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Following Other Stars

American astronauts have achieved the world's first rendezvous in space, and it has rightly been hailed as one of man's greatest adventures. The historic moment came yesterday about 185 miles above the Philippines as the two space chariots, Gemini 6 and Gemini 7, each with two astronauts aboard, hurtled along nose to nose at more than 17,500 miles an hour.

That will require, first, the launching of a new project, called Surveyor, to put a television camera on the lunar orb. The newest target date for the first of seven shots is next May and the difficulties are so great, says an Associated Press dispatch, that "officials won't even quote odds on success or failure."

Meantime we were struck by the news that when astronaut Frank Borman needed to change the orbit of Gemini 7 the other day he used the method of ancient man—only the fixed stars were different. He pointed his capsule halfway between the stars Denebola and Spica and aligned it 4.9 degrees right of Arcturus—lining up on etched horizontal and vertical markings on his spacecraft window.

Arcturus, the Guardian of the Bear, 80 times brighter than our sun and 30 times bigger in diameter, is man's present checkpoint in space, at the Pole star has been in the northern hemisphere. Which prompts the Milwaukee Journal to predict, with poetic fervor, that "time will come when it will be stars beyond Arcturus, perhaps stars as yet unknown to us, that will be the guiding stars."

We need all the anchorage we can get from the past to keep from drifting hopelessly in our imaginings of what this new age, "still climbing after knowledge infinite," is bent on achieving.

Rhodesian Headache

Prime Minister Wilson has made it clear that despite the pressure for more aggressive measures, Britain will adhere to its policy of using sanctions against the white-minority Rhodesian regime of Ian Smith. However, these sanctions must be properly administered and should be concentrated through the United Nations Security Council, which could call on all UN member nations to join in the embargoes Britain has proposed.

If action on a properly coordinated scale is taken in this manner, it should be without further delay. Once African troops have crossed the Zambezi to invade Rhodesia, as they have threatened, war with ugly racial overtones will have begun. And who can say where such a struggle would end?

Britain is not depending on sanctions alone, however. To counteract the news censorship which has been in effect within Rhodesia since Nov. 11, she is setting up a "bush radio" in Beauchanaland to beam BBC broadcasts into the country. Mr. Wilson himself may take part in one of the early broadcasts. They will attempt to assure Rhodesians—that a

middle course between independence and instant majority rule exists. The original target was to persuade Premier Smith and his followers to come to the conference table again. Mr. Wilson has since declared bluntly that he has no confidence in Smith's word; but even so, no chance should be missed of securing the transition to majority rule as peacefully as possible.

The kernel of the problem, as the London Spectator pointed out recently, is that treasonous or not, Smith today represents power in Rhodesia. There is no alternative power to him, and it is a vast mistake to imagine that one can be conjured up by merely pretending that Smith's government does not exist.

Spokesmen for African nations have taunted Britain with being prepared to act in previous colonial situations in a more aggressive manner than she is acting now in Rhodesia. But those situations were very different. In Kenya, Nyasaland and Cyprus Britain was in a meaningful sense the governing power. Her repressive and security actions followed naturally from that power.

That is why Britain is so insistent on limiting its pressure at present to tough sanctions. It believes that by early next year the full weight of economic deprivation will begin to be felt in Rhodesia, and that the government will be forced to come to terms. This may prove a wrong assumption, but it has yet to be tested.

Cause For Concern

It is said that the finance ministers from the ten provinces reached agreement last week on the need for establishing priorities by all governments in respect of expenditures on major programs that will compete for available funds. The agreed projection of revenues and expenditures will provide a starting point for the new tax-sharing arrangements between Ottawa and the provinces which are to be negotiated in the early part of 1969.

But it's all very hush-hush. The finance ministers intend to hold a series of negotiating sessions during the spring, before reporting to a full-dress conference of premiers about mid-year. That meeting too, presumably, will be held behind closed doors. Parliament will be in the dark, and so will the provincial legislatures, until policy has been worked out and comes before these responsible, duly elected bodies in concrete form.

This, we gather, is what our junior MP for Queens, Heath Macquarrie, meant when he expressed concern the other day over "any trend that bypasses the elected representatives of the people and reduces Parliament to a mere rubber stamp for decisions behind closed doors." He is quite right in being concerned, and we trust that he, and others of like mind, will be heard forcefully on the subject when Parliament convenes next month.

It has been pointed out that in London or Washington, public debate on an issue is widespread and contains all shades of opinion. In the end, a coalition of these points of view is achieved and, in a form that all concerned can comprehend, the final legislation follows. Those who are governed by the law are at least privy to its evolution. In Canada, these inter-governmental meetings are combining with the Cabinet form of government to prevent any serious public discussion of specific issues before an ultimate decision is reached.

We had a spate of these secret conclaves last week. It is time for our Opposition spokesmen, federal and provincial, to speak their minds about them, and about the dangers inherent in them from the democratic point of view.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Royal Ontario Museum has announced that, after years of trying, it has finally acquired specimens of two Canadian birds which have long been extinct. The birds are the great auk and the Labrador duck. They were the last species needed to complete the museum's collection of Canadian birds—by far the largest in the country.



"--MORE OF A BOOMERANG EFFECT"

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

No Place For Political Favoritism

Is it reasonable that 82 fare-paying passengers and three crew members should be delayed and even their lives endangered, for the convenience of a Liberal Cabinet Minister travelling on a pass?

Air Canada flight 250, on 25th November, left Toronto 25 minutes late at 9:35 p.m. and landed at Ottawa in a blizzard so severe that other planes were being diverted to storm-free airports. I was told by a passenger, "We were furious and frightened. The Liberal Party lost 85 votes for life, then and there."

While the loaded plane waited for take-off at Toronto, the pilot summed the stewardess for consultation. She then announced to the passengers that take-off would be delayed 25 minutes, to await a Liberal Cabinet Minister who was booked off that flight but whose connecting flight from the west was late.

Would Air Canada wait for Tom, Dick, or Harry? Why then wait for a Liberal Minister? The answer is because every employee of the Canadian National system, including Air Canada, recalls with fear the case of Mr. Robert S. Pitt, MBE.

CAREER RECORD

Mr. Pitt was unlucky enough to be manager of the 260-room Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg on 10th September 1952. He had advised as manager of the Nova Scotia in Halifax and the Bessborough in Saskatoon in a lifetime of service broken only by five years voluntary enlistment in the army during the war. But on that day an event happened which led to his "demotion". John Diefenbaker told Parliament to the less significant 80-room Prince Edward Hotel in Brandon.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 16, 1940) Hitler sent Otto Abetz, his Paris representative, to Vichy for conferences with Marshal Petain and foreign observers believed the visit might have meant life or death for the reorganized French Government—possibly even total Nazi occupation of France.

King George VI drove through crowds of cheering townspeople in Bristol, England, on a tour of several miles of destruction inflicted on that city by German bombers.

TEN YEARS AGO

(December 16, 1958)

Northern Ireland took over London's Mansion House to confer upon Sir Winston Churchill the freedom of the cities of Belfast and Londonderry.

An RCMP plane Friday completed a food drop to a northern Quebec village where a group of Eskimos were said to be starving as a result of a polar bear raid on their supplies. The pilot of the plane was Ft. Lt. Ralph Emery, Summerside, P.E.I.

vacated and cleaned. The following day Mr. St. Laurent visited the hotel to address a meeting there; he was surrounded by Liberal supporters in the rotunda; the manager of the hotel Mr. Pitt, was separated from him by that throng of Liberals, so he neither could shake his hand nor welcome him nor escort him to the elevator.

BRIEF AUTHORITY

Then, as Parliament was told, "some officious party slay who regards the railroad system as strictly Liberal party property," lodged a complaint and "brought disaster to Mr. Pitt's lifetime of service."

"Oh but this is only a little matter," protested an angry Liberal Transport Minister. To which Tory Jim MacDonnell retorted "This whole matter is bigger than Mr. Pitt; it raises the broad question not only of the Canadian National system but of the use of power. Great injuries are done as the result of unwarrantable political interference, yet the Liberal Government believes it is an imperative for us to come into this House and criticize them."

So long as a Liberal Government is in power, fear of its dreadful retribution will regulate the action of any informed employee of the CN system, as the delay and danger of Flight 250 shows.

Newfoundland Cows

Hamilton Spectator

A recent news story given some prominence concerned the last bit of paving of the trans-Canada highway in Newfoundland. Released at the same time but not given the same prominence was another story about Newfoundlanders seeking a change in the archaic law that gives cows the same right of way on the highways as pedestrians. The law will not be changed.

Instant Memory

Montreal Star

When a substance from the bodies of educated animals is injected into the bodies of uneducated animals of another species, some of the education appears to be transferred at the same time. The evidence is so overwhelming, but it is strong. Test animals that have been given a shot of instant memory do the right thing 7.9 times out of 25 trials, while those that have been given a matter-ofform injection gave the right response only .6 times out of 25.

A Comeback For Flavor

Christian Science Monitor

In itself there is nothing wrong with attractive food packaging. Jam that comes in jars convertible into vases, cookies in brightly decorated, airtight boxes, cellophane-wrapped pork chops all may be good, edible foods.

But open the package and often the product does not live up to the promise of its looks. Equally disappointing are the giant strawberries, the flawless apples on the grocery shelves. Few have the excellent flavor of the less glamorous food of an earlier day. Yet the public accepts them without a chirp of protest.

We agree with Henri Chetel, French food researcher, who deplores this public indifference to flavor. In a recent talk at the Museum of Science in Boston, Mr. Chetel raised the question: "Why is the public so little reacting with regard to food quality?" So long as the food looks pretty and conforms to government standards, most shoppers

Treatment Of Strokes

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Strokes (cerebrovascular accidents) affect several million Americans. Each year more than 750,000 new victims join their ranks. Some recover quickly and resume their normal activities. The lives of many others are altered suddenly because of profound changes in their physical, emotional, social, and economic status.

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is reduced or completely cut off. There are many causes varying from an obstruction (thrombosis or embolism) to a ruptured artery causing hemorrhage in the brain. Some victims are in excellent health at the time of the cerebrovascular accident, others have high blood pressure, hardening of the arteries, leakage of the heart, and abnormal bleeding tendencies, that contribute to their susceptibility.

It is important to know the cause because there are numerous medical and surgical remedies. The transient or "little stroke" is of short duration and leads to poorly defined symptoms. Some experience weakness or paralysis of a limb that lasts from a few minutes to several hours with complete recovery. Others develop transient blurring of vision or blindness in one eye. Changes in speech or personality also occur. These changes are due to a spasm or narrowing of an artery carrying blood to the brain.

Repeated small strokes, or complete cerebrovascular accidents call for special X-rays that visualize the vascular pattern to the brain. In certain conditions, it may be necessary to remove the obstructing material or bypass the blockage with a graft. If the general health of the victim does not permit surgery, the anti-coagulant drugs are an excellent substitute. Extra oxygen also is helpful.

Regardless of the type of stroke, early activity is essential. This means passive exercises and early rehabilitation. Best results are obtained when the victim is convinced that he has something to live for and will improve via a well-planned program.

F. H. writes: My sister was born with a hole, the size of a pea, in her spinal column. Could you tell me something about this?

REPLY An opening in this area usually is caused by incomplete or faulty closure of the two sides of the body at the midline prior to birth. This defect leads to various disorders varying from pilonidal cyst to spina bifida.

LENGTHY LIST M. W. J. writes Please list all the foods that could cause allergy.

REPLY The next time you go to a supermarket, ask the manager for his inventory and that will be it. On the other hand, the most common offenders are egg, seafood, strawberries, wheat, corn and chocolate.

BUMPED

S. F. writes What is a whip-lash neck injury?

REPLY The best example is the type of injury that occurs when a person is sitting in a stopped car which is struck suddenly from behind by a moving vehicle. The impact snaps the head and injures the vertebrae, muscles, or tendons of the neck.

THE MASCULINE TOUCH

R. E. writes: Is it all right for a woman to use a man's aftershave lotion as a facial astringent?

REPLY

Yes, but she need not shave first. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

CHOOSE PLOWING SITE

LINDSAY, Ont. (CP)—Members of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and the Victoria County Plowmen's Association have decided to recommend that a site near here be selected as the location of the 1970 international plowing match. Lindsay is about 30 miles west of Peterborough.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Don't try to make your guests feel at home. If they wanted to feel at home, they would have stayed there.—Galt Reporter. "I see by the paper that the concert we attended last night was a tremendous success." "Yes, I had no idea we enjoyed it half so much at the time."—Vancouver Sun.

Ben Berck, a Canadian chemist, says that we should take a leaf out of Asia's cook book and eat insects, such as silkworms and caterpillars. We can see it now—the export of Canada, Saskatchewan, grasshopper.—Peterborough Examiner.

Medical researchers say there is enough iron in the average human body to make a medium-sized nail. No precise estimate has yet been made of the amount of wood the politicians believe is in the head of the average Canadian voter.—Edmonton Journal.

"I think I'm going to try and get a job on TV. I'm just perfect for some of the commercials—my back aches, I've got sinus trouble, my feet hurt and I feel sluggish."—Weyauwega Chronicle.

Happiness is starting the car after its third visit to a garage and discovering that the mysterious "tick, opp, tick" has finally disappeared.—Dousman Index.

"A woman has a much better memory than a man," says a sociologist. Yes, indeed. And it's infallible if a man promises her something.—Times-Herald.

They'd been "having words" because he came home very late again. "Well, at any rate, I'm a man of my word," he snapped angrily. "I do call a spade a spade." "Maybe, Henry," his wife retorted; "but you don't call a club a club; you call it working late."—Millon Spectator.

Ayub Khan's Visit

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

The visit to Washington of President Ayub Khan of Pakistan signals a new phase in President Johnson's leadership and one of vital international significance. Within a week Johnson will have met Ayub Khan, Prime Minister Wilson of Britain and Chancellor Erhard of West Germany.

The following weeks and months will make clearer the Johnson brand of foreign policy as head of the major Western power. The primary characteristic is expected to be a toughness in which the war in Vietnam more than ever is the pivot of the American view. American and other officials here in this diplomatic hubbed hub are being criticized to some extent at home and abroad on grounds of failing in his first full year as elected president to provide adequate Western initiatives and leadership.

However, there was a design in his domestic preoccupations this year, his supporters argue, pointing to the well-laid foundations for a far-reaching legislative program. That was done despite foreign diversions from the hardening of the war in Viet Nam to the Dominican Republic intervention or even the decision to renew American support for a more effective United Nations.

Prized, arriving at the weekend, is anxious for political and prestige reasons to get more of a say in NATO's nuclear structure and the problem is whether recent U.S. proposals to fob him off with less will be successful.

His Hair Was Loose

Winnipeg Free Press

In Ontario there is a little boy with a hole in his hair, two inches across. His teacher grabbed him by the hair and pulled some of it out.

The school has decided to defend the teacher (reports say) because the boy's hair was "loose" in any case. The loose hair thesis is based on a report by the kind of expert who knows when our hair is loose. They have, in short, called an expert witness.

The defense opens a tremendous field for action by the teaching profession. It ignores the irrelevant question whether or not a teacher ought to pull the hair of his pupils (a carping issue that only a congenial crabbler would raise) and raises the more serious question whether or not teachers should be expected to children with loose accessories.

There is surely a case for a special school for children with loose arms, loose teeth, thin necks, who wants a headless child in his classroom? weak ankles or a hiatus hernia. What teacher in his right mind wants to belt a child in the stomach only to discover that his diaphragm already had a split in it the teacher has widened?

The case for special schools for children who stand less than six feet tall, weigh less than 200 lbs. and cannot floor the master with a backhanded belt, is overwhelming. The provinces should start at once to dun the federal government to provide the funds to build special schools for what we thought were our normal children but now we know them to be merely defective.

For Christmas

GIVE

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