The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Moving With The Times

Probably we're in for the same kind of thing in Canada, but some details of the proceedings at the big Democratic convention in Atlantic City this week must have shocked many oldtime political henchmen in this country. The convention was arranged principally for television coverage, and the delegates, for the most part, were pushed into the minor role of "extras" in the carefully contrived performance.

Television requirements dictated the construction of three huge stands, festooned with the snouts of TV cameras. Behind these impediments sat delegates who had come 3,000 miles or more for the privilege of watching proceedings on special television sets—and some needed binoculars to see the sets.

Thus reports a Canadian Press correspondent, who figures that of the 5,260 delegates and alternates who were there officially, one-fifth hadn't the ghost of a chance of seeing what was going on up in front. The more sophisticated of them didn't come near the actual convention floor until they knew they were needed. That was when they were called upon to supply "a shouting, chanting, placard-waving, balloon-floating, whistling, clapping and singing back-drop to specially-important speakers they usually couldn't hear."

But as one loyal Montana delegate philosophized, puting down his binoculars for a moment to rest his eyes from the events seen through TV: "That's progress!"

Whatever it was, it necessitated the laying of some 60 miles of wire in the hall and the construction of an elaborate boardwalk down the isles to cover the wiring system. In addition to this political "ship-to-shore" communication in the convention hall, the floor was punctuated during sessions with antennae of dozens of walkie-talkies carried by police, who operated on their own separate unit, or by television reporters, or technicians, or convention officials.

It was pretty much the same thing at the Republican convention in Los Angeles. A far cry indeed from the oldtime political gatherings, not to speak of the whistle stop tours that were so popular in years gone by.

Toward Maturity

The fact that we still have to petition the British Parliament in order to amend the British North America Act is a technicality; but the ritual rankles, and it is regarded in some quarters as both illogical and humiliating. Hence the interest that is being taken in the proposed federal-provincial conference here next week, at which agreement will be sought on a formula for severing this "unbecoming umbilical attachment."

For this choice phrase we are indebted to the Toronto Telegram, in an editorial which reminds us that the present arrangement is probably as much a bother and source of embarrassment to the British as it is to us, since we are the sole Commonwealth country that hasn't taken full powers of constitutional amendment into its own hands.

It is not that we haven't tried. Since 1929, politicians and constitutional experts have searched six times for an acceptable formula, but have always failed. The most determined assault was led three years ago by the then Minister of Justice, E. Davie Fulton. It was blocked by primary objections from Saskatchewan and secondary reservations on the part of Ontario, Quebec and Alberta.

Now Prime Minister Pearson is trying his expert mediator's hand at finding a route round the barriers that frustrated Fulton. If he succeeds, it will be quite an achievement; for the framers of the BNA Act themselves, unfortunately, neglected to include the rules by which it could be amended. This has been the main cause of disagreement ever since.

Saskatchewan balked in 1961 at the proposal that any alteration of the act's sections dealing with rights exclusively earmarked for the province must require the unanimous consent of all 10 governments involved. This theory of unanimous approval, strongly urged in some quarters, has been described by experts as sheer invention without legal or historical foundation; and when Justice Minister in 1946, Louis St. Laurent went so far as to say that legally even those sections of the BNA Act that guard the French language could be altered without provincial consent.

Another source of friction at the 1961 conference was the contention of Ontario, Quebec and Alberta that the BNA Act, through an amendment passed in 1949, had given the central government too much discretionary power. They felt it would lead to invasions of areas the provinces considered theirs.

Our Toronto contemporary adds that "the Pearson plan—to be presented to the Premiers in Charlottetown on Sept.1—is said to include tranquillizers to calm these fears."

The Right Approach

Bilingualism is a subject that has been pretty well talked out, but perhaps an exception should be made in the case of a statement by J. Allan Perham, president of Canadian Oxygen Limited, in addressing a Toronto service club the other day. Mr. Perham gave a different slant to the problem by charging the English-speaking minority in Quebec with a heavy share of the onus for the current dissatisfaction of French Canadians with the existing setup.

"If we accept the fact that the major business enterprises of Canada including those of Quebec, are owned, managed or controlled by the non-French element," he said, "then we of the business community must accept responsibility for doing something about our present national condition."

It is in his own province that the Quebecer most resents the one-sided bilingualism which in many industries makes it impossible for him to conduct his business in his native tongue, the speaker added. But the separatists can only claim to command majority support in Quebec if the English-speaking Canadians' position becomes rigid and unbending.

Worth noting, too, was the advice offered the speaker to those who would help correct the situation. "Visit Quebec," he urged. "Meet your French-speaking colleagues. Invite them here. Discover for yourselves that we are all Canadians, help them make the same discovery. If possible, make contacts at the student level. An inquiry in 16 classical colleges in Montreal revealed that out of 797 replies, 75 per cent of the students rejected separatism. Let us encourage the students who stand for a united Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A third edition of "Teachers for Africa", just issued by Unesco, lists vacancies for the academic year 1964-65 in African secondary, post-secondary and higher educational establishments. A total of 1,300 vacancies in 21 countries are described.

* * * *

A new, unusual church dedicated as a memorial to Dag Hammarskjold, was inaugurated this month at Katjum, in the far north of Sweden. The church is unusual because it is built in the shape of a Laplander's tent with a solid wooden cross beside it. A group of young people from the Swedish International Work Camps Organization helped the Laplanders to build a road to the church and to clear the ground in the immediate vicinity.

IF THEY RUN THEM ALL UP

NOT A NORMAL WAR

Victory At Sea, Setback On Land

Montreal Gazette

North Viet Nam and China have not followed up the clashes in the Gulf of Tonkin with any unusual or significant military action. There may have been some reinforcements and troop movements, but there has been nothing that would point to major Communist retaliation. The situation has, so to speak, returned to normal.

Does this mean the United States and its allies have won an important victory, which will bring the war in South Viet Nam closer to settlement? Unfortunately, it does not.

This is not a normal war between states. It is a civil war, in which South Vietnamese Communist is pitted against South Vietnamese anti-Communist, with the majority of the population indifferent and neutral. The Communists, who control much of the countryside, are supplied and trained by North Viet Nam and by China. The anti-Communists, who hold the cities and some of the countryside, are supplied and trained by the United States.

HELD INITIATIVE

The Communist movement, known as the Viet Cong, has held the initiative for some time. Its guerrilla tactics are essentially the same as those which defeated France a decade ago. They are constantly draining the strength and morale of the South Vietnamese government forces. They are prepared to use any form of terror, without moral inhibitions, to achieve their ends. It cannot be denied that their tactics are succeeding.

According to Communist guerrilla tactics, at some point the Viet Cong will switch to something resembling normal military operations. Instead of picking off small units of South Vietnamese government troops as at present, it will try to smash the army in the field.

This moment could be approaching. The Viet Cong have been making increasingly bolder raids. The South Vietnamese government is still suffering from internal dissension, and seems to be facing new opposition amongst the population. The Viet Cong may feel the time is close when this government can be pushed into disintegration.

NOT THE ANSWER

This is a sorry picture. So far no one in South Viet Nam or the United States has found an answer that will end the war. Senator Goldwater, it is true, has said that if he were President he would order the commanders on the spot to win, and let them go ahead and do what they want. But this is not an answer; it is passing the buck. Mr. Goldwater would soon find that, as Harry Truman used to say of the Presidency, "the buck stops here."

For the present, South Viet Nam and the United States cannot hope to win. They can only try to keep from losing. This does not offer any prospect of an end to the war. But it does hold out the possibility that, in time, the Communists will grow just as tired of the war as the government of South Viet Nam. Then some compromise settlement might be negotiated.

The distinction between the clashes in the Gulf of Tonkin and the guerrilla war in South Viet Nam is a good indication of American power in the Far East. At sea, and in the air, around the rim of the Asian continent, the United States is supreme and can defeat any challenge. But on the Asian mainland, even such a peripheral part as South Viet Nam, the story is very different.

$5,000,000 LOTTERY

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—More than $5,000,000 in tickets has been sold for the New Hampshire Sweepstakes to be run Sept. 12 at Rockingham Park. The sweepstakes commission announced Thursday four drums will be used for the final drawings on Sept. 10. The final drawings represent tickets sold since July 18.

PUBLIC FORUM

SCHOOL BOOKS

Sir,— I would very much like to circulate an Island-wide petition to all parents— protesting against the number and quality of the school books. To say most of them are ridiculous is putting it mildly. When I began teaching fifteen years ago, at least the numbers were fewer.

Just, for example, take a look at any page in "Pirates and Pathfinders" (Grade V) and if you, parents, do not decide to rebel and have that book, plus others, relegated to the dust bin, then you aren't too interested in your child's welfare.

There are far too many failures in all grades, and most parents agree that they are overwhelmed at the number of books required each year. Why not have books shorter in content — more facts and less frills? Everything apparently must be "dressed up", made more palatable, as it were; mustn't overtax young minds. Rubbish!

In grade one, for example, have one book, and one that would make sense. Both parents and teachers wouldn't have to spend hours and hours going over a few thousand words, which, in the end, mean less than what we learned 35-years-ago. So—I'm challenging the members of the Women's Institute, the CWL and WMS and parents everywhere: Do something soon in the way of a protest—or else we will be swamped under pages of useless literature, our children will continue to fail, because they have so many words to wade through, in order to learn a very few basic facts.

In a large family the opening of school means an empty pocket book by the time the books are bought. If failures were few and far between, a person would not even murmur, but grade schools everywhere have the same sad story to tell—high percentages of failures in grade VIII and on down the line. So let's do something constructive about it right away!

I am, Sir, etc.,
TEACHER AND MOTHER
Charlottetown.

THE LATE BARLOW BIRD

Sir:
Today I pass with happy, measured tread
Through that enchanting gate which ever leads
Into the yesteryears,
And find the dear, familiar, flowered path has led
Me to the one who pulled from life its weeds,
And calmed the gravest fears.

Since the abode has been in that Good Land
Where all the faithful of God's chosen rest,
I feel no sting of tears.
I smile with thankful heart to think how grand
That one whose life was love and seeking out the best
Shall know no adding of the years.

So penned S. Barlow Bird in "The White Flower", a poem which he wrote for Mother's Day but which now expresses the thoughts of many of his loved ones and friends. He has "pulled from life its weeds and calmed the gravest fears" because his faith was in God.

Mr. Bird, although restricted by a severe heart condition, had a rich ministry with his pen. His poems were not only enjoyed by many readers of this paper but they also found their way into many nation-wide publications.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H.L. ESTABROOKS
C. Bedeque, P.E.I.

LUTHERAN SURVEY

Sixty per cent of the Lutheran Church's new missionaries from North America do not have theological degrees, a survey shows.

Preschool Checkup

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

The preschool health checkup is a popular procedure except perhaps when it comes to inoculation against the usual childhood diseases. No one wants to be a pincushion but there is some consolation that the other youngsters also receive these shots.

Revaccination against smallpox is essential and the same applies to whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus. Protection also is available against polio and measles.

In the preschool tests, the physician concentrates on the eyes, ears, mouth, heart, lungs, and feet. Poor posture may result from habit but it may be brought on by muscle fatigue due to undernourishment or insufficient sleep. The importance of good vision and hearing is obvious. Disorders of these senses may go undetected for months or years. The child who has been nearsighted most of his life seldom knows the difference; so far as he is concerned, no one sees beyond the side of the road or the house next door.

The condition of the heart and lungs bears investigation. Overexertion may aggravate a heart defect and the teacher can give these children special duties to compensate for the inability to play ball during recess.

The six- year-old is overdue for a dental examination, as this is the age when the first permanent teeth erupt. The baby teeth begin to drop out at this time but they should not be neglected. When a decayed temporary tooth falls out prematurely, normal alignment will be disturbed unless the area is filled with a space maintainer.

Many youngsters have several colds during the first year or two of school. This should not be regarded as a lack of immunity or resistance to infection. For the first time, the child is associating with hundreds of other boys and girls in the classrooms and on the playgrounds. Many have or are coming down with a respiratory infection on any day of the school week.

LATENT DIABETIC

J. E. writes: Is latent diabetes treated the same way as diabetes?

REPLY

The potential (latent) diabetic does not need insulin and seldom requires the oral anti-diabetic pills. The majority hold their own by maintaining normal weight and having periodic checkups. In addition, the urine is tested for sugar whenever they go through periods of stress such as an accident, operation, or a serious infection.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, co Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

Teenagers are mighty good kids in spite of the company they sometimes keep—at home. —Adams County Times.

Helen— "What kind of husband would you advise me to get?" Hazel — "You get a single man and let the husbands alone."— Windsor Star.

One of the Beatles, Reuters reports from Liverpool, says that the foursome would refuse to perform in South Africa or any place where there is racial segregation. Which prompts an older generation democrat to ask why regions practising apartheid or color bias should be spared while solidly democratic nations are not.— Victoria Times.

Men do make passes at girls who wear glasses. It all depends on their frames.— Tri-County Press.

There is only one man in a million who understands the international situation, and it's odd how often he seem to run into him.— Calgary Herald.

The tight-pursed Smiths took their infant son to the movies. The usher warned them that unless the child kept quiet, they would have to take their money back and leave the theatre. Half-way through the second feature, Smith nudged his wife and whispered: "What do you think of it?" "Terrible!" replied Mrs. Smith. "Ditto," agreed Mr. Smith. "Pinch the baby a few times."—Galt Reporter.

Using Wrong Mirror

Fort William Times Journal

Those few communist newspapers published in the western countries are not newspapers at all in the ordinary meaning of the word. They do not report news. Their editors select certain events and interpret, or misinterpret, them to demonstrate that the world is exactly what communist ideology claims it is.

The papers do not interest or influence the public generally; it is a case of communists talking to themselves. As a publishing venture, the western communist press is an exercise in futility.

In fact, however, it would appear that these papers serve quite a useful purpose back in the communist homeland. One of the group of 38 Canadian businessmen who recenly made a two-week visit to Russia mentions this point in an article in a national weekly.

"The Russian has no way to compare his lot with that of any country beyond the Iron Curtain," states Oakah L. Jones, president of Toronto's Consumers' Gas Company. "His only knowledge of Canadian, American, British or French living comes from the very few tourists he might see briefly, or from such newspapers as the Canadian Tribune, the organ of the Communist Party in Canada (to be found on Moscow news stands), and the London communist newspaper and its New York counterpart."

The fact that the Russian people believe Canada to be the country portrayed in its local communist press is ridiculous, but it is not laughable. It is an appalling example of thought control as practised by the communists.

Bob Be Nimble

Cape Breton Post

SWIFT footwork or nimble redtape technique will be required to transfer Robert F. Kennedy's legal residence from Massachusetts to New York in time for him to run for election as a Democratic candidate for U.S. senator in the latter state.

Residents of Massachusetts rarely are so much in a hurry, the less so when they are Bostonians as is Mr. Kennedy although his actual home has been in Virginia for years. The Kennedys are people accustomed to going places in a hurry so it will be surprising if the attorney general doesn't get away with it.

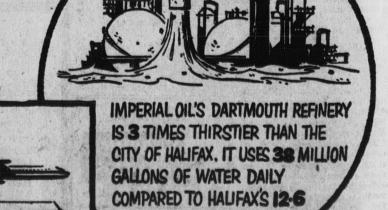
In the meantime, numbers of indignant New Yorkers are calling Mr. Kennedy a carpetbagger, a word derived from the period immediately following the War Between the States, when numerous politicians from the north went to the defeated Confederate states to be elected on the Republican ticket. This wasn't difficult then because the people recently released from slavery had the votes.

At that time, a common piece of luggage was the carpet bag the outer covering of which actually was made of carpet material. Ever since, the word carpetbagger has betokened an outsider or interloper, and is used in a derogatory sense.

Numbers of New York newspapers, including the august New York Times oppose the plan for Kennedy to stand for election in that state, but it's said he has more than enough support from the various county party bosses to give him the nomination in the New York state convention.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

CANADA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER, THE NOVA SCOTIA GAZETTE WAS PRINTED ON CANADA'S FIRST PRINTING PRESS IN HALIFAX IN 1752



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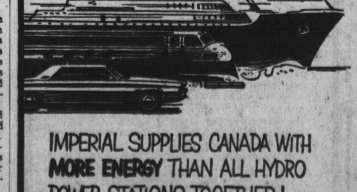

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