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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

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Manila Conference

By agreeing to go to Manila this month for a seven-nation conference on Viet Nam, President Johnson no doubt has two objectives in mind. He will be dramatizing his effort to secure peace and his leadership in international events as well. Nearly always a surge of popularity occurs when a president takes bold initiative in foreign affairs; and Washington commentators are not slow in pointing out that some of this popularity may wash off on fellow Democrats now engaged in midterm election activities.

The Manila meeting will be attended by representatives of all the nations engaged in fighting the Viet Cong in South Viet Nam—the Ky regime, the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and of course the United States. White House sources have emphasized that the meeting was arranged on the formal suggestion of President Marcos of the Philippines. Sceptical reporters have asked whether the timing—during a U.S. election—was also from Mr. Marcos. The suave reply to this query was that President Johnson could not turn down the invitation just because a political campaign was under way. What is not disputed is that the announcement came immediately after conferences between Marcos and Johnson.

Republicans are drawing a parallel between the timing of the forthcoming trip and the pre-election announcement by General Eisenhower in October, 1952, that if elected he would go to Korea. At a press conference after that election, President Truman declared that the trip to Korea had been a bit of demagoguery undertaken merely to carry out a campaign pledge. The remark is said to have infuriated Eisenhower. As events turned out, the visit actually played an important part in deciding his further Korean policy.

In this case, the question of major concern is whether the meeting will turn out to be a search for peace or a council of war.

Need For Improvement

Whether the big rehabilitation scheme now under way in New Brunswick will succeed may largely depend on efforts to upgrade the educational standards in the communities. This has been emphasized by both the federal and provincial authorities, and is underlined by the fact that 83 per cent of the labor force in the three counties involved has less than Grade 9 standing. To meet a shortage of schools and teachers, Canada's first educational television station will be built in Bathurst.

This problem of raising educational standards is of nation wide concern, and we note that it was discussed in a forthright manner at the recent conference of the Canadian Education Association in Vancouver. The point raised there was how the development of a truly national system of education has been impeded by the zealously guarded prerogative the provinces have exercised in this matter.

Dr. H.T. Coutts of Edmonton, president of the CEA and dean of the University of Alberta's education faculty, took a leading part in presenting this viewpoint. He asserted that the fetters of narrow provincialism in education policies must be smashed if Canada is to become a great nation. Without losing the freedom of the provinces and their school systems to innovate and experiment, he counselled that new ways must be found to make optimum provision for post-secondary education. More and more of late there have been proposals of a vastly-enlarged federal role in education, with particular reference to the university level, but having

regard to other levels as well. There is much to be said for the conference proposal of a national office for education, with Ottawa contributing substantially but leaving the provinces free to administer their own systems. Chief among its merits would be the role the office could play in leading to some standardization, not only of university entrance requirements and courses, but of secondary school curricula. It could, perhaps, lead as well to worthwhile economies. The need is as great, however, at the high school level as in the post-secondary school field. And the sooner there is a co-operative, interprovincial approach to the problem the better.

Advice To The Hasty

Conceding that Mr. Diefenbaker's days are numbered as Conservative party leader, the Hamilton Spectator has some shrewd advice to offer the architects of the November revolt. The first requirement is a powerful policy-making body within the party structure which will come up with new and positive concepts, it says. Then, and then only, will there be a chance of a new leader emerging with sufficient stature to take over a united party with popular appeal.

A quick look at the past substantiates this statement. The Conservatives have fought ten elections since 1935. Five were disasters. Five were successful or partially successful and they were the ones fought under John Diefenbaker's banner. In the five elections beginning in 1935 and ending in 1953 three different leaders produced an average of 47 seats and Conservative victory was little more than a dream.

In the five elections since the average has been 126 seats with the formation of three ministries and last November Mr. Diefenbaker managed a total of 97 against the sage advice of all the prognosticators. If he were to leave today his heritage would loom large.

Although there are flaws in its representation, the Conservative party is a much more effective national instrument than it was a decade ago. Even in Quebec, virtually shattered for the Tories ever since Sir Wilfrid Laurier's triumphant election of 1900, Mr. Diefenbaker did better than most. His days now may indeed be numbered. But if his one-time adherents take out their frustrations in the destruction of one man without at the same time producing a viable alternative they will be not only hurting themselves, but the country.

Just A Formality

Now it's the Liberals who are toying with the idea of making changes in their party's constitution that would give control of the leadership to party delegates. At their October national meeting they may call for a periodic review of the leadership question. Such a principle has long applied to the CCF, and now the NDP, leaders. But as an Ontario exchange points out, however attractive this may look in theory, in practice it has no realistic application.

Even though it is spelled out in the NDP constitution, the review of the party's leadership every two years is no more than a formality. The NDP leader, who happens to be Mr. Douglas at present, is as secure in his position—perhaps even more so—as the heads of the older parties.

The underlying fallacy here is the belief that the adoption of such a principle would give control of the leadership to the "grass roots" of a party, thereby justifying its claim to being "democratic." Actually, however, annual meetings are like any other political convention. They are not controlled by the run-of-the-mill supporters, and never have been.

Delegates to conventions are selected by small and influential groups of ridings and provincial executives. This is where the real power and control lies. And the reason is simple enough. These are the people who are prepared to devote their time, energy and initiative on behalf of a political party.

EDITORIAL NOTES

British dairymen have produced a cream that stays wholesome without refrigeration for at least two months—perhaps as long as six. The same firm is also packaging non-souring milk and using the same basic process for both. The system, in which one machine can process 450 gallons an hour, sterilizes single cream containing 18 per cent butterfat by indirect heat treatment, then seals it into cartons. The product is said to be sweeter and thicker than fresh cream, but with the same fat content.



I BROUGHT THE HOT SAUCE

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

"An Autumn Of Political Discontent"

"A group of young delegates succeeded in articulating and reflecting the anxieties, the feelings and the mood of a great mass of the people in the country, not only Liberals, who have become disenchanted and confused with politics and politicians."

That could apply to Canada, but actually it was a report about a recent Liberal convention in Britain. In USA, we read, polls show that President Johnson's popularity has dropped sharply, as the economy, race relations and the Vietnam war all grow sour. Thus in this autumn of political discontent, we find the Canadian mood repeated in other similar countries.

I often hear parliamentarians deplore the new wave of discontent among young people, those in their late teens and early twenties. Beards and banjos, sit-ins and psychodelic drugs, drop-outs and dirty feet are the outward signs of the revolt of youth against the standards of their elders. Parliamentarians deplore this waste of the greater opportunities now available to youth. But what have those same parliamentarians done to correct the basic motives, and to correct the anxieties?

Most politicians here worry about the trend in politics which has dragged them to such a low level over the past decade. All politicians rely for their re-election on give-away economic promises to the voters; yet they all privately deplore these electoral auctions, and admit that other issues deserve priority.

Why the young worry about thinking youth? Why is youth revolting against and contemptuous of its elders? Politicians ask these questions, but don't know the answers. There must be some sane answers among the most highly educated generation our country has ever had, so I posed these questions to some young people, and heard revealing and well-presented arguments which conformed remarkably to one theme. And this cannot but make one feel sad for them—and guilty.

"My grandparents went through World War I, and I have heard of the suffering caused," went one typical answer. "My parents went through an even worse war, and I still see and hear of the misery caused by that. I and my friends are condemned by our elders to become embroiled in an infinitely worse third world war, from whose suffering and slaughter we will never emerge. So our fatalistic philosophy must be: Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (October 3, 1941)

German troops are being driven foot by foot from their trenches on the Leningrad approaches in broad Russian counter-offensive action and above the city Red marines have landed and entrenched themselves in bitterly contested positions.

The Troops Depart

(Toronto Globe and Mail)

Although most newspapers buried the report in their back pages—if they carried it at all—it is a matter of some note that the last units of the Inter-American Peace Force have left the Dominican Republic and that for the first time in 17 months, the troubled Caribbean nation has no foreign troops on its soil.

Goldwater's Discovery

(London Free Press)

In the U.S. the Republicans are tuning up their organizations for the fall elections. They received an interesting bit of advice from an experienced source.

TEN YEARS AGO

(October 3, 1956)

Russia's Nikita S. Khrushchev was reported to have asked President Yito of Yugoslavia to join a new cominformtype of association of European Communist countries.

WRITERS ARE SONG

The repertoire of the Stormy Clovers, Toronto folk-rock quartet, includes songs specially written for them by Gordon Lightfoot, Ian Tyson and poet Leonard Cohen.

Hunter Beware

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen  
Hunting is relatively safe, considering the number of hunters and the low accident toll. A casualty is widely publicized because it usually is due to carelessness or is freakish in nature. But regardless of the low mortality, the majority of fatalities are avoidable.

With the onset of the hunting season, I'm more concerned about the man who is in no condition to overexert himself. The sport is plain hard work and there's no sense in kidding ourselves that it isn't. Walking with pounds of gear through brush, marsh, or a cornfield is a burden to men not used to heavy labor. Get in shape before the season opens.

As a rule, however, the normal heart can adjust to the strain but those over 50 may get into difficulty. The wall of his coronary arteries have been thickening gradually and the elasticity of blood vessels lessens with each decade. In time, the point is reached where the blood flow may be adequate for business exertion but not for strenuous activity. And to this we can add the stress brought on when the hunter works overtime so that he can get away or if he has celebrated the night before and is suffering from the ill effects of too much to eat and drink and too little sleep.

Most guns are not peashooters but lethal weapons. Anyone who does not know the fundamentals of safe handling of firearms has no business hunting. An unpardonable sin is to point a gun at a friend, even in jest. Jokers who do this are dangerous companions and are not likely to be asked on another hunting trip.

Another variation of this rule is never aim a gun at anything you do not wish to hit whether it be a mailbox, livestock, or the broad side of a barn. Every year someone is killed by a stray bullet or one that ricochets off a flat surface such as a rock or lake. Always keep the gun unloaded and broken when traveling in a car, walking to the duck blind, or crossing a fence or ditch. Never set a loaded gun against a tree or leave it unattended.

WEDDED BLONDS

L. L. writes: If two blonds marry, will this have abate effect upon their offspring?

REPLY: What's wrong with being a blond?

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Cocktails cancel out dieting. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

First matron: "How was your holiday?" Second matron: "Fine. But George said I did everything wrong. I talked too loud, I used the wrong ball, I reeled in too soon, and worst of all, I caught more fish than he did." —Financial Post.

"I'm calling to make an appointment with the dentist?" a small boy's voice explained over the telephone. "I'm sorry," replied the nurse, "the doctor's out of town." "Thank you," said the boy, "when will he be out again?" —Vancouver Province.

Here it is only September and already we have our nomination for 1966's outstanding horror story. Here it is: "A witness said yesterday that a tourist in a group watching a man wading in the rapids above Niagara Falls shouted: 'Let him jump! I want to get a picture.'" —Hamilton Spectator.

Mr. Brown was sitting down to breakfast one morning when he was astounded to see in the paper an announcement of his death. He rang up his friend Smith. "Hello, Smith," he said, "have you seen the announcement of my death in the paper?" "Er—yes," replied Smith, "where are you talking from?" —Toronto Star.

What Price Independence?

By Joseph MacSwiney  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Two of Britain's three territories in southern Africa are becoming independent within five days of each other—

try will have to have with South Africa even though the Botswana president, Sir Seretse Khama, who is married to a white London woman, obviously detests his neighbor's apartheid policies of racial separation.

STRONG INFLUENCE

The Rhodesian affair has shown the extent to which South Africa can call the tune in that part of the world, a situation that is unlikely to change except by some earth-shaking convulsion.

Both Botswana and Basutoland have been drought-stricken for years, many of their people living in near-famine conditions.

Basutoland, a mountainous country about the size of Wales and with a population of nearly 1,000,000, raises its own flag Tuesday as independent Lesotho. Surrounded on all sides by South Africa, it has long feared white encroachment from that country.

APPEAL TO QUEEN

The tribal king who began the process of nation-building among the Basuto early in the 19th century was keenly aware of the danger. He asked Queen Victoria for protection, begging that his people might be considered "fleas in the Queen's blanket."

FLANS UNCHANGED

The new premier, John Vorster, has indicated Vorster's policies will be continued.

South Africa apparently hopes that the newly-emerging countries can be made to fit into the pattern of separate development that is the ideological cornerstone of apartheid. They have only small white populations.

Most outsiders, the scheme seems to run into a brick wall at the start. The Botswana and Basutoland Africans already enjoy a far higher degree of political freedom than that held out for the Transkei or the other planned Bantustans.

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