

Executive Editor: Frank Walker
Editor: [Name]
Publishing: every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd.

Represented nationally by Thomson Newspapers Agency Services, Toronto, 423 University Ave.
Phone: 2-889-941; Montreal, 640 Carleton Street
Telephone: 5-5942; Western Office, 1030 West 41st Street, Vancouver, B.C. 7-2737.

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Subscription rates:
Over \$25 per week by carrier.
\$12.00 a year by mail or rural routes and also non-serviced by carrier.

\$15.00 a year off island and U.K. \$20.00 per year in U.S. and elsewhere outside British Commonwealth.

Printed in Canada.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

PAGE 4 THURS. OCTOBER 22, 1964

Canada Vivaly Concerned

Addressing a Canadian Export Association convention at Montebello, Quebec, this week, Trade and Commerce Minister Mitchell Sharp again took the opportunity of stressing the importance of the coming "Kennedy round" of trade negotiations at Geneva. There was, he said, a greater basic realization in Canada than ever before of the policies which must be followed in pursuit of our national economic objectives.

The Canadian tariffs and trade committee, set up to do the preparatory work, has now pretty well completed its initial task of receiving briefs and conducting consultations with various Canadian interests. It has been going non-stop all summer.

Mr. Sharp again stressed that the present crisis in the negotiations focuses principally on the place of agriculture. "We have yet to see clear evidence," he said, "that the European Economic Community is prepared to accommodate its Common Agricultural Policy for the export requirements of the major agricultural producers." For Canada, with something like 30 per cent of its exports made up of farm products, this is a very important matter. If the negotiations failed on this point, they "could not be regarded as a real success."

At this stage, the minister would not care to predict the final outcome. But he felt that the meeting promises to be the most far-reaching of its kind ever attempted. In prospect are substantial across-the-board reductions in the tariffs of our major trading partners—the United States, Britain, the EEC and Japan. Non-tariff barriers as well as tariffs are to be placed on the block.

The intensive phase of negotiations will be getting under way next month. For Canada, the prize is clearly deserving of a major effort, and this is what Mr. Sharp pledged his department to make.

Sober Second Thoughts

A number of newspapers across the country are beginning to express second thoughts about the committee study which has been launched to rewrite Canada's constitution. The terms of reference for the study were established at last week's federal-provincial conference, and these were so wide as to leave doubt about the ability of the federal government to withstand provincial pressures that would involve a significant shift in the whole system of federal taxation and budgeting.

The formula of procedure was announced as having been concurred in unanimously at last week's conference. But it is recalled that a similar communique was issued after the April conference, which among other things touched upon the proposed Canada Pension Plan and forecast plans for setting up a tax structure committee. Later Premier Lesage expressed his disapproval and there was a flurry of private negotiations between Prime Minister Pearson and the Quebec premier which resulted in a package deal that later gained the approval of other premiers. This deal granted considerable tax concessions to the provinces and made basic changes in the pension plan.

These changes, as noted by the Toronto Globe and Mail, took place in secrecy entirely outside the acceptable democratic forms of the Legislatures and Parliament. Last week's conference proceeded in the

by another conference of the Prime Minister and premiers, where again decisions will be made behind closed doors. The public will know nothing but what it is told in unanimous communiques (which may turn out to be as un-unanimous as that of April) or what is leaked by particular individuals for their particular purposes.

The results will go to the Legislatures and Parliament for rubber stamping; for only the New Democratic Party, which alone holds power in no province, will be so free of entanglement at the secret conferences as to be able to function as an honest opposition.

"Canada," argues our Toronto contemporary, "is supposed to be a democracy, but these are not democratic proceedings. If the present strains upon Confederation make it necessary for there to be much federal-provincial consultation and even decision, then these consultations should at least be open to press and public, so that the wheeling and dealing, the threats and the compromises may be known to and judged by the governed."

It is the duty of a free press to alert the public to dangers of this kind. There are real threats to democracy in the present method of operation, and it is to be hoped our government leaders will see them before it is too late.

Inopportune Time

Washington has reportedly made one concession to the new Soviet leaders—and to United Nations realities—during the past week. It will be "open minded" about the idea of postponing the opening of the UN General Assembly.

The Assembly has been due to open just a week after the American election with an immediate head-on clash between Moscow and Washington over finances. A majority of nations would like to put off such a collision. The shakeup in Moscow provides a legitimate reason for Washington to agree to such a delay and possibly further talks. The new era of Soviet-American relations would thus not begin immediately with a major clash.

In addition, the fact that China has exploded an atomic device and is on the way to acquiring weapons capability makes its exclusion from the United Nations more impracticable than ever. Washington may want time to reconsider its position on this matter.

In any case the Assembly session, when it meets, may well prove to be the most important and the most precarious since the organization was launched in 1945. If a postponement would lead to the tensions which threaten to cause so much trouble at this time, it would be to the advantage of all concerned.

Out Of The Picture

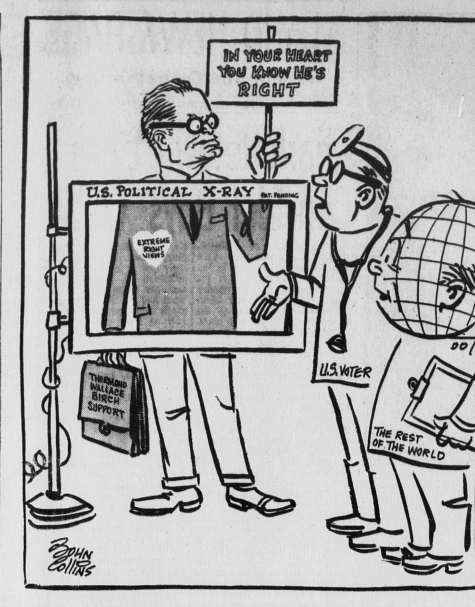
Among the speakers at the APEC conference this week was Mr. W. J. Lavigne, commissioner of the area development agency of the federal department of industry and defense production who reported on the encouraging promise shown as a result of the incentive program in 35 "designated areas" across the country. More than 124 plants, which provide employment for more than 12,000 workers, have been built as a result of the program.

The incentives, Mr. Lavigne said, have encouraged many companies to take expansion programs "off the shelf" and put them to work.

News of progress of this kind in any part of Canada is to be welcomed. It serves as an unhappy reminder, however, of the fact that this province was completely ignored in the designation of the areas entitled to take advantage of this incentive program. It is APEC's contention, we believe, that the whole Atlantic area should be so designated. In any case, we have never been able to account for the discrimination that was practiced to our disadvantage here.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Yet another federal government department has been suggested by Reid Scott, NDP member of parliament for Toronto-Danforth. Mr. Scott thinks that for the protection of the public, there should be a department of consumer affairs, with a full-time minister riding herd on the people who sell goods and services.



"THAT'S JUST THE TROUBLE, BARRY"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Reports Hopefully On Budget Prospects

"Positive and expansionary policies will be called for in the next few years," says Finance Minister Walter Gordon. With this approach, and providing we manage our affairs with skill and business, there is a tremendous future ahead of us in which all Canadians, of all national backgrounds, will have a chance to share.

Mr. Gordon was speaking to the 12th annual forum of the Marketing Association of Canada, his subject was "The Economy—what has gone right?" Describing the present outstretched boom, he said that the Gross National Product increased by 8.8 per cent in 1963 over the previous year, and he forecast that in 1964 we will record an even larger increase of 8 per cent over last year.

The same time last year, and represented 3.1 per cent of the labour force, the lowest rate for September in any year since 1956. FALTERING FIFTIES The spring board from which our economy took off for this upward surge was the devaluation of the external value of the dollar, Mr. Gordon explained.

Techniques Of Selling

Modern merchandising is continuing to endeavor to determine the buying points of customers to have them purchase other than what they came in to get or in excess of their wants.

Lifetime Job Security

The heightened concern over job security stirred by automation has brought a campaign to the United Steelworkers of America for "complete career security" for its more than 1,000,000 members.

vaccination And Reaction

By Dr. Theodore R. Vandellen A Chicagoan writes: "What are the reactions to a smallpox vaccination? There are good and bad ones. Typical 'Take' is good because it means the vaccine has immunized the susceptible person. A small reaction type blister appears on a red base approximately four or five days after vaccination. The lesion increases in size and during the next few days, the glands in the arm pit enlarge and become tender and fever secondary infection crusts form that may last several weeks before disappearing.

The accelerated reaction occurs in a person who is partially immune because of vaccination. A small blister forms a few days later, but, unlike the primary 'take', the vesicle does not enlarge and the reaction subsides during the second week.

Adverse reactions develop occasionally. The most common is secondary infection at the normal vaccination lesion due to neglect, scratching, or irritation of the external value of the dollar, Mr. Gordon explained.

"Following the great post-war expansion which culminated in a normal vaccination lesion due to neglect, scratching, or irritation of the external value of the dollar, Mr. Gordon explained.

President Johnson's Pledge

The United States promptly has extended its policy of nuclear deterrence to Southeast Asia following China's first nuclear test. This seems implicit in a pledge by President Johnson to the nuclear nations of support against any "blackmail," it is being suggested.

The pledge was one of four parts of a program, announced in a Sunday broadcast to the U.S. and the world, regarding what the president called the "Asian Peace Initiative."

Linked with that pledge, he said, U.S. deterrence will continue support for the limited test-ban treaty signed by the U.S., Russia and Great Britain. He singled out China in a call for nations to join the treaty.

Help For Latin America

Representatives of some 50 large banks and industrial firms from 12 nations outside of Latin America are joining to invest in that area and to stimulate other investment. The aim is to help stabilize the political situation and improve the economy.

The group calls itself the AD-EIA Investment Co. Its stockholders come from the United States, Japan, Canada and western Europe. Among them are Standard Oil of New Jersey, Ford, IBM, the First National City Bank of the Swiss Bank Corp., West Germany's Deutsche Bank and others.

ASK PENSION INCREASE OTTAWA (CP)—The government was asked Wednesday to increase periodically the pensions of retired civil servants to bring them in line with higher living costs.

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