The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Grave Repercussions

Belgian paratroopers dropped from United States military transport aircraft have rescued upwards of a thousand white hostages from rebel forces in the Congo, but more than 50 whites were killed in savage rebel reprisals and the death toll of foreigners since the operation began has neared the hundred mark. The whole story is a tragic one, not least because of the fact that it has given rise to a new wave of hostility against the United States on the part of other African nations. Disputes and conflicts in Africa, they contend, can best be handled by and through the Organization for African Unity and the United Nations.

Even American newspapers are expressing grave doubts as to the wisdom of the course followed. They grant that American lives were at stake; but direct American military intervention in Africa not only inflames African opinion but also invites a corresponding move from China or the Soviet Union. Both these nations are involved in many African trouble spots. Yet they have apparently learned the advantage of a more subtle game.

Moreover, this was the first time Belgian troops had openly returned to the Congo since their descent on the country only a few days after the formal granting of independence to the land in the summer of 1960. The reason given then for their return was the mutiny of the Congolese Army. It was a move which precipitated the upheavals which led to the breakaway of Katanga and the murder of Premier Patrice Lumumba.

To most Africans outside the Congo, the present Premier Tshombe is an outcast because of his reliance on white mercenaries recruited from Rhodesia and South Africa—lands which symbolize outward hostility to the black man. Nor is it forgotten that Tshombe himself was not above using hostages for political ends. It is this that makes the promptness with which Washington and Brussels have moved to support his thrust toward Stanleyville frought with embarrassing consequences for the future of United States policy.

Some Canadian as well as American lives were involved in this incident, and we can fully appreciate the humanitarian motives which prompted the American government to act as it did. But unfortunately the political aspects cannot be dissociated from the operation, and it is these that now threaten to put U.S. diplomacy on trial in Africa as never before.

No Place For Drunks

The drunk at the wheel is a problem for Western and Communist countries alike, and according to a survey recently conducted by Reuters news agency, most of them are doing something about it. Most nations have either stiffened their penalties or are making plans to do so in the near future.

Top credit in this regard is given to Sweden, which helped to pioneer the worldwide movement against drunken drivers, which first took legislative measures against the offense in 1920, introduced blood tests in 1934 and now provides a maximum of one year in prison for a "first degree" offense and six months imprisonment for a "second degree" (less serious) offense. Fines, payable in installments, are fixed on a percentage of the convicted driver's salary.

In the Soviet Union, a driver convicted of this offense for the first time is banned from the roads for a year; for the second time he is banned for two years, and for the third time for life.

Frenchmen convicted of drunken driving face a prison sentence of up to one year or a fine equivalent to $1,000, or both, as well as the suspension of their license. A blood test is carried out on the accused, and the results of this analysis are submitted to a special traffic court.

West Germans face sentences of up to five years' imprisonment and the loss of their driving licenses for life. But since the imprisonment of drunk drivers who do not cause accidents is a controversial issue, the treatment varies from court to court. To prove "public danger," police use special balloons which change color when blown up with alcoholized breath.

In England, if convicted by magistrates, the guilty are liable to a fine of 100 pounds, or four months imprisonment—or both. If the case is considered serious enough to go before a judge and jury in a higher court, there may be a fine or imprisonment of up to two years—or both.

Canadian penalties are not listed in the report that we have seen of the Reuters' survey; but in many provinces there is complaint that they are not heavy enough, or are not being strictly enough enforced. But at least we can claim to be more severe in this respect than Argentina, where, ironically, being drunk at the wheel can save a driver from going to prison. If a sober driver accidentally kills a pedestrian there, he may be imprisoned for up to three years; but if he can prove he had a few drinks at the time and is not a habitual drunk, the court rules he was not in full possession of his senses and lets him off free!

Ominous Portent

More than 30 million Italians went to the polls this week to elect new regional provincial and communal councils. The turnout was 90 per cent of the voting population. The election was generally regarded as a test of the political feelings of the country. It was the first opportunity the voters had had to show how they viewed the year and a half of their centre-left government, and the result was anything but promising for the country's political future.

Between them the four parties that make up the government lost 3.6 per cent of the total vote. This would not be a matter for undue concern, were it not that the Communist vote showed a 3 per cent increase.

Several factors, such as the recent happenings in Moscow and the unpopularity of the continuous Communist-inspired strikes, had led many forecasters to expect a decrease in the popular support for the Communists. But everywhere in the industrial north and centre, where prosperity is greatest, except in the province of Turin, Communists made noticeable gains.

The result will make the work of the government more difficult. It has not received the clear mandate for which it hoped, and pressure from the left is bound to increase. Its own support from the Socialists has been whittled down, while the Christian Democrats themselves, bulwark of Italian democracy, have once again lost further popular support.

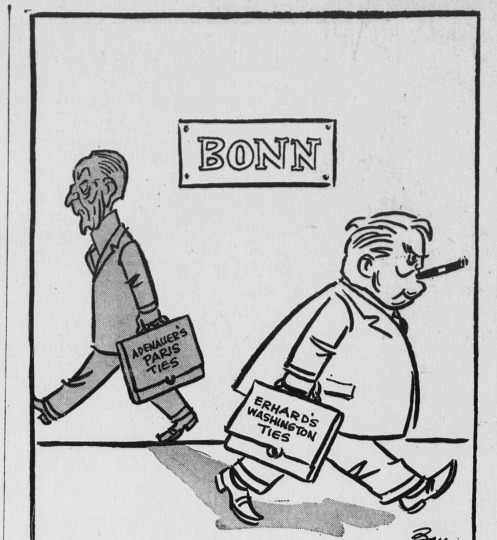
Italy's NATO allies cannot afford to view the situation complacently, though there seems nothing they can do about it.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Of 84,835 immigrants to Canada in the first nine months of the year," notes the Ottawa Journal, "45,835 settled in Ontario, 19,757 in Quebec and 61 in Prince Edward Island." That's almost as bad as the way they divided up the handouts at recent federal-provincial conferences.

* * *

Canadian scientists will attempt this winter to establish whether Hawk Lake in Manitoba was created by a meteorite. They plan to drill 3,000 to 3,500 feet below the lake bed and study the core removed from the drill hole. Scientists estimate that it would have required a 1,000,000-ton meteorite travelling 36,000 miles an hour to have created a crater the size of the lake.



ME AND MY SHADOW

GREGG CAREER RECALLED

King's Blooper Proved A Masterstroke

Arthur Blakely in The Montreal Gazette

It is one of those stories which despite the absence of proof or official confirmation, Ottawa has accepted as gospel these 15 years and more.

In August, 1947, a vacancy was created in W.L. Mackenzie King's postwar Cabinet by the death of Fisheries Minister H.F. G. Bridges, one of the junior but promising members.

His death left New Brunswick without cabinet representation and Mr. King, often none too hasty in calling byelections, acted promptly.

The story has it that he telephoned New Brunswick's Liberal Premier John B. McNair and asked him if he had any ideas about a good replacement. Mr. McNair, after turning the matter over in his mind, is said to have replied with a question of his own: "What about Greg?" The man he had in mind, the story goes, was Gregory Bridges, brother of the deceased Cabinet Minister.

Mr. King is supposed to have thanked him for his "interesting suggestion" and terminated the telephone conversation to give it some thought.

But Mr. King, never quite as omniscient as his contemporaries believed, wasn't nearly as well posted on New Brunswick matters, or the Bridges family for that matter, as was Premier McNair.

The New Brunswick "Greg" who leaped to his mind was Milton F. Gregg, VC, a Canadian war hero, who had been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons by the Bennett Government in 1934 and had served in that capacity until the outbreak of war and who had left the army to become President of the University of New Brunswick.

OFFERED RIDING

Mr. King remembered the former Sergeant-at-Arms as a quiet, pleasant, mild- mannered, quiet-spoken man. To be added to this were substantial assets. An authentic war hero... a distinguished educationist . . . a sound knowledge of the operations of the House of Commons.

Mr. King, for once, didn't hesitate.

He offered Mr. Gregg the Liberal nomination in Mr. Bridges' riding of York-Sunbury, and a Cabinet post if he were elected.

The invitation was as promptly accepted.

The announcement that followed created at least as big a stir in New Brunswick Conservative circles as it did among the local Conservatives. And no one, it is said, was more surprised than Premier McNair.

Mr. Gregg, who had owed his Commons appointment to Conservative Prime Minister Bennett, was known to provincial Liberals and Conservatives alike as a man of Conservative background and meanings.

Once local Liberals had recovered from any surprise that they may have felt, they rallied behind their new candidate. Local conservatives, however didn't forgive and forget quite as easily.

In the event, Mr. King's blooper proved a masterstroke. Mr. Gregg secured strong Liberal backing and also, it is said, picked off the votes of quite a few innocent Conservatives.

ENTERED UN SERVICE

He won the election easily and went on to become Minister of Fisheries (1947), Minister of Veterans Affairs (1948) and Minister of Labor (1950). He held this last Cabinet post until he was defeated at the polls in the same 1957 general election which toppled the St. Laurent Government.

After his defeat, he entered the service of the United Nations, and, more recently, joined Canada's diplomatic service at the earnest invitation of Prime Minister Lester Pearson, an old Cabinet colleague.

And whatever happened to Gregory Bridges who, but for a Prime Ministerial blunder might have entered the King Cabinet in 1947?

His fortunes have prospered.

By an interesting coincidence, he was appointed a judge of the King's Bench Court of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick in June, 1948, only a few months after the fateful error in names is said to have occurred. In 1955 he was appointed to the appeal division of the same court.

On Oct. 10, 1963, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench division.

And just last week, he was named Chief Justice of New Brunswick, the highest judicial post in his province.

And whom did he succeed?

By yet another interesting coincidence, he succeeded the Hon. John B. McNair, former premier of New Brunswick, who retired on attaining the age of 75 years.

Civil Service Pensions

Winnipeg Free Press

It is an easy matter for Mr. Stanley Knowles to rise piously in the House of Commons, as he did last week, and urge the government to increase the pensions paid to retired civil servants. Some government pensioners, though probably not as many as Mr. Knowles implies, are having difficulty living on their present pensions; if compassion were the only factor an increase might be called for.

But what about the thousands of other retired Canadians who have not worked for the government but whose pensions support it? They too are on fixed pensions. If Mr Knowles' suggestion were accepted the government would be placing its own pensioners in a favored position at the expense of the majority of retired Canadians, who cannot expect such treatment from their former employers

The truth is that civil service pensions, by and large, are considerably more generous than private ones. Many are as high as two-thirds of the salary paid prior to retirement.

Since 1958, when the Diefenbaker government set a precedent by raising their pensions, retired civil servants over 70 have also received an increase of $240 a year in the general old age pension and, like everyone else, become eligible for hospital insurance.

In deciding to turn down the request for increases, the present government correctly took the position that "it would be unfair to the great majority of retired Canadians who have not worked for the government to make special provision to protect the former employees of the government itself against increases in living costs." The government's reply continues:

"Pensions... must be looked upon basically as part of the remuneration received by employees for the services they rendered when they were employed. They are not payments based on need, nor should they be regarded as payments that are subject to increase on compassionate grounds.

To make them such would be to favor this minority of retired people by comparison with the majority of other retired Canadians who cannot expect such treatment either from the government as such or from employers for whom they had worked in the past.

John Birch Policemen

Christian Science Monitor

News that the John Birch Society has as members "growing numbers of police and personnel in sheriffs' departments throughout the country" is more than disquieting. It goes contrary to the role of the police democratic society as it is commonly understood and practiced.

The quotation is from John H. Rousselot, national director of public relations for the society He continued, as quoted by the New York Times from a press conference, "Police membership (in the society) is a private matter They can better educate themselves to the threat of Communism."

The press conference was occasioned by the announcement that 12 members of the Philadelphia police force had said they joined the JVOHN Birch Soci "because they were concerned over Communism and what they considered public resentment of the police." Two or three other policemen were also said to be members.

Mahor James Tate of Philadelphia said this was the way the Nazi an Communist parties got started, and that policemen could not join groups that are "against certain groups in the big cities." Mr. Rousselot said the Mayor was conducting a "smear campaign" against the society, and had made "about it, and that "there is absolutely nothing wrong with police being members of the John Birch Society."

The New York Times, in the same issue, printed a dispatch from Santa Ana, California, charging that a local chapter of the society made up exclusively of policemen had been "harassing" their chief.

The Birch Society apparently aims to educate policmen in its version of the Communist problem, protect them against civilian groups interfering with the kind of stern law enforcement that they call for, and against court decisions limiting police techniques.

With all respect to the rights that a democratic society extends to the members of the John Birch Society to organize and seek to influence others in the free market of ideas, under proper rules of law and political conduct, we cannot accept that police should in any organized way, become members of this of any other strongly committed political group.

Almost 600 residents of the Soviet Union claim they are more than 120 years old and nearly 22,000 have passed the 100 mark.

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Undue Concern About Health

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

The hypochondriac thrives on poor health. His preoccupation with bodily symptoms is so great he cannot think clearly or work satisfactorily. Most of his interpretations and fears are exaggerated but nothing can be done to convince him he is free from disease, even when confronted with firm evidence.

The term was coined more than a century ago to describe abdominal symptoms of nervous origin. A typical example is the 54-year-old bachelor who, for years, complained of fullness, belching, and nausea after meals. He was certain he had cancer and this fear kept him from working 75 per cent of the time. He had been X- rayed umpteen times. On three occasions physicians looked into his stomach with a gastroscope. The answer always was the same—normal stomach.

He wanted more X-rays, and when I suggested a psychiatrist instead, he walked out of the office. I understand he went to a large clinic where X-rays were negative. When he refused to accept this opinion, the clinic staff said they could open the stomach under a local anesthesia and let him look for himself (with mirrors). He left them in a huff.

Concern about illness is related to our basic desire to preserve life. Some authorities believe maladjustment to the environment is responsible for hychondriasis. The victim converts his worries into bodily symptoms. They may originate in any part of the body and simulate almost any organic disease. Distress is bizarre and inconsistent. Some victims are restless, irritable, nervous, and poor sleepers; others are depressed.

A hypochondriac is difficult to treat because he uses the condition as a defense measure to bolster his self-esteem and explain his shortcomings as a worker. He rarely has the insight to realize his symptoms are of emotional origin. If this could be developed, the victim would shed his minor aches and pains or not worry too much about them when his physician assures him there is no organic disease.

HEART CONTRACTIONS

L. W writes: What causes a higher pulse rate in the neck than in the wrist?

REPLY

An error in counting. In auricular fibrillation, many of the contractions of the heart are not felt as pulse beats at the wrist. The physician listens with the stethoscope over the heart and may record 120 beats whereas only 90 are counted at the wrist.

THYROID TESTS

D. S. writes: A metabolism test I took gave normal results. But a PBI shows a thyroid deficiency. Which test is more accurate?

REPLY

The PBI, provided it was done properly.

SPINAL CYST AND JUDO

R. H. writes: Would it be dangerous for a 22-year-old girl with a pilonidal cyst to take up judo?

REPLY

Yes, because any blow or injury to the lower spine may cause the cyst to act up.

(Note: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed in care of Theodore Van Dellen, co Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

First student: Great Scott! I've forgotten who wrote Ivanhoe. Second ditto: I'll tell you if you tell me who the Dickens wrote A Tale of Two Cities. Toronto Star

"So he broke your heart", said the friend to the sobbing girl. "Not only that, he played cards with Father and broke him too." — Montreal Star

New Congo Tragedy

By Joseph MacSween
Canadian Press Staff Writer

One of the many agonizing aspects of the new Congo tragedy is that there is nothing really surprising about it.

The Congo, unhappy republic in the heart of Africa, has been riding the back of one crocodile or another—or several—since it received independence from Belgium four years ago.

The United Nations kept the country from flying apart for four years but at least three rebellions were in progress when the UN contingent pulled out last June.

There were many warnings of worse chaos to come although, of course, no one could say that "white" hostages, including missionaries, were fated to be sacrificed in the Stanleyville strife.

Some observers now are calling for establishment of a new UN contingent in the Congo despite the financial troubles of the world body and the refusal of such countries as the Soviet Union and France to pay their share of peace-keeping costs.

RESCUE OPERATION

The Manchester Guardian says the Belgian - American paratroop rescue operation, using a British island for staging, was necessary but was also a confession of failure in international co-operation.

"The rescue would almost certainly have been undertaken by UN troops had they still been in The Congo and would have passed off with none of the international outcry that will be heard about the Belgians," says the Guardian.

A keen disappointment in some quarters has been the failure of the Organization of African Unity — embracing all independent countries of the continent—to reconcile Congolese Premier Moise Tshombe and rebel "premier" Christophe Gbenye.

The OAU started off well by helping to bring peace in a north Africa border quarrel between Algeria and Morocco. But, torn by dissension among its own members, it has been unable to do much about the far more serious black-Africa situation in the Congo.

OUTSIDE POWERS

The result is that outside powers are being drawn back to The Congo in a more serious way than, for instance, the cases in which Britain had to return to newly independent Tanganyika and Kenya earlier this year to restore order.

The harsh reaction of Prime Minister Jomo Kenyetta of Kenya to the Stanleyville operation demonstrates how suspicious some OAU leaders are of neo-colonialism. Ghana, as one example, describes Tshombe as the willing tool of the former imperialist masters.

Other OAU countries, such as Nigeria, wanted to back Tshombe in the hope of keeping communism, particularly of the Chinese brand, out of Africa. In view of divisions between its members, the OAU was unable to help.

Tshombe will indeed be a wonder-worker if he manages to save his own skin and lead the untrained, uneducated impoverished Congolese to real sovereignty amid the hostilities of his neighbors and the clash of world ideologies.

Not Always What They Seem

Brockville Recorder

THINGS are not always as they seem.

Now that President Johnson has been elected president of the United States in his own right, the local member of parliament, John R. Matheson, recalls an incident that took place during the signing of the Columbia River Treaty that again proves this fact.

Mr. Matheson was riding in the limousine carrying President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson from Vancouver to the treaty signing ceremonies in Blaine, Wash. Mr. Pearson and the President were discussing matters of mutual concern to the two countries, Mr. Pearson presiding over the settlement of a particular issue.

The President remarked that it would require the attendance of the secretary of the interior, who was riding behind them in another car. Mr. Pearson suggested they stop their car and get the secretary. The President agreed and the chauffeur pulled up on a lonely stretch of road.

As Mr. Johnson stepped from the car, he stepped into the midst of a small group of people, who were walking along the road, a mother and her three children. Saying quietly: "Where did they come from," the President, who had been recognized by the mother and the children, walked over to them, shook their hands and greeted them. At this point the news photographers and the TV boys in the motorcade raced to record the event.

The story got the big play in the evening newspapers, on TV and on radio, all of it keyed to the considerate act of a president who would stop his motorcade to greet a mother and her brood.

As we noted, things are not always what they appear do be, but then newsmen cannot be mind readers either. They have to call them as they see them. But the President and Mr. Pearson, with the secretary in their car, did settle their problem

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