

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Daily Mail... W. J. Harrow, Publisher

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Page 4 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1964

Warrants Full Inquiry

The charges involving the administration of justice at Ottawa, with allegations of attempted bribery and coercion in a Montreal narcotics case, and some hints of a possible linkup with Hal Banks, deposed boss of the Sealers' International Union who jumped his bail after conviction on conspiracy charges in Canada and is now in the United States, are of too serious a nature to be treated in a partisan manner by either side.

Justice Minister Favreau has accepted a suggestion of New Democratic Leader T. C. Douglas that a judicial inquiry be held, and he has agreed that this inquiry will be open, not in camera as he had previously indicated. It is to be hoped that it will also be unrestricted in its terms of reference, and that the whole matter will be thoroughly explored.

One of the advantages of our democratic system is the privilege of bringing issues of this kind before the public in plain, blunt terms. As set forth in Beauchene's Rules and Forms of the House of Commons, it is in truth the privilege of their constituents, secured to members not for their personal benefit but to enable them to discharge the functions of their office without fear of prosecution, civil or criminal.

The press is equally privileged in giving factual reports of their statements in Parliament, but in both cases there are responsibilities involved; and one of them is to guard against prejudicing the case of any person pending a fair hearing before a qualified tribunal.

In this case the Opposition members have acted within their rights in bringing forward their charges and in insisting on a complete investigation—not merely into some phases of the matter but into all its ramifications. Only thus, they contend, will the public interest be served and the Government itself exonerated from any suspicion of "whitewashing" the results.

This would seem to be the only proper course to pursue. The sooner a judicial inquiry along these lines is held, the better. Scandals of this kind are fortunately rare in Canadian public life, and the only way to keep them from recurring is to expose them to the full light of day. If they prove to be baseless, so much the better. But proof can only be established in the public mind by giving all the facts.

Mr. Knowles On Closure

Whenever the allocation of debating time is proposed in the House of Commons there are those who shout "Closure," and that is supposed to end the argument. It doesn't; and we are indebted to the veteran parliamentarian, Stanley Knowles, NDP member for Winnipeg North Centre, for clarifying this issue in a recent address before a college group in London, Ontario.

"The closure rule which we have on our books, in the form in which we have had it since it was brought in during the naval aid bill debate in 1913," said Mr. Knowles, "is anathema to me. Every time it has been used Parliament has hit a low point. To me what is wrong is that it involves a change in the rules in the middle of a debate. Such a practice on a football field would not work. It does not work in Parliament either. But can we not find a way whereby we can agree before a debate starts that it will be limited to a certain number of

days? A sub-committee on procedure has proposed just such a time allocation rule, predicated on agreement being reached in advance, but thus far it has not been accepted by Parliament as a whole.

"I am of course talking about our Parliament, the Parliament of Canada. I would be one of the first to point out that Canada is different from the United Kingdom in many respects, and it is quite true that practices that work in Britain cannot be copied here without modification to meet our needs. But no one in Canada ever suggests that there is any denial of free speech at Westminster. In fact, the British have rules for the limitation of debate far more stringent than anything any of us have ever proposed at Ottawa. . . . In any case, if a time-table, if the planning of time allotted to various debates, does not interfere with freedom of speech in the Mother of Parliaments, it would not hurt for us to take a serious look at the idea."

Mr. Knowles has taken the lead in advocating this measure for some time now. Having failed to win full parliamentary approval, he is taking his case before the public. He has done so at every opportunity he gets for speech-making. Good for him! It is a measure which could have saved the waste of a lot of time of the current parliamentary session, and of the taxpayers' money as well. It will come, sooner or later, in an amendment which ought, in fairness, to be dubbed the Knowles Rule in honor of its chief protagonist.

Redistribution

It will be some time yet before the machinery for parliamentary redistribution gets into operation, but each province now has a good idea of what is in store. We shall not lose our right to four members in the House of Commons, but it is certain now that no constituency in Prince Edward Island will survive without changes in its boundaries. This is the view expressed by Heath Macquarrie, MP, and he gives his reasons as follows:

According to the figures for this province the maximum size of a constituency will be 32,696, the minimum 19,618, the average 26,157. Prince County population is 40,894, Kings County 17,893. Thus, even if the minimum figure is chosen, Kings constituency would have to have an additional number of people, nearly 2,000. Therefore it can be predicted that if Kings constituency retains its name, it will have to be merged with Kings County but will include some of Queens County now in Queens constituency.

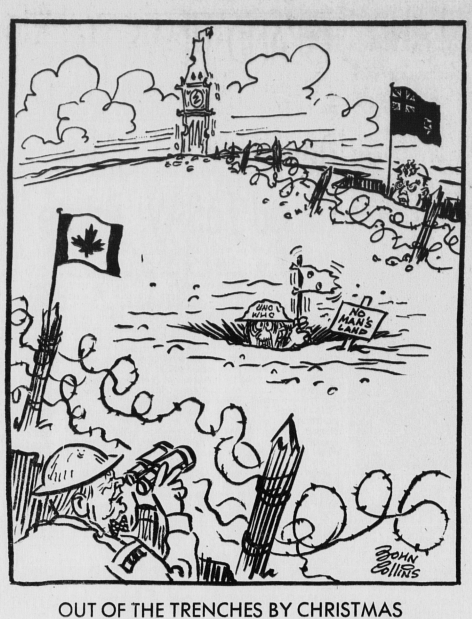
Prince, even if the maximum were used, must lose about 8,000 people (not voters—people). The adjustment of Queens may be in the form of a larger dual riding, or two single ones, depending on the commission's recommendation. In any event, as Mr. Macquarrie says, we are going to find drastic changes, and a departure from the well accepted and traditional patterns of constituency organization.

We will no longer be able to consider constituencies and counties as the same. But similar changes will be effected across the country. The net result will be more in accord with the principle of representation by population; and it will have the advantage this time of being created along non-partisan lines, which is more than can be said for the gerrymandering that went on too frequently in the past.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From Derby, England, comes this election story. The Tory candidate out canvassing knocked at a door. It was opened by a housewife. "Madam," he said, "are you on the electoral register of this constituency?" "Sorry," she replied, "we cook by gas."

The persecution of Jews apparently continues unabated in the Soviet Union. A report by the International Commission of Jurists, centered in Geneva, Switzerland, clearly indicates that anti-Semitism is not only a prejudice held by backward elements of the Soviet population, but a conscious, deliberate instrument of government policy. The commission represents 45,000 judges and attorneys from almost every non-Communist country. It has consultative status with the United Nations economic and social council.



OUT OF THE TRENCHES BY CHRISTMAS

Ottawa Report by Patrick Nicholson

Marked Advance In Medical Treatment

So many doctors have emigrated to Canada as refugees from the British national health service that we can truly thank the British welfare state for a high standard of our national health today. Without those refugees swelling the insufficient numbers of Canadian-trained doctors, we would be suffering a tragic and deplorable shortage of health specialists.

Canada is not training enough physicians to maintain our present level of medical care, we were recently warned by Dr. J. F. McCreary, who is head of the medical school at the University of British Columbia. Plenty of suitable students apply for admission to Canadian medical schools, but a reported 60 per cent of these applicants are refused through lack of space.

But fortunately, in Canada as in all other developed countries, the humanitarian task of the doctor is aided and shortened invaluable by the development of "instant medicines" during the past quarter-century.

LOW DRUG BILLS

Some vivid figures have just emerged from a survey of family expenditures in Britain carried out by the Ministry of Labour. These show the very low total cost of drugs, and underline the cheapness of this mid-20th-century break-through which saves lives, shortens illness and reduces pain.

No new medicines have been copied recently here, but we can assume that our spending pattern is better than that of other countries.

PEDESTRIAN PARADISE

Industry, Canadian Manufacturers Ass'n.

Pedestrians who may have been surprised to see their cars come into their own in this mobile society of ours may see a glimpse of what is developing in Paris.

THE SPY IN THE TRUNK

Milwaukee Journal

In Fleming is dead but the world of James Bond lives on. The spy novel has been reborn in the form of "The Spy in the Trunk" is unusual.

PUBLIC FORUM

The column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into correspondence regarding letters submitted.

Gout No Longer Disease Of Kings

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Many great names in history have been associated with gout. In remote times it was considered a "disease of kings and the kind of diseases," Arletius, the Cappadocian, remarked, "Only the gods truly understand gout." No wonder the disease was associated with luxury and an immoderate life.

The recently the victim of gout has been portrayed as a self-indulgent, well-fed, irritable character, resting his hand on a sofa on the stool. We know this prototype does not present the picture of gout as not all sufferers are famous, rich, or gluttonous.

The gouty patient is most common in the middle-aged male and many factors modify his diet and environment, including diet and medication.

With this in mind, Dr. J.H. Kellgren determined the uric acid in urine. In addition, uric acid readings in those of European descent were much higher in those who had relatives with gout. Glanders and other Pacific rates also had high readings.

REACTION TO ALCOHOL

A B. J. If a 30-year-old man takes as little as four ounces of whiskey in the evening, he has a 50 per cent chance of developing gout. Does this mean he has a disease of some kind?

HEALTHY TO ALCOHOL

It may ease the aching but why move to another area when the cause is in the blood? Cured with injection treatments, X-ray, or physical therapy? Furthermore, if the condition has reached the stage where surgery is needed, climate will have no influence.

ARTERY TENSION

S. D. Critics: Why does nervous tension cause a rise in blood pressure?

SECRET BALLOT

New York state tried out the secret ballot in an election in 1952, but discarded it the following year because it insulted the manliness and independence of the laboring man.

"McCulloch" CHAIN SAW

"The Woodman's Best Friend."

Keith Michael

25 Brackley Pl. Rd. 46423 Sherwood

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Most Canadians believe in private enterprise. They don't think the Government should take over anything unless there is no money in it.—Toronto Telegram.

Congolese Reprisals

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff Writer

Congolese rebels have murdered an unknown number of the 1,000 Belgian, American and Canadian hostages in reprisal for the attack on their last stronghold, Stanleyville. While the picture of hostage slayings remains unclear, the rebels carried out threat on at least some of the prisoners as Belgian captives supported by United States aircraft executed an assault designed to break the rebel rebellion and free the hostages.

REBEL REGULARS

Rebel regular troops had been retrained as more likely to protect hostages although atrocities have been high on both sides in the fighting. But even breakthroughs in the rebel regime might have let volatile elements close ally associated with the leadership gain the upper hand.

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Toronto Telegram

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