



Political Feud Rages In Commons

By PETER C. NEWMAN

There they stand, the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition, facing each other across the green carpet of the Commons, and the animosity between them is so intense that it's conspicuous even in this querulous parliament as the great Canadian political feud of our generation.

The obvious relish with which John Diefenbaker taunts Lester Pearson, and the equally obvious disdain with which Pearson reacts mark a long-standing hostility. The man from Prince Albert, particularly when tarring the Pearson administration with the broad brush of scandal, frequently reduces the Prime Minister to a quivering lump of red-faced fury.

Seldom have there been two more different personalities at the summit of Canadian politics. John Diefenbaker is an outsider, a man of the people who has spent a harsh lifetime fending off the gloved hand of the Canadian establishment; a man who never managed to effectively exercise power although he held office with the largest majority in the nation's history.

Lester Pearson is an insider, a man who became the darling of the diplomatic set and never really had to fight anybody for anything. During the Diefenbaker Years, he retained his international influence. Visiting diplomats would pay formal respects to Diefenbaker, then discreetly shuffle over to Mike Pearson's office for advice on the real issues.

In part, it's this envy of his international stature that feeds the antipathy Diefenbaker feels for Pearson. Having failed to retain power Diefenbaker now seems determined to destroy the man who stole it from him.

DISCREDITED POLITICO

Pearson, in contrast, tends to view Diefenbaker as a discredited politico whose erratic behavior in office forfeited any further claim he might have on national leadership. He has little confidence that Diefenbaker will react with intellectual forthrightness and shows particular annoyance when the Opposition leader claims (as he frequently does) that it was the Conservative Government which initiated Wheat sales to Communist countries. (The first sales resulted from treaties negotiated in 1955 and 1956 by Pearson and Mitchell Sharp with Russia and Poland).

By dismissing Diefenbaker instead of trying to deal with him, Pearson has allowed the Opposition leader to dominate the Commons and its proceedings. In the process, national attention has been focussed on the contrasting parliamentary performance of the two men. Diefenbaker's crude but devastating parliamentary tactics were learned during a quarter century of scrambling to be heard, while Pearson, as the nation's glamorous external affairs secretary, enjoyed what amounted to immunity from personal attack.

The Opposition Leader's assertiveness has lent support to his dreams that he can lead the nation again, while the Prime Minister's puzzling reluctance to act like a man in control of the nation's affairs has prompted despair among his supporters and the condemnation by his critics. "Pearson's distance from parliament and misunderstanding of it has helped to make it a bear-pit," claims Prof. Denis Smith, head of Trent University's political science department.

"He hasn't learned the simplest rules of tact in managing the Commons. He is a bright example of the unwisdom of promoting non-Parliamentarians to positions of political leadership."

RUFFLES COMMONS

Pearson's discomposure in the Commons has been most noticeable in the past few weeks when he's been trying to fend off tormentors who imply that one or other of his ministers has been guilty of scandalous conduct. The PM never replies by vigorously defending the colleague involved or by trying to turn the innuendo back on the attacker. Instead, he treats questions regarding his administration's moral standards with a polite-scorn that somehow manages to ruffle the Commons into renewed and more vigorous sallies.

Even in attempting to field routine queries he alternates between saying too much and too little. By deliberately splitting a question into infinitely fine shades of meaning, he sometimes exposes himself to the charge of having misled Parliament. During the stormy debate on the "Mr. Pearson" television documentary, for example he insisted initially that he hadn't seen the film although under pressure later, he confirmed that he's seen a "slat" (rough) print of it.

At other times, Pearson suffers from a tendency to blurt out more information than he was asked for, so that he ends up by digging himself a hole, jumping into it, and then desperately trying to clamber out again.

On June 24, 1964, for instance, when Reid Scott, an NDP member from Toronto, asked him a routine question about a study into the effects of Quebec secession, Pearson promptly volunteered the explosive news that a task force of Ottawa civil servants was already at work assessing the economic implications of secession. In effect, he was tactically ac-

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 administrations.

knowledging federal recognition of the possibility of a Canada without Quebec Parliament was stunned by the revelation and after the end of its sitting that day, Pearson had to issue an explanatory statement, which

described the study as merely "dealing with the economic inter-relationships between parts of our country."

On at least one occasion Pearson absented himself from parliament at a time of crisis, leaving the government's front bench leaderless and confused.

SCUTTLED OFF
Last November 23, the day Erick Nielsen began to hurl his harpoons into the administration, Pearson scuttled off for a round of politicking on the prairies.

"On that occasion, Pearson's United Nations training took over," says one of the PM's former External colleagues. "At the U.N., there are four ways you can react to a resolution. You can vote for it, against it,

abstain from it—or walk out to the delegates' lounge. When the accusations started to fly Pearson chose the delegates' lounge and took off for the West."

Pearson's supporters deny the charge, pointing out that cancellation of the PM's tour would have given the Nielsen charges more weight than they then seemed to deserve. But even the Liberal leader's most loyal disciples don't attempt to defend his effectiveness as a parliamentarian — though they insist that it's irrelevant to his performance as a Prime Minister.

"I think Mr. Pearson has the proper evaluation of the current parliamentary situation," says Jack Pickersgill. "He's right in feeling that the management of this particular parliament is not worth his time."

In other words, as long as we can, in one way or another, get through the measures that have to be got through, that's the important thing. The appearance of this parliament cannot be improved by anybody."

The Pickersgill theory is borne out by Pearson's obvious preference for conducting the nation's business away from Parliament in the relative hush of the cabinet chamber or behind the closed doors of federal-provincial conferences. In his first 18 months in office, the Pearson government convened 120 federal-provincial meetings of various kinds — more than were held during the entire six years Diefenbaker was in power.

The function of parliament in this context tends to be a secondary one—it's almost as though the Commons is being used to ratify "treaties" negotiated by Ottawa with the provincial premiers.

"A fourth level of government has crept into the picture," charges Marcel Lambert, a former Conservative cabinet minister. "Because there have been any number of federal-provincial conferences at which major agreements were made which were then presented to the House as something binding."

Pearson prefers the conference table to the Commons floor for the simple reason that nothing in his life has prepared him to defend himself against persistent opposition badgering. Although he sat on the Liberal front benches in the St. Laurent administration for nine years, his glamorous portfolio and the success he enjoyed abroad, exempted him from the grubbier aspects of partisan politicking.

At 2:30 a.m. that night, as Pearson was preparing to leave for home a friend pumped his hand and said, "That was a magnificent speech. It must surely make up for January 20, 1958."

"Yes," Pearson replied, "it really did."

The deep animosity between Pearson and Diefenbaker, on display whenever the House of Commons meets, is approaching a final confrontation. Twice in the past four years, the two men have clashed in national elections with inconclusive results. The campaign now shaping up for this spring will almost certainly mean the downfall of one of them.

The Liberal Government policy reversals have caused the nation to stagger from crisis to crisis. Tomorrow's installment examines the anatomy and the pitfalls of the Pearson method of government.

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No Quota Set On Seals Taken By Land Hunters

OTTAWA (CP) — No quotas have been placed on young seals taken by land-based fishermen but their operations pose no "serious threat" to seal stocks, Fisheries Minister Robichaud told the Commons.

Mr. Robichaud, who announced last week that quotas for young seals caught in the Gulf of St. Lawrence will not be altered, said they apply only to licensed fishermen operating from boats and planes.

Hugh John Flemming (PC-Victoria-Carleton) had said baby seals are being carried by ice floes close to land. He asked whether operations by land-based hunters might deplete young seal herds to a dangerous degree.

Mr. Robichaud said operations by land-based fishermen had been taken into account when the department set a quota of 50,000 young seals for operators out in the gulf.

Thieves Active In Montreal

MONTREAL (CP) — Police said today a three-man, smash-and-grab gang took only five minutes to clean out 10 display cases of \$40,000 in watches and rings at an uptown St. Hubert Street jewelry shop.

The gang fled through the smashed rear door of the Opera Diamond Company. Police were also looking for the culprits who robbed Louis Goldsmith of \$30,000 in rare coins. Both thefts occurred Monday night.

A weekend raid, made public by police today, uncovered 800,000 lottery tickets, plus \$30,000 worth of equipment used to print them.

Most of them were hockey tickets for the Stanley Cup playoffs, starting in about two weeks. Equipment seized included presses, cutters, folders, stamping units and filing cabinets.

EARLY WARNING

The first road sign in North America is believed to have been erected in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1690.

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M. L. CHEESE SLICES 8 OZ. PKG. 33c	YORK WAX BEANS 6 15 OZ. TINS \$1.
M. L. CHEDER SPREAD 16 OZ. JAR 59c	ZIP DOG FOOD 9 TINS 89c
ROSE B. & B. PICKLES 16 OZ. JAR 33c	NESTLES QUIK PER LB. 55c
SUNSPUN POWDERED MILK 3 LBS. 99c	JEWELL SHORTENING LB. 31c
SAVE-EASY PEANUT BUTTER 16 OZ. JAR 35c	DAVIDS CRACKERS LB. BOX 29c
E. D. SMITH CHERRY PIE FILLING 20 OZ. TIN 39c	LaSALLE TOASTED Marshmallows PER LB. 35c

GOVERNMENT INSPECTED MEATS

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LEAN, FRESH GROUND **Hamburg** 2 LBS. **89c**

Prime Rib Roast of Beef LB. **53c**
PLATE STEW BEEF LB. **19c**
SHORT RIB ROAST LB. **43c**
SLICED BEEF LIVER LB. **39c**
BURNS SKINLESS SAUSAGE LB. **39c**

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Oranges 5 LBS. **69c**
WHITE OR PINK Grapefruit 12 FOR **99c**
CEE GRADE CORTLAND Apples 3 5 LB. BAGS **99c**
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CANADA NO. GRADE **BUTTER** LB. **57c**
BARBOURS SPANISH PEANUTS PER LB. **39c**
REG. SIZE AJAX CLEANSER 2 FOR **45c**
GIANT SIZE FAB PKG. **65c**
SKY LIQUID DETERGENT 2 12 OZ. CONT. **37c**
PREM LUNCHEON MEAT PER TIN **41c**
M. L. CANNED PICNICS 1 1/2 LB. TIN **1.29**
HEINZ ASSORTED RELISHES 2 12 OZ. JARS **49c**

GRAVES Y. E. 2—20 OZ. TINS **BEANS** .. **49c**
MORSES O. P.—60 BAGS TEA **89c**
DEL MONTE P. & G.—48 OZ. TIN DRINK ... **47c**
DUNCAN HINES—2 PKGS. Cake Mix **89c**

FROZEN FOODS
Seabrooke 2 lbs. **Peas-Carrots** **43c**
Morton Beef, Chicken & Turkey **Pies** 2 FOR **49c**
Birds Eye Orange **Juice** 6 OZ. **31c**
Highliner In Batter **Haddock** PKG. **45c**

CARNATION 5 TALL TINS MILK ... **79c**
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