

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink
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Just A Reminder

This isn't the season set apart for national thanksgiving, but we could do with a reminder that in this part of Canada at least we have cause for being profoundly thankful as we scan the news of what is happening in other widely separated parts of the world.

We read of these calamities and try to imagine what they are like; but our lives have been sheltered against such dire visitations and too often we scarcely give them a thought.

U.S. Draft Loopholes

Washington is facing another serious problem in its prosecution of the Viet Nam war. This is the inequities in the American conscription system, which have given rise to mounting protests from both the major political parties and are due, soon, for a thorough congressional airing.

Among leading opponents of the draft system during the past decade was Adlai Stevenson, who advocated its abolition in his 1956 presidential campaign. So, too, did Barry Goldwater in 1964.

The most serious inequity in the current system, it is claimed, is that college deferments are easily available to affluent young men while the poor, especially Negroes, are readily drafted.

College deferment examinations have been held in the past few weeks in 1,200 locations, spurring several student demonstrations. One national publication commented that "it must be one of the few times that a minority has objected to preferential treatment for itself."

probably no more unfairness in the system than, say, in the national tax structure.

But this doesn't go down with many congressmen and senators, whose views are thus expressed by Wisconsin's Senator Nelson, a liberal Democrat: "To set up an elite category of young men who need not serve because of their advantages in education, innate ability or wealth violates the very concept of equality which has been our sustaining strength from the beginning."

Hershey is scheduled to appear next month before the House armed services committee, which will then decide whether to begin a fullscale investigation. It seems pretty certain that the probe will be more thorough than it has been in the past.

The Real Issue

There was a sound piece of advice in the comment of city health officer Dr. Wendell MacDonald at the City Council meeting on Monday, to the effect that another plebiscite on water fluoridation would be unlikely to solve this important health issue.

On the question of water fluoridation, a writer in the London Spectator sums up the plebiscite proposal in this manner: "The argument is made that the individual has a right to decide for himself whether he receives this component, just as he can decide whether he eats meat or takes vitamins or chooses to accept or reject a blood transfusion. This has a strong natural appeal to those of us who believe that in the long run the preservation of freedom is more important than any incidental harm individuals may do themselves. But, unfortunately, it makes no sense in the present case, since those who are really affected by fluoridation are children, who are in no position to understand the issue or to make a choice for themselves."

It is disingenuous of the anti-fluoridationists to say they are fighting for freedom. They are fighting for the right to impose on the community their own minority views on the correct composition of drinking water. And when they win a local battle, their victory is not over the doctors or the dentists or the government. It is over the next generation.

Now It's Ontario

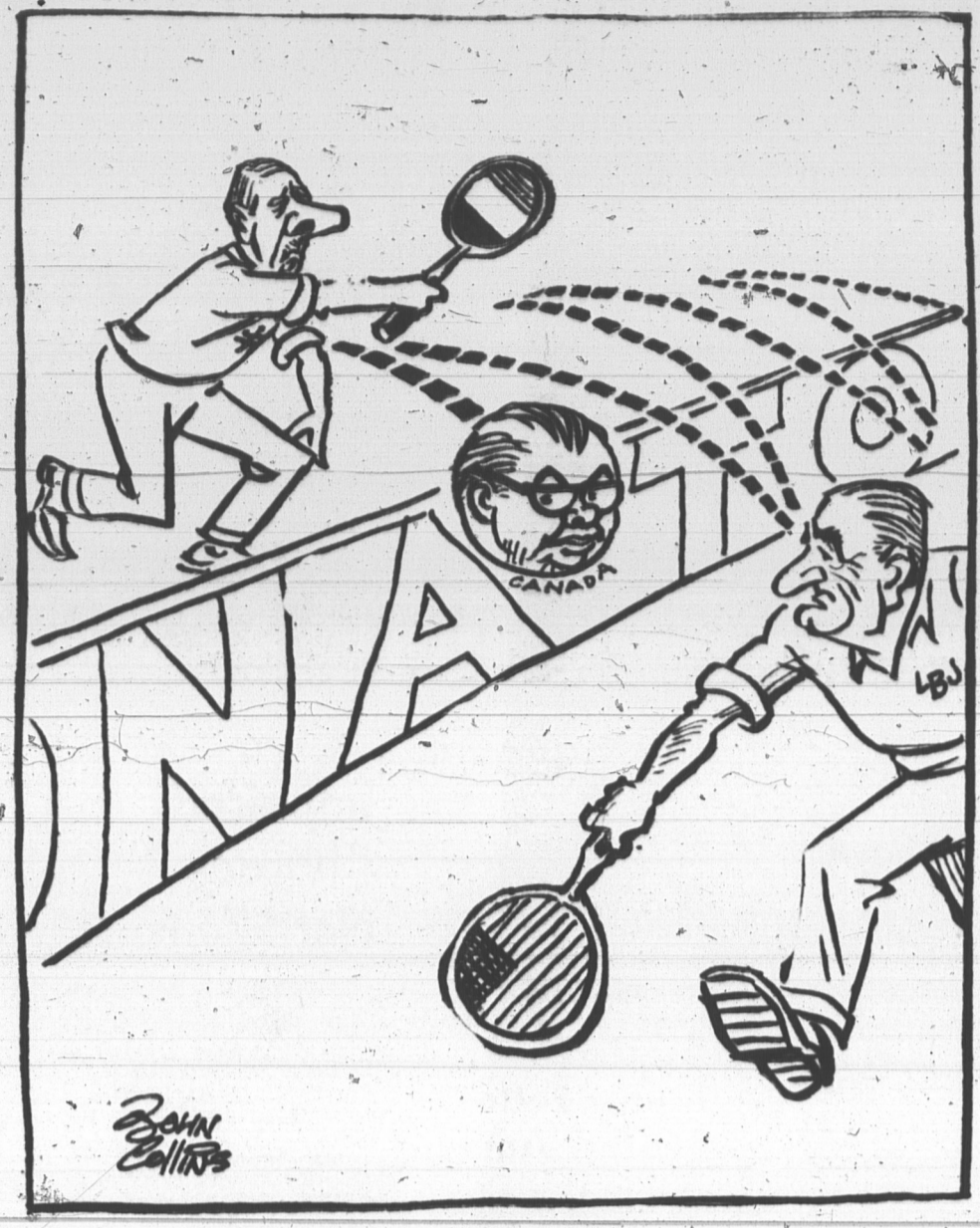
Following Nova Scotia's lead, the Ontario government has announced that it intends to proceed at the current legislative session with a bill to protect consumers by calling for a fair disclosure of the cost of credit. Earlier in the session Attorney General Wishart said the bill would only be debated this year, but on Monday he indicated that the government had changed its mind. A companion bill, also presented in April, provides for the establishment of a consumer protection bureau. It would be given broad powers by legislation to wipe out consumer frauds, especially by door-to-door salesmen.

The consumer-protection bill also proposes the registration of door-to-door salesmen and the setting up of a two-day "cooling off" period during which householders could repudiate a contact signed with a salesman of this type. The cost-of-credit section of the act will require banks, finance companies and other firms making loans or offering merchandise for sale to state their percentage interest rates and how much this will amount to in dollars.

This legislation would seem to correspond pretty closely with that enacted in Nova Scotia, and indicates a trend which may become general among the provinces. It appears that if they want action they will have to take the initiative, for Ottawa has shown itself very hesitant in grappling with the problem.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Creeping into police parlance, notes Printed Word, an Ontario publication, is a phrase that is not very nice. It is that a certain person, a suspect, will not be prosecuted because "there is not enough evidence to convict." This applies to minor cases as well as to major ones. The phrase may have started in order that some policeman not as diligent as he should have been could impress on his superiors the fact that he did have some evidence or thought he had. But evidence not admissible in court or having no bearing on the case is not evidence at all.



MR. IN-BETWEEN

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Question Privilege Sometimes Abused

Up to the end of May, in 87 sitting days of this session of Parliament, MPs had asked the government a total of 1,594 written questions. These are non-urgent questions, as well as questions so complicated in the statistics and details they seek that no Minister could answer them out of his head. In fact they almost always call for considerable research, and often seek information which must be correlated from two or more departments or agencies of government.

What does it cost to marshal the facts to reply to all these questions by MPs? Does their importance justify such cost? CRARER QUERIES COST

In his farewell speech to the Senate, Hon. Tom Crerar referred to one not atypical question posed to him during the long years when he was a minister of the Crown. He pointed out to the MP that it would take an immense amount of work to answer it completely, but the MP retorted: "I am entitled to the information as an MP, and your department should supply it."

Several months later the information had finally been obtained, and the department discovered that it had cost over \$2,000 in labour to compile the full answer. "That," said Tom Crerar, "is perfectly absurd." And who would disagree? Any MP is entitled to seek information, but he should weigh the cost against the value of the answer he seeks.

Recently, Hon. Judy LaMarsh was asked what is the average estimated cost of answering an MP's written question, and how many people are employed in that task. She reasonably replied that it is not possible to supply an answer in those general terms: the cost and the number of people occupied depend upon the question, and upon how many departments, crown corporations and agencies have to participate in gathering the information sought. Some questions, Miss LaMarsh replied, involve a "large number of people representing many man-days of labour."

The pay of a responsible civil servant engaged in such work would be in the neighbourhood of \$8,000 per year at least, or say \$38 per working day. Many man-days of such work could cost \$190 or more, therefore.

At this cost, are all these questions really necessary? The paramount factor is of course that nothing must be hidden from Parliament by the government; but in weighing the importance of a question against the cost of answering, the taxpayer's pocket should be considered. Often questions seek information which has been published in some government book or report, and MPs could obtain the answer themselves with a little ingenuity and effort.

One MP for instance asked: "By provinces, what has been the birth rate in Canada for each of the last six years, expressed in absolute terms and in terms of percentage per thousand population?" "Percentage per thousand" is a queer phrase, he probably meant "per mil". The reply to that question involved 156 separate statistics. But all except the "most recent" could have been available more swiftly and at no cost to the taxpayer if the MP had bothered to refer to the Canada Year Book

Behavioral Changes

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

In the past a high percentage of the beds in our mental hospitals were occupied by patients with schizophrenia who remained for months or years because we had little to offer. Psychiatric progress including the use of tranquilizers has changed the situation. Many can be treated in offices and outpatient clinics. The time spent in an institution is minimized and the sooner they get out the better able they are to make satisfactory adjustments.

Best results are obtained when the condition is detected early and treatment is started promptly. Relatives often are reluctant to admit that the individual is mentally unbalanced and needs institutional care. They are convinced that a new job, less responsibility, more religion, or a longer vacation is the answer. Meanwhile the person gets worse. In addition the line between normal and abnormal is difficult to define and many schizophrenics continue their daily activities or a long time before their abnormal behavior is noticed.

The disorder is suspected whenever the individual becomes unresponsive, detached, and seclusive. More and more time is spent daydreaming and ultimately a world of fantasy replaces reality. Others become lonely and sensitive or imagine that people are talking about them. The opposite, also may occur. Some try to remedy the situation by becoming overactive — all studying and reading into all hours of the night. Still others delve into politics or become religious fanatics.

A clue to what is wrong develops when their morbid thoughts and speculations come into contact with normal thinking. Work in school or at the factory begins to deteriorate. Meanwhile they remain aloof and dreamy and those that get by do so because they are successful in blaming others.

They live in a world of disorganization. Flighty ideas are common and conversation is one-sided because the sufferers neglect to answer questions directly. When in trouble and their back is to the wall, they smile, do nothing, and act in an unorthodox fashion. Suspicion also is aroused when they look at a magazine but do not read and a window or gaze quizzically at themselves in a mirror. These dramatic behavioral changes are abnormal and should be investigated.

CHEST PAINS

B. F. writes: Can high blood pressure cause pain in the chest?

REPLY: Yes, but pain usually stems from the longstanding effect of high blood pressure upon the heart and blood vessels.

ROUND GARTERS

P. L. writes: Do women develop varicose veins from wearing round garters?

REPLY: Tight round garters are not the primary cause of varicosities but they aggravate the condition when they exist.

WANTS WORD

V. D. writes: I want the technical name of singing, buzzing, or humming sounds in the ears so I can look up the word in the encyclopedia.

REPLY: Tinnitus.

INFLAMED EYE MEMBRANES

G. R. writes: What is conjunctivitis?

REPLY: Inflammation of the mucous membranes lining the eyes.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Education is what you have left over when you subtract what you've forgotten from what you learned years ago. A camera addict went big game hunting on the Dark Continent. One of his companions was chased by a lion, and he raced for camp with the lion at his heels. He heard a shout and hopefully looked toward a thicket where the sound seemed to come from. Two seconds later the foliage parted and out bounced the photo flash with his camera cocked, shouting, "Slow down! You're too far ahead. I can't get both of you in the picture!" — Montreal Star.

Thrif really doesn't mean the same thing that is used to. In Columbus there is a little, old lady who confided to her neighbor that she kept her money at home hidden in a coffee tin. "But her friend objected, 'you're losing interest.'" "Oh no," the lady insisted, "I'm putting away a little extra every month to take care of that!" — Wall Street Journal.

One Of Johnson's Worries

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) — The American public's willingness to endure a long war in Viet Nam has been one of President Johnson's main worries. As political unrest swelled in South Viet Nam, for example, more Americans displayed doubts about being there at all according to public opinion polls.

Now, while that sector seems calmer, indications are that more people than ever favor expanded military efforts to end the war in a hurry.

This trend coincides with the progressive decline in President Johnson's popularity rating which has been depicted as touching its lowest level—below 50 per cent—in some readings. The decline corresponds with the falling popularity expected for most leaders who have served comparable periods in office. But it is no less a headache to the president—and the Democratic party proceed toward congressional elections in November amid trying domestic and foreign problems.

A Long Way To Go

London Free Press

Had Colonial power staged the public hangings in Leopoldville there would have been worldwide protests. It is true that the Congo saw terrible atrocities under the regime headed by Queen Victoria's uncle, Leopold I of Belgium.

But during recent years administration was carried out smoothly without open violence. Accordingly the public execution of former Prime Minister Evariste Kimba and three former cabinet ministers seems like a reversion to more primitive times.

But violence has not been far below the surface in the Congo and it is not so long since the first premier of the new republic, Patrice Lumumba, was done to death with a minimum of legal ceremony.

It took centuries for the British people to develop a respect for individual liberty and to realize that law and order were essential conditions in maintaining freedom. African people can hardly be expected to learn the same lessons overnight.

With the wave of coups which resulted in the overthrow, and in some cases the assassination of rulers of the new lands, it is not difficult to understand that President Mobutu might take dramatic measures to prevent such a development in his country. But it is an indication that independence is no instant remedy for internal troubles, and that it will be some time before individuals in many of the new countries will enjoy the legal safeguards considered normal in Europe and America — or even those they had when colonial rulers backed law and order.

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