

W. J. Hancock, Publisher
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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1965

The Ottawa Scene

Prime Minister Pearson anticipates, perhaps too optimistically, that the work of the present parliamentary session can be accomplished in three weeks.

The recess since Christmas was designed to provide a cooling off period. But developments within both the major parties have not been very conducive to this result.

Opposition Leader Diefenbaker's status is still being challenged by his Quebec lieutenant, Mr. Balcer, and the Government itself is in for a tough period of probing and questioning even before the conclusion of the Dorion probe into bribery charges.

This, in the view of Ottawa correspondents, precludes the chance of an early 1965 budget, which is not likely to appear before mid-April, perhaps later.

Meantime there are major pieces of legislation scheduled for passage before prorogation. One of them, the Canada Pension Plan, was discussed in these columns yesterday.

The code would establish \$1.25 an hour as a minimum wage for an eight hour, 40-hour week, with two weeks of paid vacation after one year of service.

Mr. Douglas' Optimism

On his arrival at Ottawa for the current parliamentary session, NDP Leader Douglas advised a Montreal Star reporter that Conservative leadership problems and current investigations into the Liberal administration had provided his party with an opportunity to make "the greatest breakthrough since the party was founded."

These statements are hard to reconcile. Nor can we get much illumination from his further statement predicting realignments leading to a new two-party system.

Many have argued that it would be most desirable to get back to a two-party system, but we didn't expect to find Mr. Douglas among them.

Douglas who was strongly in favor of minority parliaments with the NDP holding the balance of power. How come that he has changed his mind? Elsewhere in his comments we get a glimmer of light on the subject.

For if it is the socialist ideology that Mr. Douglas is banking on to attract voters, wasn't that precisely the old CCF gospel that was abandoned at the NDP founding convention? The new creed set forth at that convention had little to do with ideologies of any kind.

The Last Dependency

It is of interest to note that tomorrow, the last remaining British dependency in West Africa becomes an independent sovereign state within the Commonwealth.

The changes which have culminated in independence started in 1947 with the introduction of an unofficial majority in the legislature and the holding of the first parliamentary election.

At a conference held in London last July it was agreed that The Gambia should become independent. But the country is small (4,003 square miles) and has a small population.

There are historical, ethnic and economic links between The Gambia and Senegal, in which it forms an enclave. Joint ministerial and technical committees have been established to discuss common problems.

Facing The Facts

For months informed commentators in Britain have been preaching wage and price restraint and improved industrial efficiency as key ingredients for sustained economic growth.

"The country had better face the facts," he said. "The desirable improvements in our pensions, hospitals and housing will be earned from greater productivity.

Coming from the labor minister of a Labor government, this was laying it on the line. If politicians would only speak more in this vein during election campaigns, now, there would be less confusion as to what social legislation involves.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The world's largest oil tanker is currently being constructed in Japan. A 150,000-ton vessel, it is expected to make its maiden voyage in December this year.

According to The Times of London, James has become once more the most popular Christian name for boys, replacing John among children whose birth was announced in The Times last year.



YESTERDAY'S FACE-OFF

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Apology Received For Inaccuracy Charge

A regular reader of this column, Mr. Paul Bouchard, has just written me a very welcome letter:

"I wish to express my appreciation for your Ottawa Report in the Barrie Examiner. I find it both interesting and enlightening.

I am grateful for many letters from readers who are interested in the behind-the-scenes explanations and frank interpretations of current affairs.

Of course I get my share of knocks too. For example, a few weeks ago when Ralph Cowan MP was attacking the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation because it was converting the Toronto radio station CJBC to the French language.

PARDON WHO'S ERROR? One employee of the CBC read it in the 'Daily Record-Journal' of Oakville, and wrote a seemingly official letter to Mr. Bill Cotton, publisher of that newspaper.

"Since you might be trapped by the inaccuracies of your columnist Patrick Nicholson, I decided to let you in on some facts. He's a little confused, to put it mildly.

The writer was obviously ignorant about the fact which I wrote, but I am surprised that even the lowest intelligence would not be put on its guard by the similarity between the initials of the church and the call sign.

I was of course certain of the veracity of what I had written. But for the record I queried the radio licensing authority, the federal Department of Transport. They wrote to me: 'The call sign CJBC was allocated to Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, for the years 1925, 1927 and 1929 to 1932.'

It did not seem appropriate to communicate with a junior employee of the CBC, so I wrote to the chief executive, vice-president W.E.S. Briggs:

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (February 17, 1940)

Inspector J.A. Wright, of 'H' Division Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax, will take over command of 'L' Division, Charlottetown, it was learned last night. He will replace Superintendent E.C. Salt.

The Royal Navy's destroyer Cossack rescued 300 to 400 British seamen from the German prison ship Albatross.

TEN YEARS AGO (February 17, 1955) A mammoth airlift to take materials into the Arctic for the construction of the eastern section of Dewline, (DEW, distant early warning) has been assigned Maritime-Central Airways.

Last evening at the Charlottetown Hotel, 170 Rotarians and friends gathered to celebrate the golden anniversary of Rotary. A message of greeting was read from Prime Minister St. Laurent and Premier Matheson extended personal greetings on behalf of the Province.

Joe's Name-Changing

Montreal Star

Well-meaning name changers are starting again with Premier Smallwood leading the way in planning to make it Churchill River and Churchill Falls instead of Hamilton.

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Winter Wears On

Ottawa Journal

The countryman always feels better after he takes the first sheet from the big Feed and Grain Store calendar on the kitchen wall.

The second month is the shortest but it brings blizzards and below-zero spells. Winds swirl dry snow over the fields; they pile drifts in the roads.

But it is February. Each day the sun climbs a higher arc and the rays reflect jewel gleams from granular snow.

It is a bit early to look for the pussy willows' furred noses, but by the middle of the month a man can feel certain the lilac buds by the kitchen door are just a trifle larger.

Days plod by and Winter wears on. Snowbanks by the roadside are piled high, but there's a hint of Spring in the colors at dawn and in the sunset pageant.

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Paralysis Of The Face

By Dr. Theodore R. van Dellen A 25-year-old secretary began her letter: 'Ch. brother! I awakened two days ago, hopped out of bed, I looked at myself in the mirror. My face was pulled to one side, the corner of my mouth dropped to the right, and I could not smile without looking silly.

This story is typical of Bell's palsy and we advised her to start treatment immediately. Most victims get well spontaneously but there is no way to tell whether this will take place during the first few weeks of the illness.

The facial nerve is involved in Bell's palsy. This structure controls the movements of the muscles on each side of the face, including those of the forehead and eyelids. We can assume that our reader was unable to wrinkle the forehead or close the eyes on the affected side.

The facial nerve originates in the brain and leaves the skull through a small opening just in front of the ear. When the nerve swells as a result of inflammation, it is pinched in this bony canal and cannot function until swelling subsides.

Early treatment with one of the corticosteroids reduces swelling. Should medical treatment fail, operation is suggested to reduce the pressure on the nerve. Surgery may be done when electrical tests show that the structure is not transmitting impulses after three weeks or if muscles remain paralyzed after five weeks.

GASTRIC CARCINOMA

Mrs. B. writes: What symptoms would let a person know he has stomach cancer?

During the early stages, the majority have vague abdominal distress, which is like ordinary indigestion. Later, the victim encounters weight loss, anemia, and abdominal pain. Stomach cancer is treacherous because there are no specific symptoms.

EXTRACTION ADVISED H.B. writes: My doctor wants me to have an infected tooth removed. How soon after the extraction may I expect relief from rheumatic pains?

Immediately, when the infected tooth is responsible for pain. This is unlikely but regardless of the outcome—have it done because any infection tends to reduce efficiency and resistance.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Reduce the sugar intake to prevent tooth decay.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Two little girls on their way home from Sunday School were discussing their lessons. "Do you believe there is a devil?" asked one. "No," said the other. "It's like Santa Claus. It's your father." — Toronto Star.

An official of a Winnipeg child development clinic has stated that certain TV shows cause children nightmares, and hence parents should supervise the TV diet.

No doubt many parents would like some guidance on just how to go about this job. — Ottawa Citizen.

Weeping tears of female outrage, the lady driver insisted she had given a signal just before her car was struck by one driven by a man. "Lady," said the man patiently, "I saw your arm go up, then down, then straight out, then into circles. You tell me that's a signal?"

"For Heaven's sake!" screeched the woman. "The first three signals were wrong; didn't you see me erase them?" — Montreal Star.

Many a man gets drunk because his friends do. He could not stand them if he were sober. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

It is strange that British progressives who believed Hitler when he said he had no territorial ambition, refused to believe Dr. Sukarno when he said he had, and is actually waging war to prove it. — Yorkshire Post.

United States banks have come forth with some news which should put the male element of the population on its guard. Colored cheque books, some of them in patterns to accord with ladies' raincoats, were tried out experimentally two years ago and have won wide favor among the female population.

Some say the Hanoi government is pivotal in Moscow's campaign to bring more Communist parties into the controversial March 1 meeting in Moscow to prepare for a unity conference.

Reaction Still Uncertain

By Carman Cumming Canadian Press Staff Writer

In the partial lull after last week's American strikes at North Viet Nam, the over-riding question has been: What are the Communists likely to do about them?

So far, there has been no concrete answer. And that fact alone may be reassuring to those who feared the attacks would provoke a stiff Chinese reaction.

But the next move is anybody's guess. Southeast Asia experts at the United Nations, attempting to assess the true intentions of the various governments amid the welter of threats and charges, shy away from firm predictions.

PLAY IT COOL

Some say the Russians so far have tended to "play it cool"—at least pending assessment of the results of Premier Kosygin's 11-day trip to North Viet Nam, China and North Korea.

They point out that the three Communist capitals most directly concerned—Moscow, Peking and Hanoi—are involved in a tricky three-cornered relationship.

They say that the North Vietnamese government of Ho Chi Minh, sometimes called a tool of Peking, is actually playing a balancing act between the two Communist giants.

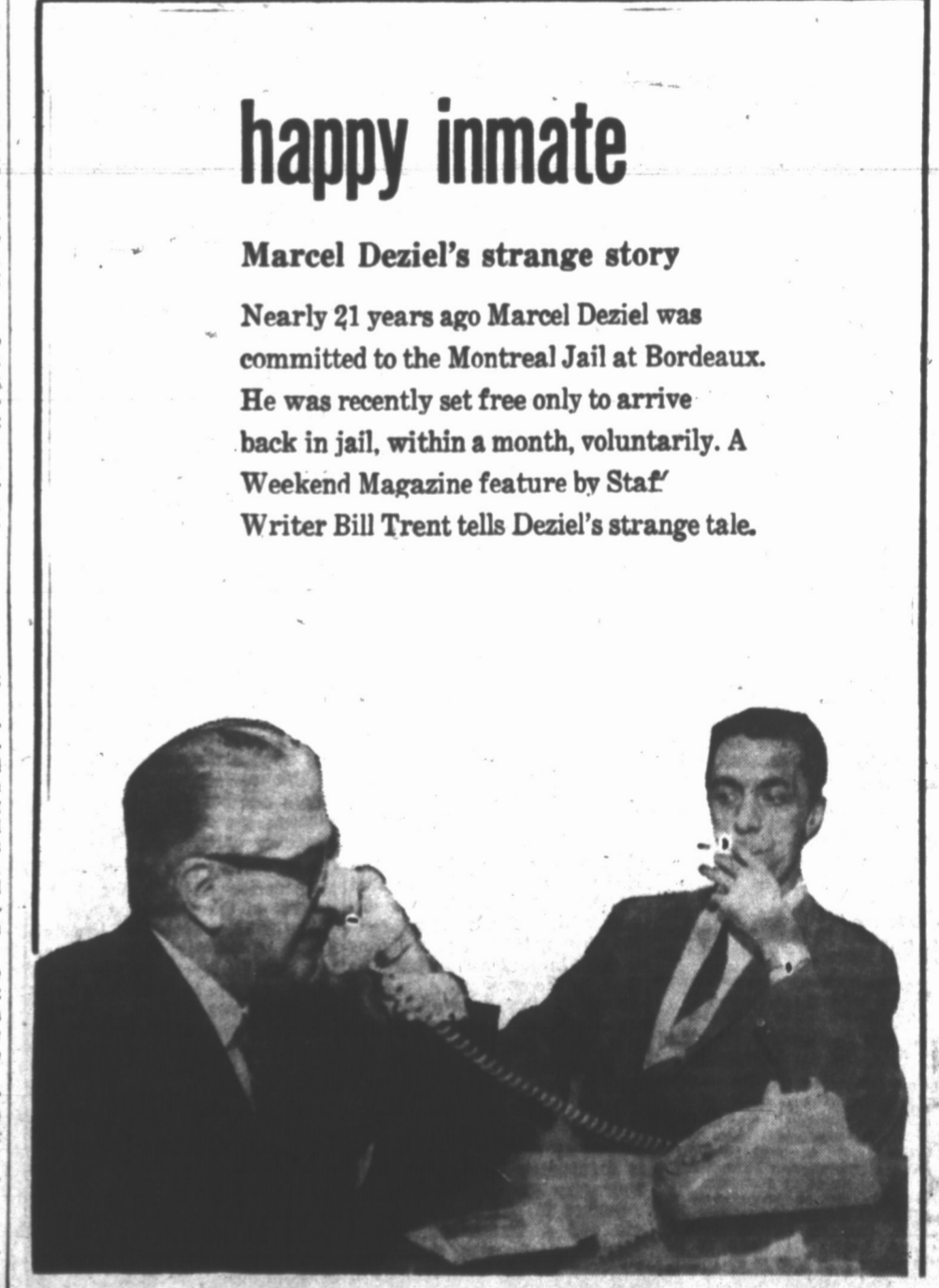
Ho himself and his foreign minister, Tran an Dong, are represented as leaning towards Moscow in its ideological struggle with Peking. Other elements of the Hanoi regime lean toward Peking.

Kosygin's action in promising Soviet military aid in the Hanoi-directed guerrilla war against South Viet Nam appears to conflict with this view. But some experts say this was the least the Soviet leader could do under the circumstances to prove loyalty to the rest of the Communist world.

One expert familiar with Hanoi politics said the North Vietnamese leaders don't like to think of themselves as pawns between the two giants, but rather as a bridge to bring them closer together.

This expert said the North Vietnamese want to maintain their freedom of action and fear Peking moves that may bring massive American attacks on their own country.

But there is no indication yet the North Vietnamese will risk antagonizing Peking by attending the March 1 meeting.



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