Under an "interim" policy announced in late March, excess production of milk used in manufactured products is also being discouraged by deducting the amount of export subsidies from general support payments.

Further steps in the same direction, it is said, are implicit in the promise in the Throne Speech of "new national policies for major farm products," which will be based to some extent on the new dairy policy. The keystone of this will be the federal-provincial dairy commission to rationalize production and marketing across the country. Unpleasant as the thought may be to the farm interests, this will probably involve some form of production controls.

known whether this is being considered among amendments to the Bankruptcy Act.

Government planning also contains provisions to strengthen and expand the work of ARDA. A special fund of unspecified size is planned to allow the ARDA administration to provide incentives for industrial expansion in depressed rural areas. The fund will be used to build needed installations for prospective corporate tenants. It could also be employed to develop recreational facilities. It is planned to broaden the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act itself to allow the administration more leeway in converting uneconomic farmland to other uses such as recreation and lumbering.

Of National Concern

A study team sent to the United States by the National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges has made an interesting discovery. It has found that of the 3,500 Canadians studying at American graduate schools, a very large proportion would like to teach or work in Canada when they have finished their courses.

In the past, it had been more or less assumed that once a Canadian went off to an American university, he was probably gone for good. But the study team found these students would be happy to come back to Canada, if they could find reasonable opportunities. Unfortunately, little attempt has been made to show them that such opportunities exist, or to compete with American firms and universities for the future work of these students.

The problem, however, is how to meet this requirement. Canadian universities are badly in need of first-rate staff, and this situation will increase as universities expand. Much the same is true, notes the Montreal Gazette, of Canadian companies. It seems a shame to ignore the reservoir of Canadian talent which exists in the United States. But it should not be forgotten that American colleges and firms are in similar need of talent. If they make a major effort to attract Canadians studying in the United States, and are offered no competition by their Canadian counterparts, it is not surprising that they should win.

Here is a field for governmental action that has not yet been explored. At least, it could be made the subject of a parliamentary discussion, of much more importance to the country than some that have taken place in recent months.

Opportunity Missed?

It was recently announced that former U.S. President Eisenhower and General Omar Bradley had turned down Soviet invitations to attend the Moscow celebrations on the 20th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. There were reports that these celebrations would take an anti-West German turn, and it is assumed that Washington itself may have hinted that these American war heroes should boycott the affair. In any case, this in effect is what they have done.

But surely, there was at least an equal chance of improving American-Soviet relations by a gesture of this kind. One of the most unfortunate incidents of the postwar period was President Eisenhower's inability to go to Moscow in the spring of 1960 because of the U-2 plane incident; but his visits to such places as India and Paris showed the tremendous response which he almost invariably aroused during public appearances. There seems no doubt that the Muscovites would welcome him with equal enthusiasm on this occasion.

The Christian Science Monitor, which by no stretch of imagination can be termed pro-Soviet, takes this view of the matter. It notes that despite the present severe strain in American-Soviet relations over Viet Nam, there has been progress in friendly relations during the past few years. "It is important," it argues, "that both Washington and Moscow seize every opportunity to further this progress. And we can think of few individual acts which would do more in this direction than President Eisenhower's appearance in Moscow."

EDITORIAL NOTE

Now is the time, suggests an exchange, for motorists to realize that their automobiles have passed through several months of most damaging weather, and take steps to ensure that they are thoroughly checked over and any necessary repairs made. Many of the accidents that happen every spring on the highways are due to neglect of this precaution.



"DID I HEAR A CHALLENGE?"

TEN YEARS AFTER

Sukarno And The Bandung Conference

British Information Services

President Sukarno of Indonesia has been leading celebrations for the tenth anniversary of the Bandung Conference of Afro-Asian countries. Yet other delegations may well have wondered how he can still pretend to support the movement when his confrontation policy against Malaysia is diametrically opposed to its aims. Indeed one country—Thailand—demonstrated its disapproval by walking out of the conference on the "crush Malaysia" issue.

Consider the terms of the communique issued by that first conference ten years ago. Among other things it stressed the need for "respect for the territorial integrity of all nations." Indonesia has shown scanty respect for the integrity of Malaysia. It also called for "abstention from intervention in the internal affairs of another country." How can this be squared with Indonesia's infiltration of forces regular or volunteer, into Sabah or Sarawak and their introduction of subversive agents to the Malaysian mainland?

MUSICAL TRAINING

Sir.—Hats off to "Anxious Student" and "Anxious Teacher" for bringing to the attention of the public the sad neglect of musical training and education in the Montague Regional High School. The interest and talent of the students was most apparent in the recent Music Festival when the Glee Club and the Folk-singers were highly praised by the adjudicator and were awarded the high marks of 88, 85 and 84. Congratulations and many thanks to the two staff members who had the initiative and self-denial to forfeit their noon recesses, etc., that they might help to satisfy the musical hunger of our young people.

Surely, when we have reached the point where there is "no time for music" it's high time we took time to reassess our sense of values. In the course of his remarks, adjudicator Eric S. Lewis repeatedly stated his conviction, founded on years of experience in working with young people, that participation in music was a help rather than a hindrance to the student's academic endeavor. In full awareness of the crowded schedule of any regional high school, I am still convinced that "where there's a will, there's a way." Please, let us find the way to include in our course of studies the "International Language," which above all academic subjects can sharpen the wits, elevate the spirit and satisfy the soul.

EDITORIAL NOTE

I wholeheartedly join the ranks of those eagerly awaiting action on this important matter. I am, Sir, etc. ANXIOUS PARENT Montague, P.E.I.

Sense Of Smell

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen The nose is exposed to the elements more than any other organ. It helps the body adjust to extreme differences in temperature and humidity, and is our first line of defense against air pollution. The sense of smell originates in a nerve (olfactory) center located high in the nasal vault.

Man uses his sense of smell primarily for pleasure. He is able to detect other odors, but the sense is much less important than in other mammals. Changes in taste are immediate indications that something has gone amiss with the sense of smell (anosmia). This is understandable because the taste of food is recognized through simultaneous stimulation of taste buds in the tongue and in the olfactory cells of the nose. It explains why food tastes flat when the nose is blocked by infection or allergy. The opposite does not take place when the sense of taste is poor or lost.

Other causes of anosmia are nasal polyps, reactions to certain drugs, skull fracture, viral infection of the olfactory center. The sense may be normal one day and gone the next. Some individuals smell odors that do not exist (parosmia). They complain of smelling unpleasant odors. The cause is unknown. The air-conditioning function of the nose stems from its ability to warm or cool inspired air, whether the outside temperature is 100 degrees above or 20 degrees below zero. There is more surface space in the nasal cavities than generally realized, because each turbinate projects into the passageway like a balcony.

In addition, some of the air goes in and out of the sinuses. The turbinate swell when cold air is inhaled, enlarging the warm surface area; it is reversed when the outside air is warm. The mucus membranes of the nose are covered with a blanket of mucus. The serum is a perfect trap for dust and bacteria. Moisture is transferred to, or removed from, inspired air—depending upon the relative humidity. A related phenomenon occurs with expired air.

FOOD ALLERGY R. U. writes: Allergy to wheat and chocolate is responsible for my migraine attacks. What bread, cake, and cereals may I eat?

REPLY Select flour or cereals made from grains other than wheat. These include rice, oats, corn, rye, and flour substitutes such as cornstarch and arrowroot. There are dozens of substitutes for chocolate flavoring and icing.

TONGUE CRACKS A reader writes: What causes and cures cracks or tongue fissures?

REPLY The cause is not known except that frequently it runs in families. The cracks or fissures are of variable depth and usually extend outward from the medium groove. No treatment is necessary.

TROPICAL FISH TANK C. L. writes: Is it harmful to have a 10 gallon tropical fish tank in a two-year-old's bedroom? The tank is complete with filter, lights, and pump.

REPLY No, provided it does not interfere with the child's sleep or is located where it might cause an injury if broken.

MONONUCLEOSIS C. F. W. writes: How long do the effects of mononucleosis stay with a person?

REPLY Fatigue is the most common after effect. It lasts a few weeks to several months.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Do not pour kerosene or other flammable liquid on wood in the fireplace.

NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (May 5, 1940)

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Club in New York City Harold M. Gordon of Brudenell River, P.E.I. was elected to the board of governors. Dr. J. J. MacPhee, formerly of St. Jean's P.E.I. was chairman of the nominating committee.

Signaller K.M. Cobb of the 5th Signallers arrived home on furlough.

TEN YEARS AGO (May 5, 1955)

The Kinsmen's Club slate for the coming year of officers was elected at the Charlottetown Hotel. They were: president, Sam Robinson, 1st vice president, Joe Shefferson; 2nd vice president, Clive Cummore; treasurer, Ralph Colbourne; directors, Tony Galant, Wally Higgins, George MacDonald and George Martin.

Plans by the Junior Board of Trade to erect a Welcome Sign in Spring Park field at the entrance of the city were completed at the regular meeting of the Board held last night. Henry MacWilliam presided.

ISSUE NOTICES

OTTAWA (CP)—The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority announced Tuesday special uniforms for crews operating locks along the inland waterway that will ensure "recognition" for more than 450 seaway employees from Montreal to Sault Ste. Marie.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Teacher: Can you tell me where the Red Sea is? John: Yes, Ma'am it's on the third line of my report card.—Financial Post.

Mother: "What were Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Smith talking about?" Son: "They were talking about religion." Mother: "What did they say?" Son: "Oh, nothing in particular—just giving the preacher the dickens."—Hamilton Spectator.

You just can't win. If there's nothing going on in a town, there's no reason to go there; if there is, you can't find a place to park.—Calgary Herald.

A U.S. survey of people who have lived to be 100 years old shows that centenarians have only one thing in common—they are thin. From this, two conclusions are possible. The first is that obesity shortens life. The second is that few people who reach 100 can afford enough to eat.—Bridgetown Dominion.

Old Friend: "What happened to that dizzy redhead your husband used to go with?" His Wife: "I dyed my hair."—Financial Post.

An arithmetic teacher says that pupils who haven't done their homework in the new math still come up with the old excuses.—Edmonton Journal.

Visitor: Can you tell me the name of this school? Young Man: Sorry, I'm just a football player here.—Toronto Telegram.

A wife who gets her husband to relax when he comes home from work usually can pick up quite a bit of loose change in the easy chair.—Plymouth Review.

Why is it that the boy you were sure wasn't good enough for your daughter turned out to be the father of the world's smartest grandchildren?—Kiel Record.

Of International Concern

By Joseph MacSwiney Canadian Press Staff Writer

It requires something spectacular to stir general European interest in the Dominican Republic, the oldest European settlement in North America. President Johnson has done the trick, however, by ordering 14,000 United States fighting men to the Caribbean island country discovered in December, 1492, by Christopher Columbus, who instructed his brother to form a colony there. The Johnson action has raised the republic in international political terms, to a status almost equal with South Viet Nam where more than 30,000 U.S. military men are committed in the cruel southeast Asian struggle.

The Soviet Union and China, because of their own ideological differences, have done some carping but are themselves over the conduct of the Vietnamese fight. Some British observers feel it will be easier for the two Communist giants to get together in denunciation of the U.S. for the fighting in far-off Santo Domingo.

1920s ACTION RECALLED "Sending the Marines," in some European ears, is merely the modern equivalent of "sending a gumball" in imperialist days. The U.S. now is suffering for its support of reactionary Latin American regimes in the past. One periodical says it was the intervention of U.S. Marines in the 1920s that opened the way for Trujillo's generation-long rule.

U.S.A. noted that the first reason given for sending the Marines last week was to protect the lives and property of U.S. citizens. But then a second reason emerged, first being denied, then officially admitted, then proclaimed: To foil a Communist takeover.

Washington is criticized for acting first, then consulting the Organization of American States. It is recalled that late president Kennedy managed to link action with consultation in the Cuban showdown.

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