

Stiffer Laws Proposed For Control Of Prices

New Department Is Recommended

By JAMES NELSON
OTTAWA (CP)—Stronger laws to stop unwarranted price increases and steps to make all shoppers more aware of price and quality competition were recommended Tuesday by the Commons-Senate prices committee.

Committee co-chairman Ron Basford (L—Vancouver Burrard) and Senator David Croll (L—Ontario) said they are hopeful the recommendations will be adopted.

After 42 public meetings, the committee now plans to add to its investigation staff, to hold hearings across the country and to widen the scope of its inquiry in the New Year into all phases of consumer affairs and into great corporate empires.

Its interim report, tabled in both houses of Parliament Tuesday, recommended:

- Creation of a new department of consumer affairs, answerable to Parliament by a minister, to embrace the consumer sections of the health and welfare, agriculture and fisheries departments. It would supervise tighter anti-combines and misleading advertisement laws.
- Continuing study of consumer affairs and the state of the Canadian economy generally by a joint committee of the Senate and Commons.
- Standardization and simplification of grades, nomenclature and packaging for commonly purchased consumer items.
- Restraint in the use of give-aways, premiums, contests, prizes and other price competition at the retail level, to let price competition play a larger role in attracting customers.
- Prohibition of the use of cents-off labels — advertising temporary price cuts below regular prices — because they distort normal price relationships.
- Full regular disclosure of profit, price and cost affairs by all private and public companies in retail trade, whether owned by Canadian or foreign interests.

Senator Croll told reporters he thinks there is “a lot of common sense in the committee’s recommendations,” and added: “In my opinion, the government is in a mood to do something about them.”

Mr. Basford said that while the recommendations had not been discussed with the government in advance, the government is sympathetic and will be interested.

Senator Croll, 66, a former public welfare minister in Ontario and a veteran chairman of special Senate enquiries, said the prices committee already has scored notable success in making the consumer price conscious.

Since its work started, the price line on food has been held and “vast empires of corporate holdings” have been disclosed that should have been public knowledge long ago.

He spoke of the Weston empire, controlling more than one-third of Canada’s food business, and said: “When a man or a group of men sit there with an empire about them, I feel there is at least a possibility they can influence prices unduly.”

MIGHT RECALL GROUP

Mr. Basford, 34, a lawyer first elected to the Commons in 1960, said he thinks it likely the Gasfield Weston interests will be called back before the committee, but he is undecided about the size of food chains which are direct beneficiaries or adverse effect on prices.

New Democratic Party members of the committee issued a statement regretting the committee did not recommend adoption of the NDP proposal for a prices review board, backed by law to force back unwarranted price increases.

Mr. Basford said some of the witnesses appearing before the committee in its public hearings favored the prices review board and all—including the Canadian Labor Congress—“turned thumbs down on it.”

BEARDS OUT FOR STUDENTS

FORT WILLIAM, Ont. (CP)—Their parents may sprout centennial chinwhiskers, but beards are out for the Beards-generation in Fort William.

The board of education agreed Monday night to support teachers in a ban-the-beard movement, should one develop, though trustee Ronald Anderson noted that the business community is going along with beard-growing in 1967 as part of centennial hoopla.

“If we can’t control the wearing of hair, how can we control the wearing of beards?” asked Rev. Agnew H. Johnston, board vice-chairman.

But the decision was to back teachers in interpreting regulations stating that students must be neat and clean in their habits—and a beard would not be in keeping.

SHORT SUPPLY BOOSTS PRICE

16 Island Tobacco Growers Will Split Near \$500,000

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Sixteen Island tobacco producers sold their 1966 crop yesterday for an amount estimated at “close to one-half million dollars,” one of the growers told The Guardian last night.

One man received 72½ cents a pound for his entire crop, and one grower suggested the average price for the 16 crops would run to 70 cents a pound. There are something more than 650,000 pounds of tobacco leaf involved, the grower spokesman estimated. But a more conservative estimator suggested the average price of all the 16 crops would run closer to 68 cents.

Either way it’s an unprecedented price, several growers termed it “fantastic”—the average price for the 1965 crop was 61½ cents per pound.

Keith LeLachur, research officer at the Experimental Farm who specializes in tobacco studies and experiments, said the excellent price is due to an artificial situation, and growers should not expect the same thing to happen again next year.

Mr. LeLachur said the high price received here is due to a short supply and resulting high price in Ontario. The crop in Ontario was good this year, he said, but the production was down a year ago, so the reserve stocks were low. It was explained.

The Island growers sold their tobacco leaf yesterday at a season in the Islander Motor Lodge here. Three companies had representatives in as many rooms.

Extension Of Truce Plea Made

By ALEXANDER FARRELL
UNITED NATIONS (CP)—The president of the General Assembly, Abdul Rahman Pazhwak of Afghanistan, appealed to the two sides in the Vietnam war Tuesday night to take advantage of the Christmas truce to declare their “unconditional willingness” to settle the conflict peacefully.

Pazhwak’s appeal brought the assembly’s 1966 session to a close just as UN Secretary-General U Thant was reported to be preparing a new effort to arrange Vietnam peace talks.

The U.S. government asked that Monday to do whatever he could “to bring about the necessary discussions which could lead to a ceasefire.”

Thant later called in Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Fedorenko and Algerian Ambassador Tewfik Bouattoua—separately—for private talks, at which possible peace moves were discussed.

The assembly will reconvene April 30 in a special session to deal with the question of South-West Africa. The countries of black Africa, whose complaints about white-minority rule in South Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique dominated this regular session, want an end put to South African rule in the former German territory.

SALTY START IN LIFE FOR BABY BOY SMITH

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Baby Boy Smith got a salty start in life—born in the glow of a flashlight after a shipwreck on a tropical island beach, with sail twine used to tie his umbilical cord.

The sturdy newborn and his mother were reported thriving Tuesday in a Nassau hospital but his birthplace poses a problem.

“If he had been born on any other island—say Abaco or Eleuthera—we could name him for that,” said his father, Capt. Stephen Smith. “But how can you christen a baby Rum Cay?”

Smith, 23, a former U.S. navy legal officer, and his wife, Danish-born Yvita, 27, were bound for the Virgin Islands in their brigantine Laila when the 116-ton vessel ran aground on Rum Cay, a sparsely populated dot in the Bahamas, 100 miles southeast of Nassau.

The Smiths and two companions salvaged some food before the Laila broke up. They rigged a tent from sails

COULDN'T WAIT

Mrs. Smith said she thought her first child was to be a Christmas baby “but at midnight on the fifth day I suddenly had a labor pains. The child was born five hours later, Nov. 28.”

Smith said: “All I knew was that people are supposed to heat a lot of water at such times but I didn’t know what you were supposed to do with it except maybe to make coffee.”

“In any case we were down to our last gallon. I sterilized my pocket knife in a can of boiling water and cut the umbilical cord. Luckily I had a lot of nylon sail thread handy so was able to tie it off.”

Smith’s flashlight was the only light available.

Twenty-four hours after the birth a Bahamas air-sea rescue unit picked up the party.

Grounded Ship Breaks In Three

HALIFAX (CP)—The Panamanian freighter Tegean, which ran aground on rocks off this port three weeks ago, broke into three pieces Tuesday and began her trip to the ocean floor.

A navy helicopter, flying over the rocks known as The Sisters where the 7,300-ton Tegean went aground in light fog Nov. 23, reported the bow of the vessel had sheared off and her after-part had broken away. Heavy seas have been pounding the vessel for the last several days.

Her 43 Greek crew members were taken off safely shortly after she grounded and it was thought the Tegean could last only a matter of hours. Her captain abandoned her for salvage, but tugs reported the vessel could not be moved off her perch atop the rocks.

The Tegean stubbornly remained on the rocks as looters removed almost everything that could be taken from the ship, including food, brass fittings, beer, clocks, compasses and even the ship’s wheel.

Fishermen and residents in the area later expressed fears that some 200 tons of bunker oil aboard the vessel could coat the shoreline and endanger fishing.

A spokesman for a Halifax dredging company engaged to burn off the oil said Tuesday it was not yet known what could be done about the oil, but said a decision would be made today.

The Tegean, built at Houston, Tex., in 1943, was carrying no cargo when she ran aground on her way into Halifax. She was to have been fitted for grain-carrying here.

Few Signs Of Settlement In Kennedy Book Battle

NEW YORK (AP)—Negotiations to settle the dispute over the Death of a President neared crisis point Tuesday night, with little sign that either side would give ground short of a court hearing.

Don Congdon, literary agent for author William Manchester, said his client is determined to resist changes in the book demanded by Mrs. John F. Kennedy, who alleges invasion of privacy and breach of agreement.

“He is trying to protect his integrity,” said Congdon. “You must understand, this book is his offspring.”

A source close to the Kennedy family indicated that if Manchester holds firm, Mrs. Kennedy and her brother-in-law, Senator Robert F. Kennedy (Dem. N.Y.), will press a petition for an injunction to block publication.

MPs Said Bosses Of CBC Board

OTTAWA (CP)—Members of Parliament were told Tuesday that they are the people to whom CBC directors are accountable.

“If they don’t perform, fire them,” Dr. Andrew Stewart, chairman of the Board of Broadcast Governors, told members of the Commons committee on broadcasting.

He was replying to questions by Robert McCleave (PC—Halifax), who asked whether there was any control the BBG could assert in the case of a recent film clip used on the publicly-owned corporation’s television program called Sunday.

Dr. Stewart said only two courses are open to the BBG under the regulations.

It could hale the CBC into court and, if a magistrate ruled that the film contravened regulations against “obscene, indecent or profane” broadcasting, impose a small fine. Or it could suspend for a period the CBC’s licence to broadcast.

“In both cases it would really be the public that was being penalized.”

Use of the film really was “an internal management problem” for the CBC. Holding the CBC accountable to the BBG on such a question meant that the BBG would be taking over responsibilities properly held by the CBC board of directors.

The government appoints directors of the CBC and the corporation as a public body is responsible to Parliament, Dr. Stewart said. If the directors didn’t perform the way they noted.

He said he was assuming the film used was obscene, because he had not seen it. The clip showed an unmarried couple embracing in bed. Later they gave frank answers to questions about their sexual feelings.

Questions by committee members followed a statement by Dr. Stewart on the government while paper setting out proposed revisions for broadcasting regulations.

The paper suggests wider powers for the BBG, including regulation of general policies of the CBC.

MUST KNOW PLANS

The BBG must know the general plans of the CBC in advance if it is to make correct decisions aimed at achieving the best balance between public and private service, Dr. Stewart said.

Parliament should state clearly what role it wants the publicly-owned corporation to play.

SAYS NOT HISTORY

“Nobody—that’s both sides—relishes bringing this to court,” the source said. “Hopefully it will be settled. But it’s bound around personal things that Mrs. Kennedy thinks are not a part of history.”

Dismissals Demanded By Red Guards

By VERGIL BERGER
PEKING (Reuters)—Peking walls were plastered Tuesday with huge Red Guard posters demanding the dismissal of the Chinese head of state, Liu Shao-chi, and Communist Party Secretary Teng Hsiao-ping.

While not the first time that the dismissals have been demanded, the posters were widely distributed and in large, easy-to-read characters.

They read:

“Expel Liu Shao-chi from the Communist party central committee.”

“Liu Shao-chi and Teng Hsiao-ping must be deprived of all their jobs and stripped of all their power.”

“Liu Shao-chi is the number one rightist. He is like a fish who always escapes the net.”

Red Guard propaganda trucks toured the city with loudspeakers blaring that Liu, long regarded as Mao Tse-tung’s closest associate, now was the leader of the bourgeois revisionist line denounced by China’s cultural revolution.

Pearson Turns Down Leak Charges Probe

OTTAWA (CP)—Prime Minister Pearson declined Tuesday to launch a formal inquiry into allegations by Opposition Leader Diefenbaker that leaks occurred before Finance Minister Sharp’s mini-budget.

The prime minister read a telegram from John Van Laven, president of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, advising the government that no budget information was leaked to him.

“It said his partly-accurate forecast of tax provisions in Mr. Sharp’s budget was ‘pure guesswork’ based on his financial experience. Mr. Sharp ‘in no way confided’ advance information.”

READ TELEGRAM

Mr. Pearson took the floor to read the telegram shortly after the start of the day’s sitting.

He told the Commons he had seen reports predicting changes in Mr. Sharp’s budget and had discussed the matter with the finance minister, who was absent from the House at the opening Tuesday.

“Mr. Pearson said Mr. Sharp has made statements publicly that there was no leak from the finance department and that the reports were merely speculation.”

The prime minister said that these statements should dispose of the matter.

However, Mr. Diefenbaker, who had asked for an inquiry “where any such leaks took place,” suggested that two accurate forecasts of the budget contents represented an unequalled power of prophecy in the absence of a leak.

Mr. Pearson said he agrees the prophecies were unprecedented.

The opposition leader said press reports before the budget was brought down Monday night predicted income tax increases affecting those with taxable income above \$6,000 a year.

He also said a British Columbiaian had claimed he talked with Mr. Sharp before the budget and was convinced there would be a one-per-cent increase in the federal sales tax.

In the budget brought down Monday night by Mr. Sharp, both changes were announced, effective Jan. 1.

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THE PANAMANIAN freighter Tegean broke into three pieces Tuesday after being pounded by heavy seas for three weeks. The 7,300-ton vessel went aground on rocks off Halifax in light fog Nov. 23 and was abandoned by her Greek crew. The vessel still has 200 tons of fuel onboard and efforts are being made to burn it off before she sinks.

Prices Report Highlights

OTTAWA (CP)—Highlights of the report Tuesday by a joint Senate-Commons committee on its investigation of food prices:

A department of consumer affairs should be established with its own minister.

Cents-off labels—the advertising of goods at stated reductions from regular prices—should be prohibited because they confuse consumers and distort price relationships.

Full and complete disclosure should be required of activities of both public companies and private companies of significance to the public.

Nevadans had been braced for a stronger shock and in one small town had even evacuated an old building and removed bottles from shelves.

Pensions Legislation Nears Final Approval

OTTAWA (CP)—A Commons uproar over a free-swinging speech by Health Minister MacEachen threatened for a time Tuesday night to delay the government’s guaranteed income plan for the aged.

But once tempers had cooled, Opposition MPs indicated they would not carry out a threat to debate the measure for another two days and endanger Parliament’s Christmas vacation plans. MPs were aiming at adjourning tonight until Monday, Jan. 9.

The Commons had agreed to sit extra hours Tuesday night to finish debate on the guaranteed income plan which would provide up to \$30 a month to needy old age pensioners now receiving \$75 a month.

But Conservative House Leader Michael Starr called off the agreement in the heat of a bitter exchange with Mr. MacEachen.

Mr. Starr said the opposition had agreed to sit late to pass legislation, not to listen to Mr. MacEachen make political speeches.

Mr. MacEachen said he hadn’t tried to limit the speeches of opposition MPs. They should do him the same courtesy. And if the Conservatives wanted to delay passage of the bill, that was their business.

He then proceeded to make his speech, flaying the New Democratic Party for an amendment it tacked on to the third-reading debate asking that the \$30 supplementary payment go to all old age pensioners.

Mr. MacEachen said the NDP amendment would put money in the pockets of those who didn’t need it. The government’s concern was for needy old age pensioners.

FINISHED STUDY

The House earlier in the day had completed clause-by-clause study of the pensions bill and it had appeared that only formalities stood in the way of its coming into effect.

Less than an hour before the outburst, government House Leader McNeil announced the all-party agreement to sit late Tuesday to give a third reading.