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An Excellent Brief

"The Province of Prince Edward Island welcomes this opportunity to make known suggestions considered useful, in its area of fisheries activity, toward the development of policies which may result in an expanded and profitable fisheries economy, guided by a sound national policy."

Thus begins the brief submitted yesterday to the Hon. H.J. Robit- chaud, federal Minister of Fisher- ies, by our provincial minister, Hon. Mr. Rossiter. From there it goes on, in a dozen closely typed foolscap pages, to give a comprehensive out- line of the present position of our fishery, with 23 concrete proposals for improvement through greater federal co-operation and assistance.

Note is taken, first, that the Island landings for the 1962 season progressed to a value of \$4.65 million as against \$2.4 million in 1960, and that capital investment in boats and equipment is now estimated at about \$3.5 million. Despite the continuing importance of the lobster, which provided about 69 per cent of total landed value of the industry last year, chief emphasis is rightly placed on the prospects of expansion in the offshore industry, particularly in the groundfish and pelagic fish- ery.

In this connection the brief urges the need for a more adequate as- sessment of the whole Gulf fishery resources, for the setting up of a separate inspection district for the Province, and establishment of a committee to prepare plans for the maintenance and improvement of ex- isting harbors and works, and for the construction of new works.

Federal participation in a pro- gram of extending paved roads to fish plants and wharves, more as- sistence toward construction of fa- cilities for storage of frozen bait, more rigid inspection of certain fresh and frozen products, more emphasis on educational and techni- cal assistance programs; intensifica- tion of the search for new markets and expansion of existing ones; need for grappling effectively with water pollution, with price spreads in fish- ery products, with illegal lobster operations—these are but some of the important points touched upon, and with regard to which construc- tive proposals are made.

We congratulate Hon. Mr. Rossiter and all concerned in the preparation of this excellent brief, and trust that it will get the consideration it mer- its at Ottawa.

Australian Politics

Australia is following the bad example set by a number of Cana- dian provinces in calling a snap election long before it is constitu- tionally required. But there is one excuse for it there. With a thin majority of one in the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies' Liberal govern- ment has, theoretically speaking, faced an election threat every day since its re-election in 1961 when it lost its large majority in the Aus- tralian slump.

Despite this precarious position, however, the government's narrow majority has enabled it to maintain a working Parliament. It might have continued to do so until 1964, but the Prime Minister has sought disso- lution of the House and election on Nov. 30 next.

According to a Canberra cor- respondent, the evidence sugges-

that Sir Robert is about to bow out of Australian politics after 35 years in the House and a record term of 14 years as Prime Minister. Unlike former British Prime Minister Har- old Macmillan, "he did not inherit the job as a going concern but won it back in 1949 after two years in the wilderness as leader of the federal opposition.

Having struggled so hard for the prize, Sir Robert never has wel- comed the suggestion, often voiced by his political opponents, that he should retire. As things stand, it would be much more in keeping with the Menzies success story for him to relinquish command at the height of a fresh electoral victory such as he now seeks.

But this plan calls for a suc- cessor. Federal Treasurer Harold E. Hold, leader of the House of Repre- sentatives, is regarded as Sir Robert's likely choice, though this has not been confirmed. In any case, Labor Party leader Arthur A. Cal- well is calling the contest a "Hold benefit election", and charging Sir Robert with burdening the country with its unnecessary expense at this time.

If Mr. Calwell carries the Labor Party to victory, he will be Prime Minister; but like Sir Robert, he is a veteran and finds younger men below him eager for the leadership. And like Sir Robert, he never has named a successor.

Still Daffier In U.S.

The British method of picking a Prime Minister—particularly the Conservative method as exemplified during the past few days—has come in for a lot of sharp criti- cism at home and abroad. But ac- cording to James Westwood, distin- guished columnist of the New York Times, it still falls short of being "as crazy as our system of pick- ing a President."

Prime Minister Macmillan just let the Conservatives at Blackpool argue for a week about whether the new British Prime Minister would be Lord Hallisham or Rab Butler, and then called the leaders of the party to his hospital bedside and told them he had picked Lord Home. Hard choice, chap! he said, and sent the noble Earl to the Queen.

But the American system, argues Mr. Reston, is sillier than this. "We don't take the best man available now, but the best-looking man among the very rich from the very biggest states. Poor men from small states are out, unless, of course, they are generals; ten of them from Andy Jackson to Ike."

Also, Mr. Reston maintains, the American system deceives more people for longer than the British, and diverts and paralyzes the Government for much longer. Under the British system, the election is limited to a sudden death campaign of only three weeks, but in the United States it has been going on for weeks, and still has thirteen months to go.

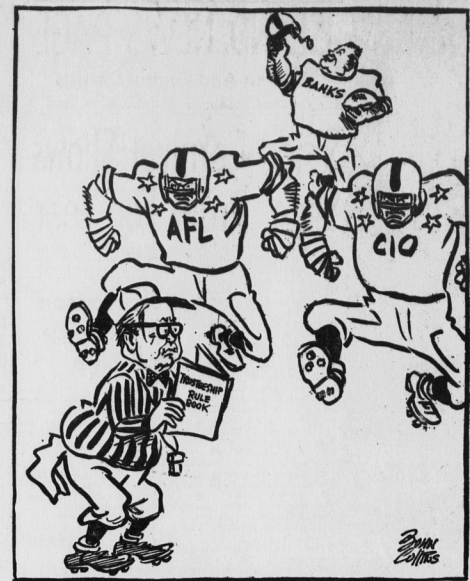
The British "do not confuse or prolong the decision by considering absolute ninnies or even pleasant nonentities. They have the odd notion that they should know some- thing about the men they choose for high office and that it would be useful if the candidates them- selves knew something about govern- ment. . . . Such a system here would clearly eliminate most of the non-candidates now blowing and puffing around the republic."

"Obviously, then," concludes The Times scribe, "our system is daffier than the British but it has to be admitted that we have more fun, especially at conventions."

EDITORIAL NOTE

Amid the hurly-burly of other things it is worth noting that the U.S. Senate has passed and sent to the House of Representatives a bill authorizing a \$329 million program to deal with problems of mental health and retardation.

It is disturbing to note that with all the warnings issued about the health danger in the widespread use of pesticides, research into the matter is lagging in Canada. This was brought out at a session of the Commons food and drug committee. Money, it seems, is actually available for such research, but it is not being utilized by governments or univer- sity science departments.



RUNNING INTERFERENCE Poor Senate Attendance Record, Too

The leading actors in "Play- time on Parliament Hill" have been savagely criticized for their wanton performance since they returned to the nation's business. But our Members of the House of Commons are not the only parliamentarians on the Hill. So much attention has been focused on their conduct, that the members of our august Upper Chamber have been overlooked. So I was surprised by hearing some not very muted comment by one of that hard core of com- petent and hard-working Sena- tors who keep the show on the road. He drew my attention to the poor attendance in the Senate Chamber, and especially decried the bad record of senators of his own party recently thereafter another senator made a similar comment to me, and mentioned the disappointing record of newly-appointed senators in the matter of attendance.

The House of Commons has a long been criticized for the activi- ties of the "Tuesday to Thurs- day Club." These are MPs from nearby constituencies in Ontario and Quebec, who tend to arrive by train or plane on Tuesday mornings, and return to their homes from Ottawa on Thursday eve- nings. But the Senate is normally only a Tuesday- to Thursday club anyhow, meeting on Tues- day evenings and on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons; so it should be able to record better showings than the lower house.

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Some of the absentees may have been ill, or engaged else- where on government business, such as at the United Nations. Such valid reasons for absence, if any, are not noted on the rec- ord.

For instance, Senator Josie Quart, of Quebec City, who is a very regular and active attend- ance, missed one day due to a re- lated engagement.

The most valuable work per- formed by the Senate is in com- mittee, which of course is out- side the full sittings of the Chamber. Several committees were working during these two weeks, of which perhaps the most significant is that examin- ing Problems of Old Age. Unfor- tunately too little use is made of the great fund of experience and ability in the Senate, which far exceeds what the Commons can offer in this way for non-partisan committee work. But the present this great of committee work does not justify the poor attendance record in the Senate.

Perhaps we need a Mayor Whitton at the helm, as he does not spend one penny of the peo- ple's money on booze. This is no criticism of our fine Mayor Gen- eral. The dear man is just not a woman and therefore cannot have a woman's viewpoint. We sure would like to know where all the profit goes from so many willing contributors. I am, Sir, etc. USE ONE MOTHER Charlottetown.

Newest Parlor Game Dangerous

By Dr. Theodore R. Vandellen Swearing is the latest parlor game in Great Britain. It is accomplished by holding the breath until unconscious. Physi- cians are beginning to see the un- ward effects of this danger- ous "fainting rack" or "m e s s i- cks" as it is called. Two men were cracked from sudden falls. Prolonged fainting also leads to the accumulation of blood in the fluid in the lungs and to neurological symptoms. Boys will be boys, but those who are in the hospital never repeat the prank.

Many physicians use surgical cast tape instead of slitches to close wounds. It is quick, pain- less, and almost as easy to apply as tape employed to bind a hand.

I was told recently that one of the major air lines suffers the meal times for the pilot and a number of the members of the flight crew. On long trips, the pilot may eat his lunch at noon, if the co-pilot at 1 p.m., and the flight engineer at 2 p.m.

This is done in case food poisoning occurs. There would be chaos if everyone up front sud- denly developed nausea, vomit- ing, and diarrhea and went into shock. And the passengers could be in the same condition because the meals come from a common source. Nothing like this has hap- pened, to my knowledge, as the air lines see to it that food is prepared and served carefully.

Monkeys become addicted to smoking within a few days. A New York researcher has learned this by giving them free access to sucking tubes. Each set produced either cigarette or plain warm air of the same temperature.

The animals received tobacco on the first two days and hot air for the next two days. The cycle was repeated for six weeks and it became obvious within a short time that they preferred nicotine smoke. In a second experiment, they were given the choice of sucking on a tube holding a lighted cigarette or an unlighted cigarette; they preferred the lighted one.

CERVICAL DISK E. D. Wright: I went to my doctor because of pain in the neck and X-rays showed a gap in my spine due to "degenerative cervical disk." Can some- thing be done about this gap?

REPLY Yes. Many physicians suggest a trial of physical therapy a n d a neck brace. Surgery is recom- mended should conservative measures fail and there is great discomfort.

Today's Health Hint Stress honesty and trustworthi- ness in rearing your child.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It is difficult to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know you and you were in his place. — Hamilton Spectator.

A daughter was telling her mother why she never wore her glasses when she went out on dates. "I look better to men without them," she explained, and the mother looked at her. — Windsor Star.

Now that Junior has turned the car back to Dad and re- turned to college, the latter is hard put to decide whether he has completely overhauled or only adjusted to our modern world," replied the salesman. "Any way he puts it together is wrong." — Galt Reporter.

If you don't think things are as bad as they're painted, visit the chronic lead exhibit. — Sarnia Observer.

The average man always con- sider himself above average. — Financial Post.

Benn And The Peagee Bill

In one sense British Prime Minister Harold Wilson's woolly Tory if ever there was one, once the prime ministership to a former Labor peer.

Prime Minister Sir Alec Dou- glas-Home is able to disclaim his titles and make himself eligible for the House of Commons thanks to a peerage bill passed at the last session of Parliament after a long fight by Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

Although numerous British premiers of the past have sat in the House of Lords, the overwhelming opinion is that it could not happen today because all real power has been transferred to the House of Commons.

It is just about unanimous that former Prime Minister Macmillan would never have recommended Sir Alec unless there was a procedure for him to enter the Commons. As one left-wing commentator, Kings- ley Martin, puts it:

"Ironically enough, Benn is personally responsible for mak- ing Home prime minister, for even Macmillan could not have selected a member of the House of Lords as premier."

Benn, now Labor member for Ligtow, South Yorkshire, unwill- ingly became the second Viscount Stansgate 10 years ago on the death of his father. The change interrupted a promising com- mercial career, and Benn was tagged the "fugacious peer"—he

himself favored "peristent commoner".

Benn, of course, was not the first man to try to avoid the peerage—and thereby hang an other irony in the chronicle filled with oddities.

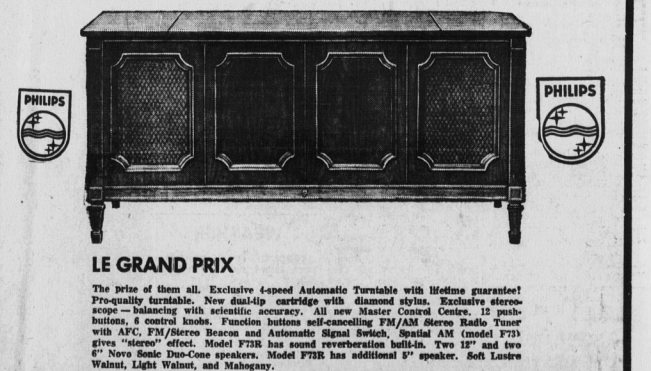
Viscount Hallisham, who turned out to be one of Sir Alec's main rivals for the succession, also sought to dodge the "political ghetto," as he termed the House of Lords, when his father died in 1920. He was prevented by none other than Clement Attlee, the last Labor premier, now Earl Attlee.

FINAL BLOW It is generally said that the practice of having premiers in the House of Lords received a final blow in 1952 when Bour- law Canadian-born British premier, lay dying and the choice was between a peer, Lord Curzon, and a commoner, Stanley Baldwin.

The peerage was not then thought a bar to 10 Downing Street and at least one of King George V's advisers suggested the brilliant Curzon was the better man.

History is somewhat clouded on what followed, but one version says a couple of Baldwin's friends pointed out to King George's secretary the draw- backs of having a premier in the Lords.

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