

Wilson's Mission

In flying to Salisbury, Rhodesia, Prime Minister Harold Wilson and his Commonwealth Secretary, Arthur Bottomley, are said to have taken the toughest task in the foreign field that any modern British government has grappled with. One British comment on the mission has been: "We can see a light which may enable us to scramble in the dark up slippery rocks; and if we can struggle over them, we can reach the cliffs; and if we can climb the cliffs, we may be able to hang onto the edge of them. That's about the position."

The light is still the faint possibility of agreement to an international treaty which would guarantee unimpeded advance toward majority rule in Rhodesia, while safeguarding the lives and values of the large and energetic white minority. Of 4 million black Rhodesians nearly half are children, and of these children half are under 10 years of age. There are some 225,000 whites, of whom 90,000 are adults on the electoral rolls.

But to succeed, Mr. Wilson must do more than get negotiations going again with Mr. Smith. He must, for instance, persuade the former prime minister Mr. Todd to use his influence to get the African nationalist parties to use constitutional means of advance. Yet the whole weight of independent African advice to them and to Mr. Wilson himself, is to use force against the white Rhodesians. If Britain does not intervene with troops, President Krumah of Ghana told the African summit meeting in Accra, members of the Organization for African Unity "will take whatever steps are necessary."

On the other side, most non-Rhodesian whites advise Mr. Smith to refrain from an illegal declaration of independence. Besides reinforcing this advice, Mr. Wilson must hope at least to persuade white Rhodesians that in taking a step that would be legally invalid, and against world opinion as well as world law, they would be sweeping deliberately into personal dangers whose consequences simply cannot be foreseen.

From this distance we may find it hard to understand why there should be difficulty in bringing this strong argument to bear. But a commentator closer to the situation reminds us that these quarter of a million people of pioneer stock are isolated in a rich and lovely country, fearful of being drowned in a tide of black nationalism, and see the issue in quite a different way.

A Grim Warning

If all had gone according to plan, today would have marked a major milestone in the American bid to put a man on the moon by 1970. But the blastoff from Cape Kennedy of two astronauts in a Gemini-Titan vehicle has been postponed indefinitely due to the failure yesterday to orbit the spacecraft which was to have been their rendezvous and docking target. The mishap could have been very much worse, however. At least it didn't result in tragedy for the astronauts themselves.

The incident underlines the grim warning sounded last week by Michael Stoiko, technical director of the company which builds the Titan booster that was to have put the 2-man Gemini craft into space. This has to do with the danger of astronauts being stranded after they have been put in orbit, perhaps able to contact with the earth but helpless and beyond assistance.

If such a thing happened, Mr. Stoiko said, it would "stimulate intense emotional reaction" through the world. "Initial horror and fascination would turn quickly to anger with the growing realization that no means existed to attempt rescue—in fact,

that no action whatsoever could be taken. The nation's shared guilt, sense of defeat and compassion for lost human beings would be personal. Foreign and domestic criticism of the unfortunate nation's technology could not be prevented. The cumulative effect, orchestrated by a shocked world, is difficult to estimate."

There were 13 manned space flights involving 13 persons and 21.3 man days in space throughout 1964. From 1965 to 1974 Mr. Stoiko predicts there will be 60 launchings of 150 persons for a total of 15,000 man days. Probably more than one multi-manned mission will be orbiting simultaneously. And between 1974 and 1985 there will be 70 launchings of 250 persons for 35,000 man days in flight.

Analyzing the possible failures that lie ahead, this expert said there is a 58 per cent probability that stranded astronauts in orbit will require 2.5 rescues between now and 1974. There is a 60 per cent probability of the need for at least four rescues between 1975 and 1984, and a 62 per cent probability of the need for at least seven rescues within the next two decades, involving 22 U.S. and Russian astronauts.

The framework for a rescue service already exists, but Mr. Stoiko calls it quite inadequate to cope with the problem. He has called for establishment of a space rescue code, and an international rescue service as a matter of prime urgency and importance. If his chilling predictions are to be realized, there can surely be no ground for doubt on this score.

Hedging On Medicare

As the election campaign progresses, Mr. Pearson seems to be finding increasing difficulty in explaining why his medicare program should be on a compulsory basis, while his national pension plan operates quite differently. Speaking recently in Alberta—a province which has its own medicare program and where opposition to the federal plan is strongest—he went so far as to maintain that there is really no intention of forcing this issue; that it was a matter for the provinces to decide whether they wanted to participate in a national medicare program or not. The federal plan, he argued, would not interfere with anyone's freedom, nor would it usurp the rights of the provinces.

This is not the way medicare was presented at the federal-provincial conference last summer, when Ottawa insisted on two basic conditions: The plan would have to be universal and compulsory. Actually, the different version the Prime Minister gave in Alberta doesn't hold up under analysis, and it is doubtful if it fooled any of his auditors. For the only way the provinces can take advantage of the sizeable federal grants, based on a per capita of \$14, is by participating in the federal scheme. It permits some provinces, like Quebec, to operate their own program, but only within the Canada-wide plan.

Quite a different policy was followed in the Canada Pension Plan. Strong objection came to that plan from Quebec, so no basic conditions were applied as in the medicare proposal. Quebec opted out, but in doing so will not suffer any financial penalty.

It would appear, in both instances, that the prime purpose in shaping the conditions of these programs was to make them acceptable to Quebec. Mr. Pearson couldn't say that in Alberta, of course; but it helps to explain why he found it so difficult to deal with the subject in a straightforward manner.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An experiment in Denmark with artificial seaweed to combat the erosion of shorelines has resulted in the deposit of about 3,000 tons of sand during a period of 12 weeks, on the west coast of Jutland. The object is to retard bottom currents through the use of artificial seaweed in the form of polyesterene strings: one end of the string is weighted while the other waves in the current.

The productivity of Canadian farmers fell last year despite impressive gains since the Second World War, reports the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The bureau's index of output per man-hour in agriculture dropped to 254.7 from its high of 257 in 1963. But in the whole period since 1945, productivity in agriculture made greater gains than in any other industry. The index is based on taking 1949 output per man-hour as 100. Agricultural output since the war has advanced at an annual rate of growth of 5.4 per cent.

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THE NEW MODELS

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Deplorable Trade Imbalance With Britain

Canada has a world-wide reputation as being a selfish international trader, and the country which has been most consistently damaged by our attitude is our oldest trading partner, Britain.

totalled less than half that huge figure. Anti-dumping legislation aimed primarily against USA was imposed several years ago, but unexpectedly it has hit Britain hardest.

launching a major export operation named CANEXTOUR. British Trade Commissioners from our major cities will spend six weeks in Britain, talking to individual companies about their prospects for selling more to Canada in eleven selected lines.

The Travellers

Plans have a thousand different ways of scattering their seeds and, as Kipling said about the ways of telling tribal lays, every single one of them is right.

be stowed or hidden by squirrels and jays. Autumn berries, dogwood and pecoon and viburnum barberry and baneberry and all the hollies, invite birds to feast and fly away.

The Young World Appeal

Representatives of Canadian youth groups met in Ottawa on the weekend to make plans for the 21-week Young World Mobilization Appeal. This is a campaign by youth to attack hunger and underdevelopment around the world.

Our Yesterdays

Premier Peñain returned from his rendezvous with Hitler, and informed sources in Vichy France, considered the possibility that the present negotiations between Germany, Italy and France may be preludes to an axis "peace drive."

Exhausted Condition

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A lazy thyroid can slow the most vigorous individual and many things may happen unless the condition is recognized and treated.

One of our fine athletes was married in his late twenties. Three or four years later he began to fatigue more and more easily and became irritable, not only at work, but at home.

Thyroid extract also made a new man of him and within a few years he was eligible for the insurance industry's million-dollar club.

NOSE BAND H. T. writes: The tip of my nose droops and I was told that if I put an elastic band around my head, with the tip of my nose listed back, the droop part eventually would straighten out.

EAR TAPING M. H. writes: Will taping back an infant's protruding ears help keep them back?

WATER FOR CARDIACS N. B. writes: Can a person with heart trouble drink all the water he wants?

Aden Blows Hot The riots in Aden over the weekend are another demonstration of Britain's difficulties in guiding colonies from tutelage to independence.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mankind is warned it must learn to loaf creatively, but isn't that the reason why doodling was invented?—Windsor Star.

Crusade Against Noise

Citizens and visitors who consider relative serenity one of the appealing assets of this community will applaud the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' endorsement of Oak Bay's resolution seeking wider powers for police to control unnecessary noise.

Nine At The Helm

Some things are impossible to believe, however hard one tries. Take for example the proposal made by the Naval Officers' Association of Canada that the minimum age of boat operators should be nine.

Chinese Rewrite History

Ever wonder how the war against Japan happened to end? You probably think that Japan surrendered to the United States?

THE CREDIT GRANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SUMMERSIDE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT

Mr. Dean Ashby, O.C.E., Field Lecturer of the International Consumer Credit Association, St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Ashby will conduct a two night seminar known as "Horizons Unlimited" in the Auditorium of the Elm Street School in Summerside on Nov. 9th and 10th, commencing at 7 p.m.

FAMOUS FOR BRANDED INSPECTED STEAKS ZAKES GOOD ON MONEY BACK