

Tate And Lyle Makes Offer For United Molasses

LONDON (CP) — Tate and Lyle, the giant British sugar combine, is making an agreed offer of £31,000,000 for United Molasses.

The terms of the offer are \$2 cash, 12s of a new convertible loan stock and two-fifths of Tate and Lyle ordinary share for each UM share, making the offer worth 34s 3d.

By the close of trading Thursday, UM shares were standing at 28s. Their book asset value is £28 million.

United Molasses, a big customer of Tate and Lyle with

minority interests in two Tate and Lyle sugar-producing subsidiaries as well as a fleet of cargo and passenger ships, had a bad year in 1964. Profits dropped to £1,650,000 from £3,700,000 before tax. The dividend is being cut to 15 per cent less tax from the previous 15 per cent tax-free.

Tate and Lyle, which in 1963-64 boasted profits of £8,700,000, estimates this year's profits, based on the present low prices for raw sugar, at £8,500,000. But it intends to hold the dividend at 10 per cent.

The directors of UM, who hope to regain a profit level of £3,000,000 for the current year, are accepting the Tate and Lyle offer for their own holdings and advising stockholders to do the same.

THE UNHAPPY WARRIOR



By PETER C. NEWMAN

Those Sixty Days, A Terrible Legacy

The mounting problems of the Pearson ministry are due in no small measure to a rash decision taken during the hectic election campaign, two weeks before the Government even reached office.

Lester Pearson had begun that campaign in a buoyant mood. As the Liberals saw it, the great national issue in the late winter of 1963, was John Diefenbaker's indecision.

But despite the dramatic resignations and moral disarray which his vacillation had caused among his own followers, it was evident as election day approached that the man from Prince Albert was still a devastatingly effective campaigner.

By the last week of March, Pearson's inner circle felt that something dramatically out of the ordinary had to be done to emphasize their candidate's assets; they were equally sure that it couldn't be anything remotely reminiscent of the abortive gimmickry of the Truth Squad or the coloring book.

Since Pearson couldn't hope to match Diefenbaker as a campaigner, it seemed natural to concentrate on the Liberal leader's decisiveness—the one trait which would most clearly contrast him with the Tory chief.

The original idea of trying to galvanize the nation's electors by pledging "a 100 days of unprecedented decision" was rejected when Mrs. Pearson pointed out that the "100 Days" slogan had first been applied to the period following Napoleon's return from exile at Elba. "That glorious interval was climaxed by the rout at Waterloo," it was Pearson himself who suggested revising the slogan to "60 Days of Decision". On March 25, at a Liberal election meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, he pledged that "more constructive things will be done in the first 60 days of a new Liberal Government than in any similar period of Canadian history," and a week later, Pearson tried to subdue a rowdy rally at Vancouver by shouting that "the first 60 days of a new Liberal administration will be 60 days of decision!"

GATHER STRANDS

When the ballots were counted, the Liberals had managed to squeeze into office, half a dozen seats short of a majority.

PEARSON SERIES APPEARS DAILY

This is one of a series of 10 articles on Prime Minister Pearson appearing daily in The Guardian and written by Ottawa correspondent Peter C. Newman, who also wrote "Renegade in Power" on the Diefenbaker administration.

They set about gathering the strands of power with the easy confidence of men who felt they were supremely fitted for the business of governing. Under the impact of the "60 Days" slogan, Ottawa crackled with activity. "Pearson and his ministers come to power equipped with sheaves of policy papers, priority lists, and agendas, which they expect will enable the quickest take-off of any new Government in Canadian history," crowed the Liberal Ottawa Citizen.

When Pearson named his ministry on April 22, Professor J.T. McLeod, a University of Toronto political scientist, labelled his choices, as "the most impressive array of brains and professional experts ever assembled in a Canadian cabinet."

The "60 Days" momentum was reflected in Pearson's every pronouncement. To a national television audience on April 23, he described his intended stewardship as "a time to excite the daring, test the strong and give new promise to the timid." The Liberal cabinet met in virtually continuous session, mapping legislation and the Prime Minister flew off to London and Hyannisport where he triumphantly re-established the friendly relations with U.K. and U.S. leaders, which had been shattered by Diefenbaker's international acrobatics.

The Government's Speech From the Throne which began the parliamentary session on May 16 confidently elaborated the "60 Days" theme, outlining an avalanche of major legislative measures. But almost immediately afterwards, Pearson's grand design began to disintegrate.

STORMY CLIMATE

For one thing, the mechanics of Commons procedure meant that the Throne Speech debate and the supply motion that followed exhausted parliament's time until June 3 — the 43rd day of decision. This interval not only prevented Pearson from introducing new legislation, it also set the stormy, wantonly obstructionist climate of the Commons.

John Diefenbaker, who according to all the rules of political combat to have been hived like a humbled as an angry gladiator, instead on toppling Pearson's minority administration.

The climax of the "60 Days" was the presentation, on June 13, of Finance Minister Walter Gordon's first budget. It turned out to be an ill-prepared if well intentioned document which fell apart under mounting pressure from the parliamentary opposition, the government's own backbenchers and the nation's aroused business community.

The innocent and useful presence in Gordon's office of three outside consultants raised a storm in the Commons and the well-founded suspicion in the country at large that many of his measures had not been subjected to the careful scrutiny of the Finance Department's permanent officials. Gradually, Gordon was forced to dismantle his brave budget in what must have been the most agonizing retreat ever suffered by a minister of finance.

"The 60 Days of Decision" ended on June 20. What should have been the triumphant climax to Lester Pearson's journey into power turned out instead to be one of the most difficult days of his political career. At 9:16 that morning, the Prime Minister's good friend, Walter Gordon, walked into his centre-block office and offered to resign.

No decision was reached during that brief, sad confrontation, but an hour later, Pearson telephoned Gordon and asked whether he had lost confidence in himself. The answer was firmly in the negative, and from that moment all discussion of resignation between the two friends ceased.

But neither Pearson nor Gordon, nor in fact, the entire Liberal administration — has ever been the same. The calamitous end of the "60 Days of Decision" robbed the administration of its most valuable asset: a supreme self-confidence in its own abilities.

In retrospect, it now seems

clear that aside from the obvious inability of any government to prepare highly complex legislation within a few days of assuming office, two basic errors of judgment contributed to the "60 Days" fiasco.

Hypnotized by the New Frontier slogans of the Kennedy era ("Let's get the economy moving again"), the Liberals planned most of their initial legislation to deal with a business slump that didn't exist. By the time they came into office, the economy had been expanding for 26 months and the nation's prosperity was not under threat.

CHANGES IN QUEBEC

At the same time, Pearson and his colleagues weren't aware of the vast changes taking place in Quebec province. Many of the "60 Days" legislative initiatives, such as the municipal loan fund, the national scholarship plan and the contributory pensions scheme, depended on provincial approval for their implementation. In second negotiations at Montreal's Windsor Hotel early in 1963, Pearson's planners had received informal approval from the Quebec Government on these and other schemes. But by the time the Liberals had gained federal power, Jean Lesage had waged and won a highly nationalistic election campaign of his own (based on the nationalization of the province's hydro resources) and the mood of Quebec had hardened. Although Pearson was still proceeding on the assumption that he enjoyed Quebec's blessing, every step he took into areas involving shared federal-provincial jurisdictions was promptly blocked by an angry Lesage.

The series of legislative retreats that resulted—all of them taken on the floor of the House of Commons in full view of a puzzled nation—further undermined the new administration's confidence.

The main legacy of that rash, self-imposed deadline which so ignominiously launched the Pearson stewardship has been the dispelling — perhaps for good — of the myth of Liberal superfluency. This cult, fostered during the late King and early St. Laurent years, had convinced the Liberals that they

were the only political party capable of giving Canada efficient government and six years of Diefenbaker's erratic administration only strengthened this belief.

But the unhappily conceived "instant" legislation of the 60 Days changed all that.

An examination of how Pearson has made use of personal advisors to help him in his mammoth task of governing Canada, who these advisors are, and how their advice is utilized will be the subject of tomorrow's installment.

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India Protests China-Pakistan Boundary Deal

NEW DELHI (Reuters)—India has strongly protested to China about the Chinese move to sign a boundary protocol with Pakistan, it was learned here.

In a note dated March 10, India said:

"It is obvious that China's motive in concluding this agreement is to share the fruits of aggression with Pakistan and to exploit Indo-Pakistani differences in pursuit of China's aggressive designs on India."

Pakistan has a common border with China through the Pakistan-occupied northern part of Kashmir.

Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi is due to visit Pakistan March 24-25 to sign a border protocol.

Winter Shipping In St. Lawrence Shows Increase

MONTREAL (CP) — Winter shipping in the St. Lawrence River is double that of last year with 32 ships, all specially strengthened for ice navigation, arriving here so far this year, a national harbors board spokesman said here.

The regular shipping season isn't due to open until April 15. The first ship to arrive in Montreal was the Danish freighter Helga Dan on Jan. 1. Shipping spokesmen say that next winter the number of arrivals may exceed those of this year.

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