



QCHS STUDENTS DONATE PIANO

The retarded children's sheltered Workshop has received a new piano through the work of the Queen Charlotte High School Junior Red Cross Society. Members of the high school have been selling chocolate bars for some time in order to raise money for the piano. Gordon MacDonald (left) received the piano yesterday from QCH students. Barbie Moreside and Ian Smith.

THE UNHAPPY WARRIOR



Unrelieved Crisis Approach To Gov't

By PETER C. NEWMAN
If you look closely at the dozen or so major new laws which Lester Pearson has added to Canada's statute books during the past two years, the most striking fact about them is this: few if any of his government's legislative measures resemble the original proposals on which they were based.
Pearson's habit of allowing events to alter positions to which he seemed firmly committed has left him open to the charge that, lacking the temperament to be a political fanatic, he is something very nearly as unsettling—an amateur in politics.
The Pearson method of gov-

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 administration.

ernment seems to consist of engaging the nation in a horrendous rescue operation, made necessary by the Liberal leader's

precipitous tackling of hitherto insoluble national problems. His own political fumbling raises national frustration to such a peak that public opinion finally solidifies behind Pearson in order to help him find some way out of his self-generated crisis. Almost as a side-effect, the great national issue which Pearson courageously confronted in the first place, is reduced to reconcilable proportions — although the end result is far removed from the solution originally offered.

An atmosphere of unrelieved crisis seems to be an integral part of the Pearson approach to government. "Mike is happiest

when he's clinging to a precipice and just about to fall off," the late Grant Dexter, one of the most perceptive reporters ever to cover the Ottawa scene and a close friend of Pearson's, once remarked.

Pearson certainly is at his best in moments of high crisis, when his diplomatic training allows him to under-react to the torrent of events threatening to engulf him. Just as the point when he is faced by total defeat, his characteristic shilly-shallying is replaced by a grinding decisiveness. "The real statesman," according to Jack Pickersgill, who very much admires this trait in Pearson, "is the politician who can stand the pressure patiently and allow a crisis to develop until a solution has to be found, then exercise the capacity to find it."

MASTER STROKE

Pickersgill cites as an example the sudden accord Pearson reached with Jean Lesage over a national pension plan during five crucial days of secret negotiation between Quebec City and Ottawa in April of 1964, when Confederation seemed in real danger of splitting apart. "This was an absolute master stroke," Pickersgill says. "And yet it couldn't have been done a week sooner. Pearson saw the moment for action had come and he went ahead just before the position of either side became irrevocably set."

Pearson's sudden reversal of his policy on nuclear warheads just before the 1963 election campaign, his tactics in the flag debate, his compromise on the municipal loan fund, and the way he handled Quebec's objections to student loans and the extension of family allowances

6 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Mar. 19, 1965.

—these are other examples of the method's effectiveness. The Pearson approach to government is deeply rooted in his diplomatic training. He once defined diplomacy to a friend as "letting someone else have your way." Both the heightened crisis atmosphere and the inconsistency of basic objectives seem essential to the achievement of this stratagem.

"The purpose of all diplomatic negotiation should be to reach agreement," he has said. "That normally requires some adjustment of position on both sides."

HONEST BROKER

This was certainly a respectable — even essential — posture for a middle-power diplomat during the eventful decade when Pearson served as Canada's distinguished Secretary of State for External Affairs. His history of attitudes which he can honestly approach was support in the process, he has

often compromised his own and the federal government's position on vital issues. While it has achieved some spectacular results, this method is hardly one which can be repeated very often. Each time it is applied Pearson's political position is diminished in the process. No politician can constantly keep demanding that the voters come to his rescue and lend their backing to the national salvage operation on which Pearson's "compromise through crisis" technique depends.

At the same time, no politician can long maintain credibility in his own principles if on every occasion the compromise he achieves differs drastically from the position to which he was originally committed. Still, it's doubtful whether Pearson can, or even wants to, alter his technique. According to his personal interpretation of Shasta, Calif., has sprouted through fissures in a lava bed

Prime Ministers performance but the residual impression he can achieve.

"We're not playing a defensive game in this government," Pearson has said, using one of his favorite hockey analogies. "If you play a defensive game, you're not likely to get so many penalties, but you're certainly not going to score any goals. I think we've scored some goals."

Quebec has been the source of Lester Pearson's most lasting success and most agonizing humiliation. Tomorrow's installment in this series will trace the evolution of the Prime Minister's relationship with the shady elements of French Canadian politics.

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UP FROM ROCKS

A 1,448-acre stand of rare Baker cypress trees near Mount Shasta, Calif., has sprouted through fissures in a lava bed

Que. Woman Is Arrested In New York

NEW YORK (AP)—The Montreal-born wife of entertainer Billy Daniels was arrested here on charges of felonious assault and possessing a gun without a licence after a dispute involving another woman in their suite in the Hotel Mayflower.

Police said two patrolmen went to the 14th-floor suite at 61st Street and Central Park West in response to a telephone call.

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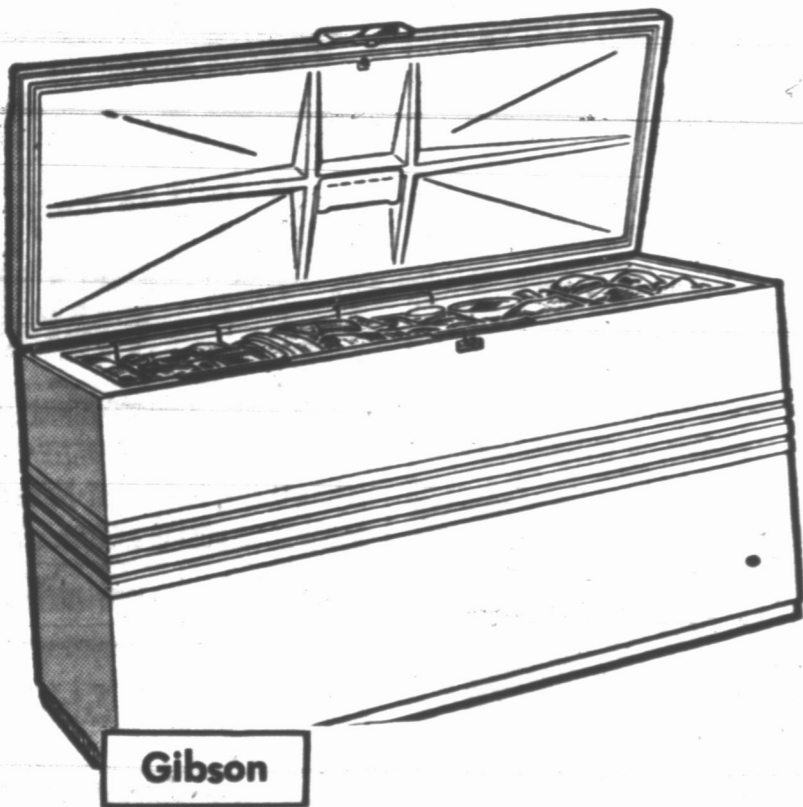
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