

Governs Prince Edward Island Like The Dow... Wallace Ward Managing Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 163 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

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Tory Caucus Chores

The Conservative parliamentary caucus is taking what it hopes will be a major step in refurbishing the party's image across the nation. It will seek to focus attention on party policies and not on its leadership problems.

Asked whether he had consulted national president Dalton Camp on the subject, Mr. Hamilton said he had no conversation with that gentleman. Now that's too bad, for it could be that Mr. Camp is just yearning to bestow his blessing on the proceedings.

The association (that is the organization) are in the service of the parliamentary party (that is the caucus). Their policy must be our policy. And their leadership is our leadership.

Significantly, too, in the light of recent events, Mr. Camp opened his speech two years ago with this admonition, quoted from an address in Montreal by a former Conservative prime minister, Rt. Hon. R.B. Bennett: "This party of ours has never been defeated by our opponents; it has always committed suicide."

Rhodesia Again

The British government is well aware of the serious step it is taking in invoking United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia. But the failure of its efforts over the last year to force a settlement with the rebellious Smith regime on the question of majority African rule has left it with no other course.

It is plain that Prime Minister Wilson overestimated his ability to outfox Premier Smith as a negotiator. Last Sunday he announced, after two days of secret talks with Smith aboard a Royal Navy ship in the Mediterranean, that an agreement had been hammered out in terms which the Rhodesian government was expected to ratify Monday morning.

Mr. Wilson also told reporters that the agreement was wholly within the terms of Britain's six principles of settlement of the crisis and last September's Commonwealth prime ministers' communique, under which the Rhodesian premier would have to withdraw Rhodesia's unilateral independence and turn over control of his military and police forces, for a period, to British-appointed Governor Sir Humphrey Gibbs.

Already, it was felt, Wilson had gone a long way in placating Smith, who had been denounced as a traitor when his administration broke away from Britain in November, 1965. Just a year ago today Arthur Bothamley, then Commonwealth Secretary, following his effort in Salisbury to bring about a settlement of the problem, declared: "Ian Smith has lied not only to me, but to others too. And this is one of the reasons why we cannot deal with Smith in any way because he is not a man to be trusted."

Certainly Smith's version of the latest negotiations with Wilson must have differed markedly from that given by the British prime minister, for he received "a hero's welcome" from his followers on his return, and he has since denounced the British proposals in the strongest terms.

As for the partial sanctions imposed by Commonwealth countries, it is said that instead of reacting against Smith they have solidified support for him in Rhodesia among the whites. The economy has suffered here and there, but there is no sign of a collapse. The black African government in the key neighboring country, Zambia, is just as furious against Mr. Wilson for the opposite reason.

If U.N. sanctions are imposed, South Africa will refuse to cooperate and it is believed they will eventually have to be directed against that country as well—and South Africa is vital to Britain's export trade. That will be another headache for Britishers, who are already in an extremely difficult financial situation.

All Too Brief

It seems that there will be three truces over the holiday period in Viet Nam to look forward to: two days over Christmas, two days over New Year's, and four days over the lunar new year early in February, which is a Vietnamese celebration.

Last year, the Christmas truce led to a 37-day pause in the bombing. This was accompanied by an intensive effort to find basis for opening negotiations. North Viet Nam showed no indication that it was ready to talk peace, and the bombing was resumed. It has been argued, however, that the failure of 1965 is no guarantee that it will be repeated in 1966.

The military advantage to the Communists would not be serious because American strength is such that the South and its allies cannot be defeated. Admittedly, Hanoi still has not shown any inclination to bring the war to an end. Yet there is virtually unanimous agreement that one essential condition for negotiations will be an end to the bombing.

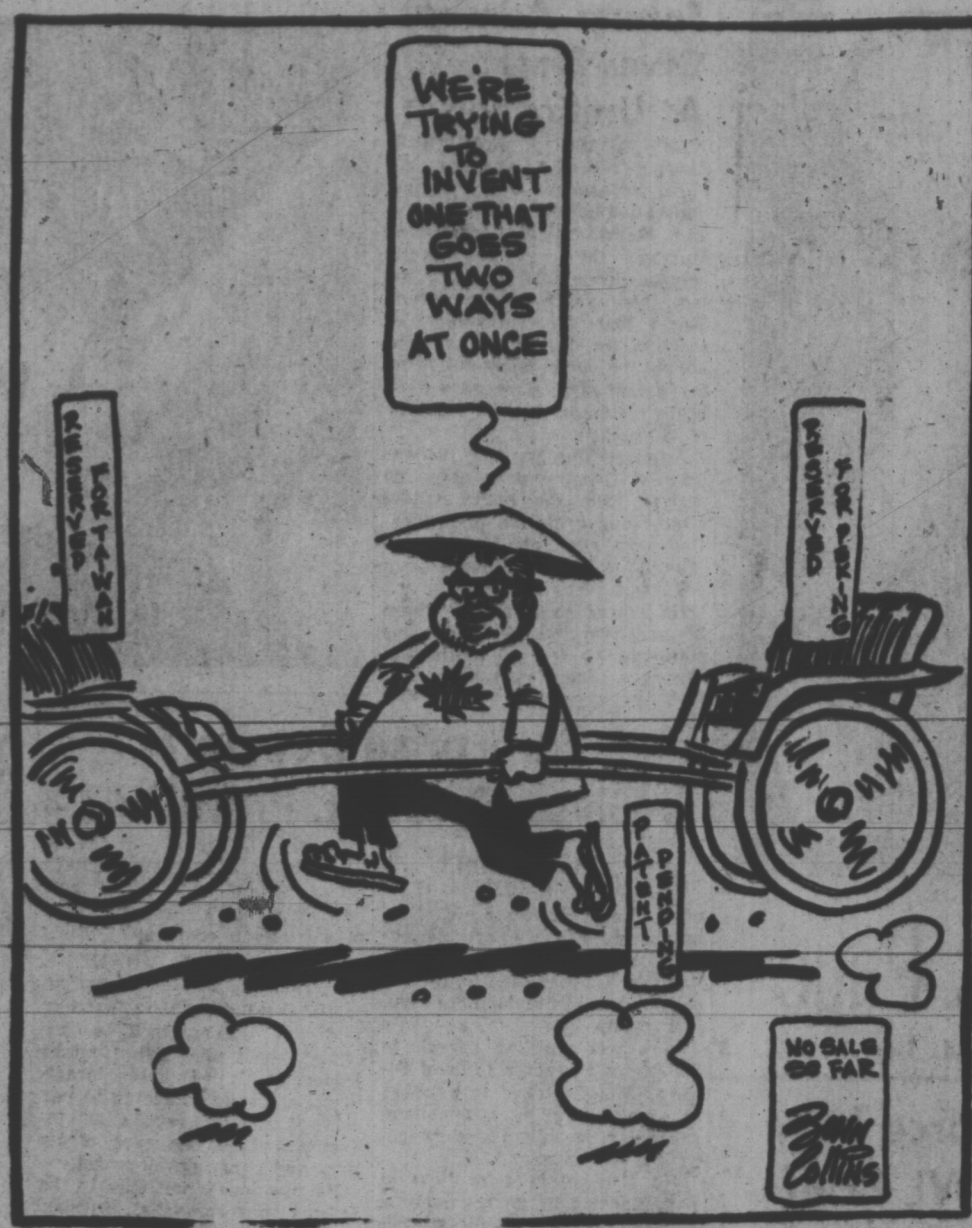
Surely it would pay our American neighbors to exert themselves to the full in this endeavor. No chance of capitalizing on the spirit which has prompted the holiday truces should be lost, however long the shot may be. It constitutes another opportunity to make a serious peace bid, and perhaps the most favorable one that will come for a long, long time.

Cutting It Fine

Can two pensioners live as cheaply as one? The Pearson government appears to think so. Under its proposed supplementary old age pension plan, two pensioners deciding to marry might have to accept a cut in the combined amounts of their pension. Health Minister MacEachen, in introducing the legislation Monday, said income of each spouse will be "taken to be one-half of the combined income of the couple in determining the amount of each spouse's supplement." The plan pays up to \$30 a month, depending on income.

As explained in a Canadian Press report, a single person will receive no benefits if this monthly income, aside from his \$75 basic pension, is \$60 or more. A married couple will receive no supplement if the two earn \$120 or more a month, in addition to the combined pensions of \$150. So in the case of a man and woman considering marriage where the man is earning \$120 a month besides his pension and the woman nothing beyond her pension, the woman would have to give up her \$30-a-month supplement as the price of matrimony.

That's cutting things pretty fine. It helps to explain why Health Minister MacEachen, posing as Santa Claus with his post-Christmas package for needy old age pensioners, came out tagged as Scrooge by the Opposition.



THE MARTIN MODEL RICKSHAW

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Committee Probes Prescription Drug Costs

The prices asked of Canadian shoppers are being criticized in a large proportion of the daily mail which pours into MP's offices here are also the subject of two important reviews by parliamentary committees.

Groceries prices and practices are being hit headlines as a result of the hearings before the committee on Consumer Credit and Prices. The evidence heard concentrates the farmer of any blame for high food prices; marketing practices and retail mark-up have been revealed as more significant factors in prices.

The committee has learned that the average prescription filled by one neighborhood drug store today costs \$4.47. The manufacturer's profit on this, after tax, is 9.76 cents. But as with food, you would probably save money by shopping around two or three drug stores.

The committee has also learned of the frequent price differential between a brand-name drug, innovated and manufactured by one of the responsible international research-based companies, and a generic drug, which is often a so-called chemical equivalent or copy of a patented drug, and may be a product imported from, say Hong Kong or Italy.

At one meeting, Dr. Harley called eight senior civil servants, representing "user" departments of government—National Defence and Veterans Affairs, the purchasing department Defence Production, and the testing department—Health and Welfare. MPs on the committee were intrigued to learn that the government buys drugs more cheaply than the housewife; this was explained in part by the factor which makes the 5-pound economy bag proportionately cheaper than the 6-ounce fancy package in the grocery store.

Another factor is that our soldiers are often treated with generic rather than brand-name drugs, because of the contract tendering system. In one case, for example, Defence Production invited 36 companies to tender for a supply of drugs. Most were well-known manufacturers in Canada, but the government

accepted the lowest bid, which was submitted by an importer who obtained the product from Holland.

FARE ECONOMY "Experience shows that the lowest bidder is often the one without the best facilities or skills," commented one civil servant ruefully. "But if a drug which we have purchased does not come up to specification, we get our money back."

"But what happens to the dead soldier?" enquired Bryce MacKassey, MP, pinpointing the weakness of unreliable drug-hoarding refusing to accept the generic drugs bought by the government. Some have the wrong designation time; some are required to be 70 or 80 per cent of the required potency. "You don't get your money's worth" commented an MP. "Some are flushed down the toilet in disgust," said Dr. Lewis Brand MP, who has worked in naval hospitals.

Government and medical practices don't mix, suggested Dr. P. B. Rynard MP, who said: "We are being locked up in bureaucratic controls in a prison of our own making, and operating at the lowest level of efficiency. I think it is pitiful."

As their last word, the civil servants gave their personal opinions on the cost of drugs. Most indicated that to buy the cheapest in this crucial field is a false economy. "I know I pay more for my family's prescriptions than the government pays," said one: "But I am not unhappy; I am a pharmacist, and I know what goes into them." "I am much happier dispensing a brand-name drug than a generic one," said another, who is also a trained pharmacist.

A Chance To Serve

The Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) is one of this country's least-known foreign-aid programs. Yet in its six years' existence it has become one of the most effective.

Today, 500 Canadians of all ages and from a wide range of professions are scattered around the world, sharing their knowledge with those eager to learn. A nurse is working in the Jamaica slums, a once-retired engineer is building roads and bridges in Uganda, a University of Toronto graduate is teaching in a girls' school in Nigeria.

There is no glamor to these jobs. The volunteers accept the local wage and living conditions. They agree to stay in the post for two years. Some come back to Canada to settle in the community once again, but many beg to remain or to be transferred to a new and challenging post. The reason is simple. The

assignment is so personally rewarding. The gratitude of their hosts is so heartfelt. CUSO, an independent agency supported by business and industry, foundations and private groups and governments, is now undertaking a recruiting drive for 400 volunteers to fill some of the most urgent requests.

In these days when qualified people can more or less pick their own jobs there is little motivation for Canadians to sacrifice material reward for higher purposes. But what could be more rewarding than sharing with a young African the discovery of the alphabet, the Indian farmer the benefits of fertilizer for his crop?

It would be a sad commentary on our times if among the newly trained, the practicing professionals and the retired there are not 400 Canadians willing to answer CUSO's call.

Now It's Felt-Tipped Pens

Here's testimonial for felt-tips and other "soft" writing pens from a doctor in Beverly Hills, Calif. They don't tickle the feet.

The doctor is a podiatrist. One use of the new soft pens is to mark sore spots on patient's feet; the markings leave impressions in patients' shoes, indicating how alterations in the shoes might bring relief. Now that the doctor has switched to the soft pens he has such a soft touch that patients don't complain.

So there's one reason for the phenomenal growth in sales of soft-point pens. There are other reasons, too. For the pens—which range from the chubby-barreled Magic Markers down to sleek, streamlined instruments and which generally sell for less than \$1—are the biggest thing to hit the pen-and-pencil scene since ballpoints.

The pens, introduced only a few weeks ago, outlast conventional fountain pens last year. Prime Minister MacKenzie King announced that Canada is at war with Japan.

Our Yesterdays

JAPAN - FIVE YEARS AGO (December 7, 1941) Japan declared war upon the United States and Great Britain. An electrified nation immediately united for a terrific struggle ahead. During the day, Japanese planes bombed Manila, Honolulu, Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field, Hawaii, without warning.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 7, 1956) The Provincial Government agreed to the setting up of a reception centre which will provide medical and nursing facilities for Hungarian refugees. Dr. A.E. Ings, of Montague, was elected president of the Prince Edward Island veterinary Medical Association at its 36th annual meeting.

Viruses And Colds

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Colds are as prevalent today as they were 30 years ago. A group of physicians in England have conducted research on respiratory infections for at least this long and although they cannot suggest a remedy, they have learned a few things about the disease that we always suspected but could not prove.

Despite the prevalence of colds, the Englishmen found that they are less contagious than influenza, measles, and other viral disorders. In addition the cold microbes are inactivated rather quickly by drying. The bacteria are best passed along in the air in medium-sized beads that are speared out when talking, sneezing, or coughing. Small droplet dry too fast and large pieces of contaminated mucus fall to the ground before they can be inhaled.

Colds are caught by close contact with the sufferer and there is a good possibility that people are constantly exchanging their respiratory viruses. It is here that resistance enters the picture. Colds are more prevalent among those who are overworked or weakened through a period of stress. Sudden changes in weather or also play a role.

Most of the infectious material comes from the nose. Lesser amounts are produced by coughing and talking than by sneezing and blowing the nose. The air in a room in which children with colds are having a party is loaded with viruses.

Most of us develop temporary immunity to respiratory infections and when a recurrence takes place we usually suspect another virus. This is logical because hundreds of different strains are capable of causing nasal and throat infections. A virus that causes very little trouble in one person may find another victim so susceptible that the outcome is bronchial pneumonia.

In all probability most common colds are caused by the rhinovirus. Rhino refers to the nose and to date more than 80 different rhinoviruses have been isolated.

SUBSPECIALIST A reader writes: I looked up my doctor in a special directory and he is listed as "subspecially" meaning that he is a notch or so beneath a specialist.

REPLY No, it means just the opposite. This physician became a specialist in internal medicine first and then went on to become a heart specialist. He spent up to four years learning his specialty and had to pass a tough oral and written examination to become a certified specialist. This specialty usually is listed as cardiovascular rather than cardiology.

SUGAR CUBE EATER N.W. writes: I don't care for candy but I eat a sugar cube every day. Will this harm my teeth? I'm 24 years old.

REPLY Yes, but you could nullify the effect by rinsing the mouth with water or brushing the teeth.

SKULL FRACTURE AND SENSES L.A.H. writes: Could a skull fracture sustained in an accident affect the senses of taste and smell?

REPLY Yes, if the centers governing these senses were involved in the injury.

ALLERGIC TO ASPIRIN N.W. writes: If a person is allergic to aspirin would he die after taking one tablet?

REPLY Yes, if he were extremely allergic to the drug. But such a marked sensitivity is rare.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Keep a lamp or flashlight on the nightstand. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

CREDIT FOR STALIN MOSCOW (AP) — Marshal Vasily D. Sokolovsky Friday credited Stalin with directing the battle of Moscow which turned back the German armies 2 1/2 years ago. He said Stalin stayed in Moscow throughout and directed the battle.

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Public Image At Low Ebb

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) — President Johnson and his officials are suffering another bout of the credibility gap—people don't believe what they say. This is a recurring ailment for the president, among the press at least. It is also true that his public image remains at a low ebb. That in itself could be normal for a president of his length of tenure. It has afflicted other presidents in the past.

In any event, the Louis Harris Poll says only 43 per cent approve of Johnson's all-round performance, a record low rating. George Gallup gives him a slightly better rating of 48 per cent, which is back to September levels but well below the high mark of last January.

Columnist James Reston of the New York Times, discussing reports the FBI had electronic bugging devices at work in the Dominican embassy here, says: "The most serious problem in America today is that there is widespread doubt in the public mind about its major leaders and institutions."

There is more troubled questioning of the veracity of statements out of the White House today than at any time in recent memory. PUBLIC SKEPTICAL

Columnist Richard Wilson, of the Washington Evening Star, who is normally fairly sympathetic, says it is "little wonder that public skepticism has risen to its present level."

"Anyone who travels out of Washington finds the same phenomenon. People just do not accept on its face what they hear and read about the precise terms and objectives of the Johnson programs." As for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where the president strives to mend and strengthen relations despite Viet Nam, Harvard Professor Marshall D. Shulman says this after returning recently from there: "It would be hard to exaggerate the depth of bitterness and skepticism toward President Johnson in the Soviet Union and perhaps to a lesser extent in Eastern Europe."

There are some other domestic current doubts. The budget for the year ending June 30 next may well be nearly \$20,000,000,000 higher at around \$128,000,000,000—all because of Vietnamese war costs. This would confirm suspicions, quickly deflated officially last August.

Just before the Nov. 8 U.S. election, it was announced next year's military draft would be down—but all signs from Viet Nam say manpower needs are rising. CANADIANS CLEARED Finally, Newsweek has just confirmed in detail previous reports of how the U.S.—despite claims of wanting peace feelers from North Viet Nam—announced down peace efforts by United Nations Secretary-General U Thant and wrongly blamed Canadian intelligence for doing so.

Thant, with agreement from the late Adlai Stevenson, got agreement from Ho Chi Minh for envoy-to-envoy talks with the U.S. in Burma, says Newsweek. The interview with Thant says the efforts ended in February, 1965, with an American rejection followed 24 hours later by the start of bombing of North Viet Nam.

The U.S. said feelers by Canada in Hanoi showed by negotiation by the North Vietnamese president for peace discussions. But Thant "made his own check with the highest officials in the Canadian government."

"They quickly confirmed his belief that their International Control Commission dealt only with lesser Hanoi officials, with no direct access to Ho Chi Minh whatsoever."

Christmas Toy Trends Christian Science Monitor

There was a time when an orange in a Christmas stocking was a luxury and a delight to a child. But since orange juice has become a staple on the American breakfast table the orange has lost its charm as a seasonal gift.

So it is with toys. One could hardly expect the modern toy to ask for a carpet sweeper or a rocking horse. Kids play at being adults. Since mother uses a vacuum cleaner, not a hand sweeper, and father goes to work in a car, not on horseback, small girls and boys want copies of power-driven household tools and transportation.

This runs up the bill for parents and grandparents. The price tags on some playthings this season are surprising, but well-to-do relatives are buying the costly items.

There is nothing wrong with an expensive toy if it encourages a child to use his talents. A simple camera or toy sewing machine may start a child on a career.

Fortunately, youngsters do not let price enter into their enjoyment of a present. A kitten obtained from the city pound may outrate the most expensive gift a child receives, in a youngster's estimation. The criterion is the fun or the education the boy or girl gets from the plaything.

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