

named in the indictment as the foreign country likely to benefit from the possession of the charts there is no intimation that any Soviet diplomat has been declared "persona non grata." This was the procedure followed in the George Victor Spencer case, Canada's last big spy episode which broke in the spring of 1965.

Although the charts have not been clearly identified, they are said to involve the area used by hundreds of Russian fishing trawlers and factory ships off the Atlantic coast. Actually, the department's library of charts and maps is mainly available to the public. The sea charts are to help all Canadians in problems of navigation, and could assist enemy countries seeking a record of underwater obstructions around the coastlines.

The existence of this navy-like force of Russian ships was brought to public attention last month by retired Rear Admiral Landymore, who warned defense department officials about the presence of this form of organized electronic spying on Canada's doorstep. This was part of his testimony which was deleted by the department before being presented to the parliamentary defense committee, and which was subsequently tabled in response to strong Opposition pressure.

An ironic footnote to the current incident is that the Soviet embassy legally obtains at least one copy of every map and chart made available to the public and is considered one of the department's best customers. This is one case where the customer's zeal has to be discouraged when it gets beyond a certain point.

A Timely Caution

At this pre-Christmas season, many Canadian homes are liable to become targets for what has come to be known as the unordered merchandise racket. The Toronto Telegram has done a public service by analyzing the technique employed in this game, which is just a variant of the "old mail dodge," and we gladly pass on the information it has made available.

It operates in this way: The postman delivers to your home, or perhaps your office, a parcel or package which was not ordered by you, but for which you will be expected to send a remittance. One of the favorite gimmicks is a box of Christmas cards, which contains a bill for \$2, but which can actually be purchased in most gift stores for 75 cents or \$1.

The housewife who receives the package is often placed in an embarrassing position because the merchandise supposedly comes from some charitable organization of whose antecedents she is unaware. Thus the victim is left with the feeling that if she fails to make the suggested remittance, she is depriving some worthy organization of needed support.

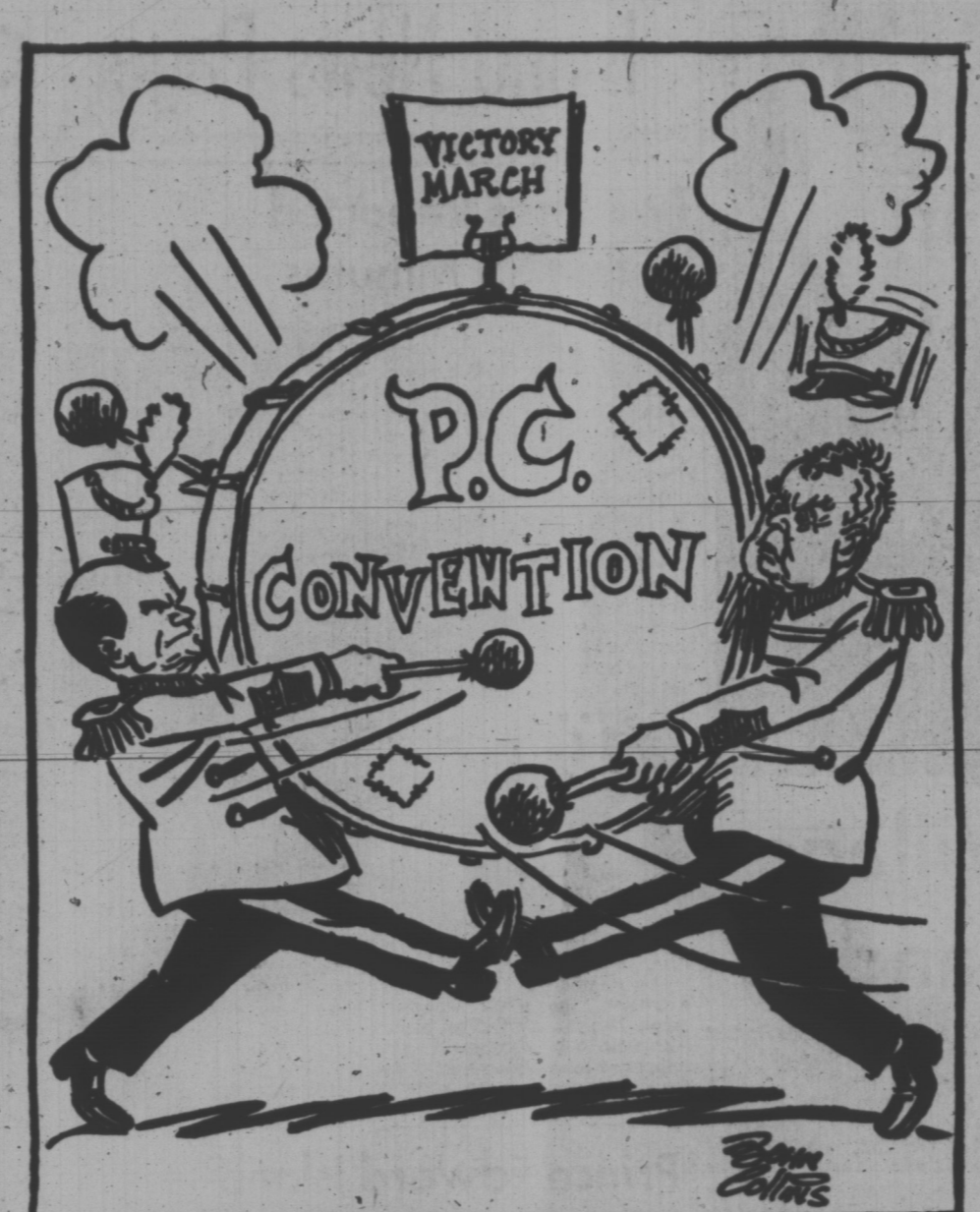
The legal position is that a householder isn't required to acknowledge the receipt of the parcel, pay for the merchandise unless it is used, or kept beyond a reasonable length of time. In some cases unordered merchandise promotions are just a nuisance, but more often they are a calculated swindle. The housewife who finds herself saddled with such packages need feel no compunction over returning them, without the suggested amount that is supposedly to go to some charity or sympathy appeal.

It is pointed out that there are certain worthy organizations which send out decorative seals or other items. Their bona fides have been established over the years, and donations sent to them are for worthy causes. But it is the unknown distributor that the householder should view with suspicion. If the worthiness of the group making the appeal cannot be determined, the merchandise should be returned—without regrets.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An advertiser in the Times of London put a Swedish-built sports car on the market with the words: "Status symbol for sale. Owner unfortunately changing status."

Authorization of funds required for free school books is part of the business to be dispatched at the special session of the Legislature which opens today. Members on both sides will find food for thought on the subject in a letter in today's Public Forum.



LIBERAL LEADERSHIP CONVENTION NEXT FALL?

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Many delegates to last week's Conservative annual meeting spoke of the emphasis now widely placed on the need for 20th century bases as national leadership in the third quarter of the century. Both John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson were born in the 19th century; the three other party leaders Tommy Douglas, Real Caouette and Bob Thompson, were all born in this century.

PUBLIC FORUM

These columns are open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

THOSE SCHOOL BOOKS

Sir,—In these days of high prices we wonder who is to blame. Everyone is going around looking for an answer but no one seems to be any wiser in the end. Many thousands of dollars are spent on needless elections year after year, then prices go up and taxes are raised a wee bit so the budget will balance. Consequently we become more angry and complain often, but it seems all in vain, for little results are obtained.

I think the saddest of all things has been done to our school children regarding their school books. Before the last election the Liberals promised free school books to all children to Grade Ten. Oh, the joy after election was over and the burden of buying books was gone!

To my mind this is a shabby thing to do to any child, and especially to the smaller ones. It is not much different than telling them to study and use the book as little as possible. When a child can't call his school books his own and can't even write his name on them, it is time for us to give up.

Did the government give orders for the senior citizens to return the \$25 raise in their pensions at the end of the year if they didn't spend the money? (and I know many who don't)? No, this was given to them to do with as they wished (and rightly so). Why couldn't the same have been done with our free (not borrowed) books?

Those books remind me very much of a story I heard long ago. The minister sent out word he was going to visit all the members of his church and everyone made ready, cleaning and baking, and taking down their Bibles from the top shelf in the closets. They looked so nice and clean the good preacher was sure to be impressed. One kind old lady had no good, clean Bible to put out on the parlor table, so the old worn one that she read every day for many years. Some of the pages had marks on them but she was not ashamed. She left it beside her chair where she always kept it.

When the minister visited all the homes he knew who read their Bibles and the ones that were kept for good, and he was not a bit impressed with the clean new-looking ones. After he left, back the Bibles went to the top shelf in the closet where no dust or dirt would get on them until his next visit. I hope something can be done before too long so that school books will belong to their rightful owners, our children. I am, Sir, etc., (Mrs.) JANIE GAMESTER Wheatley River, P.E.I.

Pregnancy After 50

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Pregnancy after 50 is rare, and more so, among women after that menopause. A Baltimore obstetrician reviewed the medical literature from 1850 to the present and found only 26 authentic cases of women who delivered normal living babies after age 50.

Modern vital statistics tabulations are only as good as the persons who put the material in the computers. A report in Monthly Vital Statistics, 1962, indicated that 119 mothers aged 80 years and over, gave birth to live infants during that year. The National Centre for Health Statistics investigated all the cases reported. Actually there were only 85 records involved because the reports are based on a 50 per cent sampling.

Of the 85 records for 1962, 14 were punched incorrectly. The ages ranged from 15 to 40 but the punch cards ranged from 51 to 93 years of age. Some figures were transposed (51 instead of 15), or punched incorrectly (56 for 36).

On questioning the remaining 39 cases, 17 were found to be in error; in 15, the investigation was inconclusive. Seven certificates were verified but there was still doubt about all of them. Two children were adopted by parents believed to be at least 50 years of age. The scientists concluded that the 55 births originally counted there was no absolutely decisive evidence that a single one occurred to a mother who was even 50 years old.

Mr. Pearson was sworn in as prime minister on the 22nd April 1963; so he will qualify for that pension if he holds the office of prime minister until 22nd April next year. The following day he will reach the age of 70. It is obvious economic logic that he would naturally prefer not to resign voluntarily before 22nd April next year. But arrangements for our Centennial must cause him to wish to play the leading role through the months of May and June and July—quite apart from the national undesirability of precipitating a political "bouleversement" at that time.

Mr. Diefenbaker of course served as prime minister for more than four years, and he has passed his 70th birthday. He is therefore entitled to draw that ex-prime minister's pension immediately he ceases to be a MP.

Each MP contributes \$720 per year towards this pension. Provided that he sits in more than two parliaments, he may, on a retirement, draw in annual pension \$300 times each full year for which he has contributed. If he dies before his wife, she may continue to draw three-fifths of his pension. These are subject to maximums of \$9,000 per year for the MP's pension, and \$5,400 per year for his widow.

To qualify for that maximum pension, an MP would have to serve for 30 years. There is only one MP today with that record, namely the Dean of the House, Windsor's Hon. Paul Martin, now Foreign Minister.

RELAXES ON FLOOR G. M. writes: I like to lie on the floor on my back when I'm tired and tense. This relaxes me and I sometimes fall asleep. But my friends warn me about the practice, saying it is harmful. What do you say?

REPLY It is not unusual to become dizzy after sitting in a strained position for hours while traveling at a lively clip. Poor circulation or an ear disturbance also may play a role.

REPLY It is not harmful if your bones can take it. You should be envied for your ability to relax so completely.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Antibiotics must be used properly or not at all. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago-Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (November 23, 1941)

New Zealanders and Indians, pouring through and around Axis defences, have recaptured Bardia, Sidi Azet, and Sidi Omar Nuovo and the main tank battle, now raging in its sixth day, has moved across 80 miles of desert to the Tobruk area where it has reached a critical stage.

President Fulgencio Batista of Cuba predicted that the United States would be in the war by next spring and added that "when the United States declares war, Cuba will be the first nation to enter the war on her side."

TEN YEARS AGO (November 23, 1936) Communists blew up Freedom Bridge on the Austro-Hungarian border, but hundreds of Hungarians are still fleeing into Austria by another route over the same muddy canal.

The retiring commander of NATO forces, Gen. Alfred Gruenther, said that the West at present could not prevent Europe from being overrun but could beat the enemy with its atomic capability.

BIG TICKET SALE MONTREAL (CP) — More than 500,000 Canadians have bought tickets to the 1967 Montreal world's fair through payroll deduction plans. It was announced Monday Payroll deduction sales to date total more than \$4,000,000.

Canada's Ambassador to West Germany, Richard Bower, seems to have appointed himself Defense Minister Paul Hellyer's assistant in concealing whether Canadians were culpable in the matter of two German prisoners of war who were shot just after the end of the Second World War, and in sweeping the bodies under the most convenient rug.

Mr. Bower's attitude is that examination of the case can only damage Canadian prestige in West Germany, that conditions were so confused when the executions occurred that you could hardly blame anybody, that if there was any Canadian involvement it was limited and difficult now to determine, that (he descends to the most obscure technicalities) the Canadian authorities were not necessarily aware that the men had deserted the German forces before the war ended and "men who deserted after the war would have been regarded in a different light," and that in any case the Germans do "not much care what happened."

Reports are dragged in of Russian soldiers on a rampage in Hamburg as some curious sort of justification for ignoring any irregularities in which Canadians may have indulged. Yet while Canada's Ambassador in West Germany produces all these evasions, Canadians here who were on the spot at the time the executions occurred frankly admit that they occurred much as it has been charged, and that they themselves participated in various ways. Three former officers of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, who were in charge of the prison camp, admit that the court-martial and the executions took place with the knowledge and consent of Canadians as far up as brigade headquarters, that they supplied the weapons and ammunition that were used and the shovels used to dig the graves, and that an officer was sent to witness the executions.

The Bavarian Election

By Rod Currie Canadian Press Staff Writer By any other standards, 7.4 per cent of the total vote and 15 seats in a 204-member legislature would not be considered much of an electoral sensation.

But, coming as it did Sunday to the so-called neo-Nazi National Democratic party in West Germany's Bavarian district where Hitler gained some of his early prominence, it caught the world by surprise. Although the party formed only two years ago was expected to pick up a handful of seats, the extent of its backing—coupled with a similarly surprising showing in the Hesse State elections two weeks ago—tended to arouse visions of Nazi ghosts again on the march.

It also overshadowed somewhat the fact that the Bavarian branch of the Christian Democrats, which vied with National Democrats for the ultra-conservative vote, retained state control with a slightly increased overall majority. This is bound to strengthen the hand of Franz Josef Strauss, Bavarian party chairman and former defence minister who engineered the nomination of Kurt George Kiesinger as the party's choice to succeed Ludwig Erhard as chancellor.

The Free Democrats, who brought about the fall of Erhard a month ago by quitting the coalition, did poorly in Sunday's elections. They lost some of their bargaining power in seeking to come to terms with either Christian Democrats or Social Democrats, second largest party in West Germany, on formation of a new coalition. There now arises the possibility of a "grand coalition" of the two major parties, although there is dispute between them over Kiesinger because of his former Nazi party membership.

One possibility seen is that the socialists might agree on the Christian Democrats keeping the chancellorship—provided it goes to someone other than Kiesinger. For most outside observers, the alarming thing about the National Democrats' success is not so much the number they have had elected, but the sudden and swift growth of the party.

Since the war, far-out rightist parties have sprung up and then crumbled just as suddenly. But the new party, much better organized and financed, has sought to bring together all the splinter rightist parties—and apparently has had a good measure of success.

If its showing Sunday were repeated in a national election, it would claim about 40 of the 496 seats in the German parliament—a remarkable showing for a party two years old.

Strangely, political and editorial comment within Germany and in countries which suffered most under the Nazis generally was remarkably restrained.

Many influential German papers emphasized that the result was simply a local revival in a single government district. Other European quarters warned against exaggerating the importance of the National Democratic showing.

NAZIS DISMISSED The party denies it is Nazi in spirit and, to deflate critics on this score, it recently cut to five from 12 the number of former Nazis on its 18-man executive committee.

Much of its support is believed to have come from younger voters, including 500,000 voting in Bavaria for the first time, who cry out for a firm, nationalistic government—a "Germany for Germans" free of United States "leeches."

But despite the fact the party shows no explicit racism, no outright anti-Semitism, no glorification of the militarist impulse, many remain unconvinced.

Said the London Evening Standard: "There seems to be some strange and eerie law of nature that insists that every 20 years or so Germany should stir from her ponderous bourgeois rectitude and do something that gives the world the creeps. It has haunted Europe for three generations—and here we go again."

Choosing The Villain

Christian Science Monitor A country's villains are predictable types. In an earlier era America's villain was the Red-skin. He was invariably shrieking, shuffling, or scapling. During the Second World War, the bad-guys were, of course, Germans and Japanese; during the cold war, Russians; and now, Chinese Communists.

The Wall Street Journal calls attention to the emergence of the Oriental as America's current bad guy. It quotes a non-Oriental who plays Oriental parts as saying, "We're getting back to the era of the 'Yellow Menace,' and I don't think this contributes anything to prospects for world peace."

It goes on to point out that Japanese film makers frequently choose Americans or Europeans as their villains. And the Chinese Communist version of the Yellow imperialist, is you may be sure, no one you would care to happen upon.

The caricatures of official propaganda and the political cartoon soon begin to appear on movie and television screens and in the comic strips. If no one takes it seriously, it causes no problem. The trouble is that it is relatively easy for nations to get carried away by the half-

BREED OLD PLAGUE COALVILLE, England (CP)—Students at a Leicestershire grammar school are breeding locusts as part of a study of the Biblical locust plague in ancient Egypt.

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