

**Dangerous Precedent**

Parliament voted the other day to allow the Liberals to have their cake and eat it in the matter of proving their contention that the former Conservative government had committed Canada to a nuclear arms policy. When pressed to produce evidence that such commitments existed, External Affairs Minister Martin said he would have to consider whether "classified documents should be produced; and it was not to the production of a garbled version of this kind that the Com-  
 mittee agreed on motion of Mr. Stanley Knowles, NDP member for Winnipeg North Centre.

The House was deaf to Opposition Leader Diefenbaker's contention that the entire record, or nothing, should be produced. Mr. Martin professed shocked surprise that a former prime minister should suggest that classified documents dealing with the security of the nation be made public. But Mr. Diefenbaker didn't ask that. He said it was a case of "either/or." His point was that if these documents were secret, they should not be discussed at all. No court of law would permit witnesses to quote at will from documents incriminating other parties, to which the witnesses alone had access, without demanding that Mr. Diefenbaker demanded in this case.

This dreary argument about former nuclear commitments caused a lot of confusion in the last election campaign, and no expurgated edition of documents in the confidential file is going to throw much light on the matter. The Bible itself can be shown to prove almost anything if its statements are lifted out of their context and quoted for ulterior purposes. The Liberals will now be permitted to set a precedent in this respect so far as parliamentary practice is concerned.

It is possible, however, that they won't follow it through. Parliamentary precedents are dangerous things to create. If this proposal is acted upon there will be nothing to stop members from asking for summaries of advice given cabinet meetings by civil servants or of cabinet meetings themselves. It could raise a lot of complications in which no administration would care to be involved.

**Food Congress Problems**

At the opening of the World Food Congress in Washington this week, President Kennedy recalled that it was twenty years ago—in May 1943—that the first such congress was held. The objective has remained unchanged—"that all nations, all peoples, all inhabitants of this planet, have all the food they need." At the opening of the first congress President Franklin Roosevelt had declared: "Freedom from want and freedom from fear go hand in hand." That, said Mr. Kennedy, was still true today.

The same central problem that troubled President Roosevelt when he called the first world food congress is unfortunately with us today. Half of humanity is still undernourished or hungry. In 70 developing nations—with over two billion people—malnutrition is widespread and persistent.

"So long as freedom from hunger is only half achieved," Mr. Kennedy insisted, "so long as two-thirds of the nations of the world

have food deficits—no citizen, no nation can afford to feel satisfied or secure. We have the ability, we have the means, and we have the capacity to eliminate hunger from the face of the earth. We need only will.

In the Food and Agriculture Organization, which is sponsoring this meeting, we also have the machinery.

The President went on to emphasize the need for international co-operation, international organization and international action. These things, he said, are indispensable in a contracting world which grows more interdependent. This interdependence requires multi-national solutions to its problems, particularly those involving basic human wants and needs.

In sad contrast to these inspiring words is the fact that this great congress, sponsored by a United Nations organization, lacks the representation of the world's most largely populated land, Communist China, still an outcast from the world council of nations, has no voice here. And it has been largely through the insistence of the United States that it has remained outside the pale. Officially it doesn't exist so far as U.N. activities are concerned.

That is perhaps the most "central problem" of all for a World Food Congress to give consideration to.

**Situation Unclear**

From Washington comes word that an intensive government investigation is under way to define American fishery rights along the Canadian coast. This investigation has been prompted by Prime Minister Pearson's announced intention to extend the Canadian coastal fishing zone to 12 miles from shore, and would seem to imply that there is still uncertainty in official quarters as to what the American fishery rights are.

One U.S. senator, Edmund Muskie, of Maine, has expressed particular concern about the impact of the Canadian intention on American fishery operations in the Bay of Fundy. He claims to have made a "preliminary attempt" to find out just what rights the U.S. has in this matter, and to have been unable to get the information.

Meanwhile the state department says that in accord with the understanding reached between President Kennedy and Mr. Pearson at Hyannis Port last month, the U.S. will not accord any Canadian 12-mile limit any official recognition. To do so would merely increase the pressure on the U.S. to recognize such limits in other countries, including Mexico.

This doesn't appear to have satisfied Senator Muskie, who has sent a telegram to State Secretary Dean Rusk urging him to take "every step to protect American fishing rights under existing treaties." We may expect more such demands upon a clear definition of American rights is forthcoming, and a more explicit statement from Ottawa with regard to its concurrence in the claims that may be based thereon.

**The Only Way**

"All must realize that there is no hope of putting an end to the building up of armaments, nor of reducing the present stocks, nor, still less, of abolishing them altogether, unless the process is complete and thorough and unless it proceeds from inner convictions; unless, that is, everyone sincerely cooperates to banish the fear and anxious expectations of war with which men are oppressed. If this is to come about, the fundamental principle on which our present peace depends must be replaced by another, which declares that the true and solid peace of nations consists not in equality of arms, but in mutual trust alone."—Pope John XXIII, April 18, 1963.

**EDITORIAL NOTE**

By pressing a button in Montreal, a flight looking clerk can now get a reply in four seconds from an electronic computer in London which tells him what vacancies are available on flights between London and Montreal for 20 weeks ahead. The system has already been used for flights within the United Kingdom, and is to be linked with services to Zurich, Dusseldorf, Rome and Frankfurt. The machine, it is noted casually, is designed to deal with up to 7,600 inquiries in one hour.

JUNE APRIL

**DAYS OF DECISION**

MAY

TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK

*Sam Chittie*

**FLOATING AWAY**

**Exit Antarctica's Little America**

National Geographic News Bulletin

Little America III, Admiral Richard E. Byrd's base in Antarctica from 1939 to 1941, has shipped out on an iceberg.

A Navy icebreaker recently sighted the camp floating in the Ross Sea 300 miles from its original site.

The research station, like the other four Little Americas, was built on the seaward edge of the Ross Ice Shelf, a California-size ice field fed by glaciers. As the shelf moves north at about four feet a day, huge icebergs break off and float away. Icebergs will eventually doom all the camps.

THE ADVENTURE

The late Admiral Byrd established the original Little America in January, 1929, during his first assault on the frozen continent. The outpost stood 785 miles from the geographic South Pole.

Some 2,300 miles from the nearest human dwelling, Byrd and his men spent 14 months in weather-light buildings warmed by kerosene stoves.

Winter months brought bitter cold and long darkness. Byrd wrote: "We became a family of moles, scuttling through glistening snow tunnels with lanterns and flashlights."

When the temperature dropped to 84 degrees below zero, a man could hear his breath freeze. "We had to warm candles before they would burn," the Admiral recalled.

The great explorer's conquest of the South Pole by air, and the discovery of Marie Byrd Land climaxed the 1929-30 venture.

When Byrd returned to Little America in 1934, he found the old camp intact beneath 30 feet of snow. On a mesa half table stood a coffee pot, a half loaf of bread, and a slab of roast beef with a few sticks of tinned Little America II was built step by step. The miniature city had a broadcasting plant, four-cow dairy, and motion-picture theater.

A dramatic moment came during Byrd's stay in Little America II. Overnight, without warning, the underlying ice broke loose from the shelf and the camp almost went to sea. Fortunately, a cold spell mended the cracked ice.

The first two expeditions were financed by grants from the National Geographic Society, and

**Our Yesterday's**

(From the Guardian Files)  
**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**  
 (June 7, 1938)

Following graduation exercises at Acadia University May 25, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. MacNeil were married in St. John's Church, Windsor. Both are members of the St. John's Episcopal class of Acadia. Mrs. MacNeil was the former Miss Beryl MacNeil of Fox Harbour, and Mr. MacNeil was from Charlottetown, P.E.I.

The Little Theatre Guild of Summerside won first place in making their first production, a drama festival held in Prince Edward Island. R. Wilson Beckford of Charlottetown was adjudicator.

**TEN YEARS AGO**

(June 7, 1953)

HALIFAX (CP) — Most Rev. Walter A. Barlow, a priest in Archdiocese of Edmonton, and Primate of all Canada, will arrive this week to begin his official visit to the diocese of Nova Scotia. Next Thursday he will leave for Charlottetown and later will visit Newfoundland.

A representative body of residents in the Spring Park area unanimously agreed at a meeting held in the Spring Park Hall last evening to take the preliminary steps toward incorporation into the Village Services Act.

**The Vanishing Schooners**

Montreal Gazette

Those who can remember their visits to Lunenburg a number of years ago will never forget what a splendid spectacle the schooner fleet was in the town's harbor. Nearly 100 of them sailed out of Lunenburg in 1951 — the last year that the Bluenose was launched. Even as late as the 1950's the harbor was still a fine fleet.

But last year the number of Lunenburg's fishing schooners was down to eight. And word comes that the last of them that went dory-fishing will do so no more. It has proved impossible to recruit a full crew even for their last voyage.

"No doubt it had to come, and it is only remarkable that it has not come sooner," says the Long ago when Joseph Conrad was training for his life at sea he was strongly tempted against choosing to learn the lore of sailing; he was told to equip himself for the age of steam. And now steam itself has given way to sailing by diesel.

Though the melting away of the Lunenburg fleet follows the trend, much of the lingering grace and romance of the sea by the schooner days have had a link with the oldest days of the world, when men went down to the sea in ships, and first had their business in the great waters.

**The Right to Know**

Globe and Mail, Toronto

Opposition Leader John Diefenbaker complained in the Commons last week that Canadian Ministers were bringing the most important news to the Atlantic Council meeting before the public in the form of a press conference, and that this was a derogation from the rights of Parliament.

Mr. Diefenbaker's intervention may have been no more than a party skirmishing but it raised the point of some importance. The doctrine that Parliament is the only channel through which the Government can make its views and actions known to the public is being too widely accepted in Ottawa.

The doctrine is sound in theory, but in practice it may conflict with the public's right to know what the Government is doing, and unless it is modified with some latitude it may restrict rather than protect Parliament's right to know what the Government is doing, and unless it is modified with some latitude it may restrict rather than protect Parliament's right to know what the Government is doing.

There is no quarrel with the belief that the Government should reserve for Parliament

**Amebiasis Seen Major Problem In Parts Of U.S.**

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

AMEBIASIS continues to be a problem in these United States. In one area, a positive blood test was found in 36 per cent of a random sampling of 100 individuals. This is incredible, even though the area is known to be heavily infested with the parasite.

This disorder, formerly called amebic dysentery, is attributed after a time they that lives in the intestinal tract of man. It belongs to a primitive class of organisms, consisting of a single cell, which multiplies by dividing. In one case, one becomes two, two become four, and four become eight.

These critters enter the body through contaminated food or water. The entire family unit to be examined when one member is found to have the disease. In addition, the water, ice, and food supply should be examined for purity. The afflicted individual must wash the hands vigorously, especially after a visit to the bathroom, to prevent self-reinfection as well as spread of disease to others.

The ameba settles in the wall of the intestine and produces a small ulcer. The resulting irritation leads to recurring attacks of diarrhea, griping abdominal pains, nausea, and occasionally vomiting. Some infested persons have no intestinal complaints but consult a physician because of marked fatigue, weight loss, or slight fever.

But some are wholly unaware of the infection. These people are carriers and pose a dangerous problem when they are not too clean about their personal habits or are professional food handlers.

The diagnosis is made by finding the parasites in the stool. It may be necessary to examine several specimens before positive results are obtained. In one of my patients, the parasites were found in the 11th specimen. A blood test also is available but it is not as specific as the stool analysis.

Atabrine and carbarsone are the best remedies. These are used together but the remedy can be rough because reactions may occur.

**DISEASED ANIMALS**

C. V. writes: What is the disease caused from eating rabbits?

You may refer to tularemia, an infection associated with a handling (not eating) wild rabbits and other wild life that harbor the causative organisms. Domestic rabbits usually are safe. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for leaflet on tularemia.

Today's Health Hint—All exits and passageways in the home should be clear.

**NOTES BY THE WAY**

A pat on the back will straighten out an obstetric child—if it is spaced low and hard enough. — Sarnis Observer.

Wife: "The world is full of rain. This morning, the milkman gave me a counterfeit half-dollar." Hubby: "Where is it, my dear?" Wife: "I've got it ready for you if it's lucky the butcher took it." — Galt Reporter.

A circus performer says that before having a cigarette a hunk out of the mouth one should always moisten the lips in order to protect the skin and lessen the impact. — Well, we'll keep it in mind. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Molesters, after being told that cars needed tailfins — to give stability at high speeds — and wraparound front windcreens — for greater visibility — now find that neither of these appear in the latest cars. They may be forgiven for being a little disgruntled over the importance of headlamps, rather than two o'heavies. — London Times.

Two of the present-day high-way hazards are drivers under 25 driving over 70, and drivers over 70 driving at 25. — St. Catharines Standard.

Nature didn't make us perfect, so she did the next best thing. She made us blind to our own faults. — Montreal Star.

An old lady was sending a Bible to a friend overseas. Examining the package carefully, the postal clerk inquired if it contained anything breakable. "Only the Ten Commandments," was the reply. — Vancouver Sun.

Two foremen were comparing notes. "Do all the boys in your plant drive their tools home after the whistle blows?" asked one. "No, not all," replied the postal clerk, "but the more orderly ones have their tools away before that time." — Financial Post.

**Running The U.N. Show**

By Carman Cumming  
 Canadian Press Staff Writer

The deeply important question facing the United Nations is how far the General Assembly can go in running the show for more than 12 years. The assembly has been a gain in power as its membership increased. The vote of the Security Council has declined in importance.

Now members are asking themselves whether they can ignore the international facts of life that put the veto in the hands of the five permanent council members in the first place.

Specifically, can the scores of smaller nations in the U.N. council force the five permanent power-keeping members if the United States or Russia are seriously opposed.

UGLY REALITY

As Indonesia's L. N. Palar put it this week, the veto was given originally to the five members that were considered powerful enough to frustrate U.N. action. The phrase "unanimity among the permanent members" was merely a polite euphemism for an ugly reality.

Now, he said, the power to frustrate the U.N. lay principally with two members. He wondered what the U.S. would do if it found itself in the "isolated" position the Soviet Union now occupies.

The Indonesian reflected that the assembly, rich in votes but poor in actual power, might become a debating society posing resolutions it had no hope of enforcing—while the big powers simply bypassed the U.N. in dealing with crises.

In the current debate the U.S. has championed the assembly for power over peace-keeping operations. "But some observers see indications that U.S. feels the shift of power has gone far enough. BALANCED CHANGED."

The issue points up the fact that the U.N. charter no longer reflects the real balance of power among the U.N. organs.

As far back as 1959 the "uniting for peace" resolution, backed by the U.S. in effect provided that the assembly could take over the Security Council's peace-keeping powers when a veto prevented the council from acting.

The principle was strengthened in the Suez crisis of 1956 when the U.N. Emergency Force was set up by the assembly without Security Council action. In the case of the Congo, the Soviet Union actually voted in the council to send a U.N. force, but later condemned it as "illegal" because the U.S. secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld had allegedly violated council directives.

The force has been successful chiefly because the U.S. gave it strong moral and financial backing while Russia remained on the sidelines.

The big test will come when the small-country majority tries to take an action that seriously affects one of the giants.

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