

RENEGADE IN POWER:

The Diefenbaker Years

By PETER C. NEWMAN

INSTALMENT 9: GEORGE HEES

(This is the ninth of a series of twelve excerpts taken from the much longer version contained in **RENEGADE IN POWER: THE DIEFENBAKER YEARS**, copyright Canada, 1963, Peter C. Newman; published by McClelland & Stewart.)

To those who observed the Ottawa scene closely in the years between 1957 and 1963, the most improbable figure in John Diefenbaker's improbable cabinet was George Hees, the member for Toronto-Broadview who served first as Minister of Transport and then took on Defence and Commerce, the portfolio that had so long been the personal domain of Clarence Decatur Howe.

"Gorgeous George," as his detractors delight in bringing gusto to the business of government, a called in power and in self the few men can sustain past the age of 20. A huge man, healthy, rich, and handsome, he was master of the Big Hello. He loved partying, swimming, football, and sometimes gave the physically frail the uneasy feeling that he might, at any moment, get down on the rug and wrestle in a burst of boyish goodwill.

From the time that Hees went into politics he was plagued by charges that he was a mental light, a weight, a perpetually plucky, the utility of the utility, the astonishment of the people who thought they knew him well (and this meant everybody who'd ever shared an elevator with George, so transparent seemed his talents), Hees turned out to be the most successful of the Conservative cabinet ministers. It was a success based not on good luck but on hard work and an untamable zest in everything he did—which ironically, in the end, brought about his dramatic downfall.

Part of John Diefenbaker's appeal in the 1957 and 1958 election campaigns had been the feeling he gave that his party would handle the people's business with a dedication and excitement that hadn't been seen in the land during the Liberals' faltering years of corporate efficiency. But once the Tories were firmly ensconced in office, the problems of power were down the enthusiasm of nearly all the major figures in the Diefenbaker cabinet.

Hees remained a refreshing exception, not because of any outstanding personal brilliance, but simply because he cultivated with flashy single-mindedness the limited talents he did possess. He applied the political same annual will power that characterized his approach to everything.

**PREPARED WITH DOGGED DETERMINATION**  
Hees had compensated for his failure at high-school football with a grim private training schedule that eventually made him a star linebacker of the Toronto Argonaut team which won the 1958 Grey Cup Canadian football's most coveted award. After he had been flattened in a 1933 amateur boxing bout at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens, he resolutely slugged his way to the heavyweight championship of the British armed services.

When World War II broke out, he trained himself just as hard to be a good officer, and eventually earned battle honors as an infantry brigade major. He then proceeded to prepare for public life with the same dogged determination he had shown in sports and the army, and became a key influence in the Conservatives' return to power.

Although he turned 50 while in office, Hees continued to look more like an athlete in his prime than a middle-aged politician. His face, flushed with good health and bursting out of a permanent, nearly toothy collar, was nearly always adorned with a "let's-go team!" kind of grin. His big frame (210-pound, six-foot-3) seemed to be planted on the ground with a permanent backwash being held by the world on a leash.

**LED SINGSONGS AND PLAYED CATCHER**  
George Hees was a hard-breathing retainer of the theory that Canadian politicians should be strong and pompous to be successful. He loved to lead singsongs at parties, to play catcher at the MP's annual baseball game, and to trade quips with the opposition in the parliamentary corridors. His political duties seldom limited his fun. Mounted on a bronco and waving a cowboy hat, he led the parade that opened the 50th anniversary of the Warrentic, Alberta, Stampede. When he was supposed to turn the sod of Edmonton's new international airport in 1958, instead of meekly digging up a ceremonial shovelful of dirt, he mounted a bulldozer and efficiently ploughed up the first 20 feet of excavation.

Hees' initial success as Minister of Transport prompted his promotion, on October 11, 1960, to the prestigious Trade and Commerce portfolio. To place the federal government actively on the side of promoting the country in a n if facturing interests called for a complete re-orientation in Ottawa's postwar emphasis on the development of the natural-resources sector. Just as the notched profile of C.D. Howe had been the symbol of the rugged individualism required to open up Canada's hinterland, so the springing silhouette of George Hees would have to be recognized as the living spirit in the bare-fisted process of persuading reticent Canadian businessmen to get out and sell their products in strange and difficult markets. "I'm going to do anything that will increase Canadian exports. I'd stand on my head in Piccadilly Circus, if I thought it'd do any good," said the new Trade and Commerce Minister a few hours after taking on his new assignment.

**EXPORTING IS FUN**  
The precise impact of Hees' energetic export campaign was difficult to assess. During his two years at Trade and Commerce, Canada achieved a favourable balance in merchandise exports over imports for the first time in a decade. Devaluations of the Canadian dollar, Communist China, and the post-Corbo monetary expansion certainly were all partly responsible, but so was George Hees. If he had done nothing else but firmly establish in the minds of Canada's businessmen that exporting can be fun, his efforts would have been well worthwhile.

But Hees' greatest accomplishment was to alter the stereotyped attitude that business had toward government. He proved to even the most rabid of free enterprise critics that the federal administration need not be a bureaucratic nuisance, but could if properly exploited, become a positive agency on their behalf.

Speaking in the members of the Ottawa West Conservative Association during the 1962 election campaign, Hees explained his theory of how political candidates should be chosen. "When we were boys," he said, "we used to stand on the corner and watch the girls go by. Some girls had it and some didn't. Now, we could tell just like that which ones had it and which ones didn't. And that's how you pick candidates—they've got to have it."

honestous goodwill revealed themselves as the protective coloring for an outrageous ambition. With the robust resolution born of a lifetime spent achieving unlikely objectives, George Hees craved for the prime ministership of Canada. He had been John Diefenbaker's himself who first mentioned the swashbuckling Toronto man as a possible heir. At a trade conference dinner in Ottawa during the winter of 1961, the Prime Hees' shoulder, anointing him with these words: "George, nobody can take your place. You're the first."

But less than two years later, John Diefenbaker's reaction to the name George Hees would be a very different one.

NEXT: Olive Diefenbaker

Former Islander Dies In Ontario

The death occurred Thursday, Jan. 20 in Port Whitby, Ont., of Dr. Carl A. Dawson, a former native of Augustine Cove and Victoria, P.E.I. He was 76.

Dr. Dawson was a retired professor of sociology at McGill University. He was a resident of P.E.I. for many years before he moved to Montreal. After retirement he had several offers for teaching positions in the United States at several universities. Dr. Dawson has kept a summer house in Victoria, P.E.I. for the last 15 years which he visited for four or five months every year.

Britain Orders 2,000 Troops To Tanganyika

LONDON (AP) — Britain has ordered nearly 2,000 troops including a crack commando unit to Tanganyika for possible emergency duty.

The Royal Navy aircraft carrier Centaur with 500 commandos aboard sailed from Aden with orders to stand off the Tanganyikan coast.

At the same time, 800 crack riflemen of the Royal Scots Guards were sent back to Nairobi from manoeuvres in Aden. They were ordered to stand by in the Kenya capital to await any call to proceed to the troubled Tanganyikan capital of Dar es Salaam.

The British forces were mustered in response to a report staged a bloody mutiny in the young East African republic. The uprising occurred only eight days after rebel seized nearby Zanzibar.

Fourteen persons were reported killed during Monday's fighting in Tanganyika's capital, Dar es Salaam.

The fate of President Julius Nyerere's moderate government was uncertain although various reports said it was still in control.

Dr. Dawson is survived by his wife and four children, John and William, both residents of Toronto and Helen, Mrs. Laurie Straghan, Harrow, Ont., and Frances, Mrs. Robert Burrows, Montreal and several grandchildren. Also surviving are four brothers, Ivan Dawson, Beauceville; Elmer Dawson, Augustin; Uric Dawson, Yarmouth, N.S. and Haddon Davies, Florida, U.S.A.

The funeral will be held today at Port Whitby, Ont.

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This slapstick approach to politics was typical of the public impression Hees frequently projected of himself. It was only upon more intimate acquaintance that his effervescent charm and

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20%	8	1964 Frigidaire Deluxe Automatic Washer, big 12 lb. tub, spins clothes drier than any other make and uses less hot water	329.95	263.96
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15%	4	Enterprise Automatic Oil Range, clock controlled oven, deluxe backguard, large porcelain enamel oven	409.95	348.46
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20%	4	Enterprise Coal and Wood Range with reservoir. High closet	277.95	222.36
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15%	5	Enterprise G060, gun type burner oil. Our present owners are our best furnace salesmen. Fully guaranteed to heat your home, less tank	400.00	340.00
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Save	Quantity	Item	Reg.	SALE
50%	40	Single Bed or Bunk Sheets 54" x 90" each	1.98	.99
50%	240	Window Blinds 36" wide, color Eggshell, each	3.29	1.64
50%	50	Bulky Knit Sweater Yarn, skein 84" long, pair	16.95	8.48
33 1/3%	3	Sun & Suds Drapery Fabric 45" wide, 100 yds. yard	1.98	1.32
33 1/3%	600	Balls 4 ply Knitting Yarn, 1 oz. balls	.55	.37
33 1/3%	30	Bath Mat Sets, Multi Chenille Set	2.98	1.99
33 1/3%	60	Pair Bath Towels, substandards, plain colors 22" x 42", pair	2.49	1.66
25%	60	Kenwood Blankets solid colors, whipped ends, each	12.95	9.71
25%	144	Tex-Made Homestead quality sheets, 81" x 100", if perfect, ea.	3.69	2.77
25%	80	Tex-Made Homestead quality sheets 72" x 100", if perfect, ea.	3.49	2.62
25%	60	Tex-Made Homestead quality sheets 63" x 100", each	3.29	2.39
120	20	Tex-Made Homestead quality Pillow Cases 42", pair	1.69	1.27
25%		Paisley Cotton Covered Bed Comforters, each	5.98	4.49
25%		Chicken Feather Pillows, about 17" x 25" each	1.98	1.49
25%		Plain Cotton Terry Bath Towels, Rayons, if perfect, pair	1.98	1.49
25%		Substand Tailored Curtains 40 x 81" long, pair	3.69	2.77
25%		40 x 72" long, pair	3.49	2.62
25%		40 x 63" pair	2.98	2.24
25%		Striped Terry Kitchen Towels 17 x 33", pair	.98	.79
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30%	4	RCA Victor Combination Radio and Stereo, 4 speakers, 9 tube radio, smart styling cabinet	359.95	251.96
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33 1/3%	39	pc. Melmac Sets. A complete service for 6 consisting of 6 each: Cups, saucers, 6" plates, 9" plates, cereals, fruits, 1 cream and covered sugar. 3 patterns from which to choose: Wild Wheat, Dogwood and Pussy Willow	29.95	19.97
50%	20	pc. "Blue Willow" Starter Sets. 4 each cups, saucers, cereals 5" plates, 8" plates in the popular "Blue Willow" decoration	6.98	3.49
20%	15	Convex Mirrors with non-tarnish English brass frames	9.98	7.99
33 1/3%		"Victoria" design heavy base tumblers. Choice of 2 sizes	.39	.26
29%		Semi Porcelain Cups & Saucers in assorted floral designs	.39	.29
25%		Beau Pots — 2 qt. size with side handles	1.98	1.49
40%		Cello Wrapped Artificial Fruit—per package	.98	.59
33 1/3%		"Monaco" Crystal Stemware including Sherbert plates, 3 size water glasses, juice glasses, goblets, footed juice, cocktails and liqueur glasses	.69	.46
25%		Hand painted Trays in Round and Oblong Shape. Chip and stain resistant. Fruit and floral decorations	8.98	6.75
15%		off all Figurines and Novelties	6.98	6.75
45%		Faragon Bone China cups, goblets, saucers. Deep and pastel tones with inside floral design. Heavy gold trim	3.50	1.92
25%		off all English semi-porcelain Dinner Sets		25%

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