

Let's Get It Straight

There may, indeed, have been some time-wasting in a procedural wrangle in the Legislature the other day in connection with the tabling of a report from Ottawa, and perhaps in other matters as well, which drew a strongly worded rebuke from Premier Shaw. We do not think, however, that a point raised by Dr. Bonnell at the same sitting falls into this category, notwithstanding that it was dubbed "ridiculous" by Provincial Treasurer Farmer. This had to do with permitting federal money to go into the general revenue of the province when it was earmarked for a special use—in this case for the use of farmers for crop insurance.

It was Dr. Bonnell's contention that this money "should not go into the treasury to build provincial buildings or for ministers to go on trips," but be set aside for the purpose for which it was received. Mr. Farmer maintained that it is the regular practice for all monies received by the government to go into the consolidated fund. If so it is a practice which is open to grave objection.

It will be recalled that in the brief presented recently by the board of governors of Prince of Wales College, accompanying the board's first annual budget to the Executive Council, this same point was raised. The brief complained, not only of the inadequacy of the provincial grant to the institution but that the government, following a course unique in the administration of public colleges in Canada, kept the fees and the federal university grant as well. In effect, since 1961 the government of Canada has simply been subsidizing the government of Prince Edward Island by the amount of this grant, and Prince of Wales has received little benefit from it. The brief went on to propose that not only should the legislative grant be increased, but that the college in future retain its fees and the federal grant.

No doubt it is a great convenience for any government to have uncontrolled use of funds coming into its hands. A recent example has been cited in British Columbia, where Premier Bennett has diverted his sales tax—which originally started out as a hospital and municipal aid tax—to consolidated revenue and—according to the Vancouver Sun—has consistently shortchanged the hospitals and municipalities since.

What is wrong about these practices, as the Vancouver paper well says, is that they undermine the authority of the legislature. Control over the public purse by representative institutions is the means Anglo-Saxon nations have taken through the centuries to restrain the executive power. It is the Opposition's duty to preserve this safeguard, and we deem it to be our own duty, as a newspaper, to back it up in its efforts.

Not The British Way

To add spice to the British election campaign which will soon be under way, Tory leader Edward Heath recently challenged Prime Minister Wilson to a television confrontation, and Mr. Wilson said he was agreeable provided Jo Grimond, the Liberal party leader, also participated. But Mr. Heath wasn't born yesterday, and didn't fall for this proposal. The Liberals have relatively small backing in the country. Such a confrontation, it was felt, would reduce the prestige of the Tory leader—which of course would suit Mr. Wilson all right but wouldn't do much to get Conservative votes. Mr. Heath evaded the trap by reminding the Prime Minister of his own challenge to Sir Alec Douglas-Home, who was PM during the 1964 election. There was no suggestion that the Liberal leader should be invited to participate at that time. It was a good point. But Mr. Wilson has the best of the argument after all.

It is true that in 1964—borrowing the idea from the Kennedy-Nixon encounter in the 1960 American elections—he did confront the Tory government leader with this challenge, feeling sure that he could demolish him in a television struggle. But Sir Alec replied loftily that the idea was distinctly un-British. In effect, he said, this was not a presidential campaign.

The 630 British constituencies were electing representatives to the House of Commons. Policies, not personalities, were at issue. The Prime Minister is the leader of the party that wins the most seats. He represents a constituency like every-one else. So ran the Conservative argument at that time; but now that they are out of office, it is they who are issuing the television challenge. This, of course, is practical politics. The man out of office generally has the most to gain, a lesson the British learned from the Kennedy-Nixon debates, which suddenly galvanized the election campaign; and assured a Kennedy victory.

It is said that in debating skills, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Heath are pretty evenly matched, although Mr. Wilson may have a slight edge in the exchanges over the dispatch boxes in the House of Commons. In any case, the chances are slim that the Prime Minister will participate in the kind of showdown his chief opponent wants. There is said to have been a "flurry of letter-writing" on the subject, each side setting forth terms unacceptable to the other. The matter is now in the hands of the party whips, where it is likely to expire.

New Safety Move

A new move in the drive to pressure automobile manufacturers to install more safety features in their product is being considered by the New York State Insurance Department. The proposal is to raise insurance rates for makes and models of cars that are involved in accidents more frequently than others. A spokesman for the department says the preliminary statistics are "strong enough to prompt us to go on with the study."

At present, auto insurance in New York is based almost entirely on the characteristics of the driver rather than of the vehicle—his age, his accident record, how many miles he drives annually, and other factors. The rates for the state are among the highest in the nation, but the whole system would have to be changed under the proposed setup. As a first step, the insurance industry officials will be asked to explore a way of collecting statistics that "will correlate accident frequency and insurance settlement costs with the safety characteristics and features of the vehicles involved."

The logical follow-up to this survey would be the creation of a list of required safety standards and features for all cars. Owners of automobiles that did not meet such standards would have their insurance rates boosted, or they might find difficulty in obtaining coverage at all, while there would probably be a reduction in rates for those with more safety features.

In the meantime, it is noted that all cars registered in New York must now carry a minimum of \$10,000-\$20,000 insurance against bodily injury and \$5,000 against property damage. The department has called for the passage of a bill pending in the state legislature that would more than double these minimums.

Further developments in the new field of safety legislation will be followed with interest not only throughout the United States, but in Canada as well.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Anastas I. Mikoyan has resigned as Soviet chief of state, reportedly on account of his health. Under Communism it is much healthier to resign than wait to be kicked out.

We hope the British government will turn a deaf ear to the proposal of one of its party members that it get to the bottom of the Loch Ness monster legend by dredging the 30-mile-long Scottish lake to find if the monster really exists. That's no way to treat a profitable legend. Surely no true Scot would subscribe to the idea for a moment!

The Dominion Automobile Association has come up with a new bit of traffic information. A survey of professional drivers revealed criticism not for the highway slowpoke but the follower of the slowpoke who refuses to pass and makes it necessary for others to pass two, and eventually more than two cars to avoid a monumental jam.



RACE NOT ALWAYS TO THE SWIFT

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

MacEachen Drops Hint Of Pension Policy

The first glimpse of a comprehensive, fair and economical system of social security has been unveiled by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. This would not be a flat increase of \$25, to bring the old age pension up to \$100 per month for millionaires and medicants alike—as urged by some politicians. Instead, it would raise the pension of the needy only, to a level permitting adequate dignity in their way of life.

The Minister, Hon. Allan MacEachen, dropped his first hint of this in a speech to the Cooperative Insurance Services in Regina. He was just thinking aloud, I wondered, or was he hinting at government plans?

BEST OF NOVA SCOTIA

Allan MacEachen is a retiringly outstanding figure in the Pearson Cabinet. Modest and rather shy, he yet greatly impressed careful observers when as a 32-year old back-bencher he first sat in the House of Commons in 1953. Deeply imbued with the Highland Catholic's respect for learning, this young Nova Scotian brought a massive training in economics to Parliament Hill, for he had sat at the feet of the famous Dr. M. M. Coady, the father of the Antigonish social reform movement, at St. Francis Xavier University. After further studies at the universities of Toronto and Chicago, and at Boston's M. I. T., he had returned to St. F.X. to become head of its Economics and Social Sciences department until elected to Parliament.

Beaten in the Diefenbaker sweep of 1958, he was taken on the new Liberal leader, Mike Pearson, as his special assistant and consultant in economic affairs. In 1962 he was re-elected to the House, and in 1963 his former boss appointed him Minister of Labour. Three months ago, he was moved to his appropriate niche as Minister of Health and Welfare whilst remaining one of Mr. Pearson's closest advisers.

I asked Mr. MacEachen to tell me the background of the tantalizing glimpse given in his Regina speech. As we sat talking in his parliamentary office he revealed his massive grasp of the complicated economic problem of improving the lot of our aged poor without overtaxing our younger workers.

It is recognized that \$75 per

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(March 10, 1941) The Greek King Command said its forces in Albania had seized 300 more prisoners in the face of fiercely extended attacks which cost the Fascist forces a heavy toll.

TEN YEARS AGO

(March 10, 1956) The Earl of Bessborough, governor-general of Canada from 1931 to 1935 and a man of wide international business interests died at his home at Stansted Park, Hampshire, England. He was 75 and had been ill for three months.

Archbishop Makarios and three other banished leaders of the Greek Cypriot Church were transferred to a British frigate near Mombasa, Kenya, for a 1,000-mile voyage into exile in the Indian ocean.

month, or \$900 per year, is an inadequate income for our retired folk who cannot benefit from the new Canada Pension Plan. A minimum income to provide retirement with dignity is now tentatively accepted by the government as being \$1,260 or \$105 per month, for a single person, and \$2,220 for a couple. But, Allan MacEachen pointed out to me, there may be special circumstances in individual cases calling for more than this minimum; obviously he explained, living costs may be higher in a city than on a farm. In such cases, secondary help in addition to an increase of \$30 per month in the Old Age Pension is needed.

TAXES WOULD SOAR

We now face an annual tax burden of \$1 billion to pay a monthly pension of \$75. With

a \$25 per month increase, this would rise to at least \$2.1 billion by 1970, when it would be payable to everyone aged 65 or over. "This extra expenditure could only be financed through higher taxes," Mr. MacEachen said. It would be even more burdensome on the taxpayer to pay out \$30 to all and even more to some, by way of increased Old Age Pension.

The simplest and most talked about solution to the income problems of our senior citizens is the \$25 per month increase, but, insisted Mr. MacEachen, this is by no means a fully satisfactory solution, and it incorporates the obvious anomaly and waste of paying a pension to persons who don't need it.

I will elaborate details of the MacEachen proposal another day.

Reducing Area Costs

Moncton Transcript

Secretary of Port of Halifax Commission, has said that he is "astonished" at a Canadian National Railways proposal to reduce its charge for hauling feed grains from the Lakehead to Moncton to 6 cents per 100 pounds from the current 99 cents. Mr. Marsh fears that should the CNR win business away from water carriers the Port of Halifax will suffer a decrease in grain movements and a hoped-for new elevator and extended handling facilities might not materialize.

Well, we think that many people in the Maritimes will be "astonished" at the narrow-minded and selfish outlook of Mr. Marsh. The Maritimes have had immense difficulty sustaining a beef cattle industry of any consequence and high freight rates have usually been cited as the prime obstacle. The CNR is to be commended for attempting to reduce rates and so stimulate growth in this sector of the Maritime economy.

Often we have complained that Canadians in other parts of the country seem to think that Canada's eastward boundary is either Montreal or Quebec City. Now it would seem that some Maritimers think Halifax is the be all and end all of the Maritimes.

The general good of the whole area surely is more important than the narrow interest of Halifax. If Halifax needs extended grain handling facilities these should not be dependent upon whether or not the CNR can reduce rates and win traffic away from water carriers.

The Maritimes need expansion upon all sectors of their economy and anything which will aid in stimulating growth is to be welcomed, not rejected. All the more power to the CNR in its attempts to lower production costs for area farmers — it is this kind of progressive outlook that will help ensure Maritime growth. Mr. Marsh's philosophy will delay it.

Waste Of Woman Power

Regina Post-Leader

Women long ago won the war of equality with men. One of their most fundamental victories in that war was the right to equality in education.

They now appear to be throwing away the peace. In support of this charge are three facts, cited recently by Mrs. Leona Murphy, director of a Chicago advertising agency.

More than half the girls who enter college drop out before graduation.

There are fewer women earning Ph.D. degrees today than in 1920.

The number of women doctors is about the same as it was in 1910.

Where are today's drop-out career girls?

Most of them, says Mrs. Murphy, are happily caring for families at home and possibly active in local civic and cultural projects.

Many of the others, she says, are trapped in low-paying unchallenging, dead-end jobs in the business world, unable to compete with men both because of their sex and their lack of education.

It is, says Mrs. Murphy—who won her education the hard way, at night school—a sad waste of woman power.

Skunk Oil Remedy

Windsor Star

Recently we noted reference to the idea that skunk oil has, or at one time was believed to have medicinal value as treatment for whooping cough. Be this as it may, in an earlier day in Ontario there was a market for skunk oil.

This oil certainly is not to be confused with the nauseous emanation which makes skunks fearsome to encounter. It rather is the oil obtained by the rendering of the fat—and skunks seem always to be fat animals. We recall one farmer in who, in modern parlance, was slightly retarded. But he was an excellent trapper. His principal objectives were skunks. They had a dual value. He could get 50 cents or 75 cents for a hide and, by rendering down the fat, could get something extra for it. The

oil was practically odorless and it was being bought for medicinal uses.

One had to be very wary, however, in trapping skunks—and for reasons that are apparent. The trick is to disable them before they have opportunity to aim and to spray you. Their aim can be accurate and the spray travels quite a few feet. This young trapper had his system. He carried a broom handle. As the skunk was being pulled out of the hole he smacked it over the back. That rendered the animal's armory ineffective. But, if he missed with his stick, one had to make tracks—and a fast.

ITALY DRAWS WORLD

A record total of 23,795,200 tourists visited Italy in 1965 and spent about \$1,200,000,000 while on holiday there.

Remedy For Canker Sores

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Two Wichita, Kas., physicians want to share an observation with other medics. They found that oral canker sores improved after taking a few Flagyl tablets. They cannot explain why it works and are reporting their results for what they are worth.

Canker sores are believed to stem from a virus capable of causing a variety of disorders in which tiny blisters (cold sores) and ulcers develop in the mouth, tongue, throat, lips, and genital organs. The different forms of the herpes simplex virus have resisted all the antibiotics and other drugs.

Flagyl is a specific remedy for trichomonas organisms of which T. vaginalis is the most notorious. These parasites are giants compared to viruses and inhabit the intestines, bladder and sexual organs. One form, T. tenax, inhabits the oral cavity where it is considered harmless. Now and then the organism is found in canker sores and Drs. William F. McGuire and Herbert R. Goldberg suggest that the parasite and the virus may play a dual causative role. Killing the T. tenax with Flagyl may weaken their combined attack and hasten recovery.

It is a moot question whether the virus that causes fever blisters or cold sores (herpes simplex) also causes canker sores. Our knowledge along this line leaves much to be desired despite the fact that these diseases are very prevalent, especially in children.

The canker sore, for example, begins as a small, painful blister that breaks leaving a shallow ulcer. The lesion usually is precipitated by injury (stiff toothbrush or rough tooth) and lasts from five to 10 days. The initial attack of herpes simplex follows a similar course except that many victims develop fever and protective antibodies against the causative virus that can be detected in the blood. Many persons develop recurrent attacks in the same location whenever they are feverish, eat certain foods, become emotionally upset, or are exposed to the sun.

COLD FEET

Mrs. J. G. writes: My husband works out of doors and as soon as the weather turns cool he complains of cold feet. He wears woolen socks but this doesn't help. Have you any suggestions?

REPLY

If the condition bothers your husband severely, he may have to move to a warm climate or at least obtain an indoor job. Examination of the feet also is in order to determine the cause of his poor circulation.

PROLAPSED BLADDER

B. C. writes: Can a prolapsed bladder in a woman be cured without an operation?

REPLY

No. The supporting structures are stretched or torn and there is no other way except through surgery to repair the damage. A pessary offers temporary relief.

NO DANGER

J. Q. writes: When both husband and wife are negative is there any danger of having an RH baby?

REPLY

The baby would be Rh negative because there are no Rh positive factors in the combination.

IRRITANT

S. W. writes: Can a person with a stomach ulcer drink ice cold lemonade?

REPLY

Cold lemonade and ulcers are not always compatible. Too much lemonade produces indigestion and the acidity may aggravate the ulcer.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Courtesy when driving helps prevent accidents.

NOTE

All correspondence to Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.

RUNS THROUGH ROUTINE

The mockingbird has been heard to sing 87 distinct tunes in seven minutes.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Today's cars may be smooth-running, but you still find a lot of jerks in them. — Calgary Herald.

In a free country you can say what you please, but it is often difficult to get somebody to listen to you. — Guelph Mercury.

"The bite of a rattlesnake will cure mild forms of insanity." Maybe, so, but anybody crazy enough to let a rattlesnake bite him isn't mildly insane. — Chattanooga Daily News.

An optimist today is a father who thinks he can help his children with their homework. — Kitchener Waterloo Record.

Mistress—"Mary, I saw a man kissing you at the back door last night. Was it the postman or the policeman?" Maid—"Was it before eight o'clock or after?" — Hamilton Spectator.

Through use of appropriate symbols, monkeys can be taught the value of money. In this respect, monkeys are smarter than many people are. — Cornwall Standard Freeholder.

A parishioner was badly beating his minister at a game of golf. "Cheer up, Reverend," the man consoled. "Remember, in the end you'll win. I expect that some day you'll be burying me." "Even so," the cleric answered. "It will be your hole." — Montreal Star.

Visiting a critically ill lawyer in hospital, his friend found him propped up on bed, frantically looking through the Bible. "What are you doing?" the friend asked. Replied the lawyer: "Looking for loopholes." — Financial Post.

A graduate student doing a study of juvenile delinquency had difficulty collecting data. His project was to telephone 10 homes at 9 p. m. each night and ask the parents if they knew where their children were at that hour. "My first five calls" he lamented, "were answered by children who had no idea where their parents were." — Toronto Globe and Mail.

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Slow Progress At Geneva

By Harold Morrison

Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Geneva disarmament talks appear to have bogged down in another stalemate, with negotiations turning into a propaganda battle based on a dreary repetition of old proposals rejected in the past and likely to be rejected again.

nuclear weapons to non-nuclear countries.

To those who suggest the talks seem pointless, the British government replies quickly the situation while disappointing, is not entirely hopeless. It took years of plodding talks before negotiators broke through with a partial nuclear test ban treaty.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union appear to be following a non-proliferation policy. Yet they hesitate to commit themselves in writing without political concessions. The American proposal would leave room for possible development of a separate European nuclear community, while the Soviet offer is dependent on permanent elimination of West Germany as a nuclear force.

Even at the current stage of bickering, the possibility cannot be dismissed that some minor concession, on one side or the other, can lead to major agreement. The fact the Soviet Union agreed to sit at the conference table with the United States while bitterly condemning American action in Viet Nam—is seen by some Western authorities as a spark of hope.

DIFFER ON CONTROL

Probably the two areas where progress might seem realistic were it not for political factors—the proposed extension of the test-ban treaty to include underground tests and in the proposed ban on the spread of

As for a ban on underground testing, the U.S. maintains there still is need for on-site verification, while the Soviet Union maintains the latest scientific developments make such on-site scrutiny unnecessary.

Now the U.S. has trotted out its latest rehash—destruction of part of Soviet and American nuclear arsenals, with the fissionable materials turned into much-needed electrical power for underdeveloped countries. The American delegate was quick to estimate this could amount to seven years of power for eight non-aligned countries, although he did not say who would build and pay for the necessary power plants.

The Soviet answer is that the U.S. merely wants to get rid of old-fashioned bombs. The Soviet argument carries some weight, for the U.S. has estimated it has more than 40,000 warheads and undoubtedly some have become obsolete.

A World On Speaking Terms

Christian Science Monitor

Because the speaker was not a dreamer but the chairman of a leading radio corporation, his forecast was striking. He was talking of coming developments in satellite communication, due around 1970.

speakers can address global workers talking to each other across oceans, can share information almost instantly. And so on.

"We stand on the threshold of a new era in communications, in which the physical barriers of space and time will be abolished and in which a global system of instant sight and sound will link people everywhere." A university research director, speaking to another audience at the same time, made a similar forecast. Both expected this technical advance to lead to human progress.

Apparently the technical side of this development, although still beyond the comprehension of the layman, poses few difficulties. But what of the social side? What, for example, of the language barrier? Not only are there many national tongues but some countries, like India, are themselves struggling with many native languages.

It does not require much imagination to picture what this development will mean. When it becomes possible to broadcast a single radio or television program around the world, as is expected enormous changes can occur. Literacy programs can be carried to remote villages everywhere, United Nations

David Sarnoff, chairman of Radio Corporation of America, thinks the form will be met by a simpler form of English. This seems practical; amateur radio is already using English for world communication.

Most important, however, will be the way in which the new communications devices are used. If ideas are exchanged freely, without governmental restraints, they cannot help but better human relations.

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