



IRON ORE CARRIER AGROUND NEAR KINGSTON

The 730-foot iron ore carrier Hilda Marjanne, aground on a shoal off Wolfe Island near Kingston, is having part of her cargo removed in hope of refloating her later today. (CP Wirephoto)

Johnson sets rugged pace in 'off-year' election fight

WASHINGTON (CP)—President Johnson, defying an American law of political gravity, is stumping the United States at an unprecedented pace before the Nov. 8 elections.

With steady slippage still showing in his own popularity, he is bucking the proven axiom that the "outs"—the Republicans in this case—score gains in non-presidential contests. Sometimes, they reverse the balance of power.

Moreover, the landslide scored by the president over Republican Barry Goldwater in 1964 has left the Democrats with almost no place to go but down.

President Johnson is probably the most politically tuned incumbent the White House has ever had and he is participating more actively in these "off-year" elections than any predecessor. It's a matter of trying to cushion the fall and it will affect his touch with the Congress in his next two years.

Technically, the dying 89th Congress gives him a hefty margin to play with—294 Democrats to 139 Republicans in the House of Representatives and a vacancy on each side, plus 67 Democratic senators to 33 Republicans.

BLOCS SLIM MARGIN

But the slimmest of American party discipline creates a far slimmer edge. A coalition of right-wing southern Democrats and conservative Republicans was swept away in 1964. An infusion of liberal-minded freshmen, many now running for their political lives, made it possible for Johnson to make history last year with legislation ranging from Medicare to more civil rights and the foundations of his anti-poverty program.

Former presidents Harry Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower had to cope with politically hostile Congresses. John F. Kennedy was hobbled by the right-wing coalition.

Observers are saying that President Johnson, while not in danger of the Republicans being kicked back to official power, may lose effective control with the loss of 35 House seats.

There are some other general rules of thumb about these elections.

Generally, local issues dominate—and this is a year when the experts are wracked with indecision about the impact of Viet Nam, high prices, inflation, labor-management difficulties, civil rights tension and the image of the president himself. Solid trends are hard to spot.

FEWER VOTE

Generally, too, without the glamor of a presidential contest, a quarter-fewer eligible Americans vote. In 1964, a record 70,621,479 did so, or only 62 per cent of the estimated 113,900,000 eligibles.

As usual, all 435 of the House of Representatives' seats will be contested in November. There are 35 of the 100 Senate seats open and the other national feature—topping thousands of state-level campaigns—will be the selection of 35 of the 50 state governors.

President Johnson has said he hopes to visit all 50 states.

So far, he has gone lightly on Viet Nam, aside from defending his policy of restrained escalation. The successful civilian election in South Viet Nam for a constitution-writing assembly may deflate some of the impatience said rising in the general public for a bigger effort to produce results.

The president has also moved further to ease inflationary pressures and has consistently talked up the point that Americans generally have never had it so good.

Public opinion polls blame both Viet Nam and a clutch of domestic issues—plus the usual popularity decline suffered by presidents who have served three years or more—for Johnson's loss of good image.

One such rating says he has only 50-per-cent backing from the public.

Nationally, the election involves several contests of substantial interest.

In Massachusetts, Republican Edward W. Brooke may become the first Negro senator since the post-Civil War period.

Lurleen Wallace, wife of segregationist George Wallace of Alabama, is running as front woman to give Wallace a third term as governor via the back door.

Republican presidential hope-

ful George Romney seeks another governor's term in Michigan to boost his presidential ambitions for 1968.

Republican Nelson Rockefeller is running for a third governor's term in New York.

In a battle with hawk-dove overtones on Viet Nam, Republican Mark Hatfield, retiring Oregon governor who opposes the war, has his hands full with Democrat Robert Duncan for a Senate seat. Duncan is a hard-liner on Viet Nam.

And in California, handsome actor Ronald Reagan carries a right-wing Republican banner against George Brown for the governorship—and perhaps a foundation for presidential aspirations.

Teens shun rec centers

RIVIERE DU LOUP, Que. (CP)—Directors of Canadian recreational centres say that participation in their organized activities is declining because many youths seem to prefer to spend their time in restaurants, dance halls and the streets.

Younger children, aged six to 13, continue to participate actively in the programs but older members in their teens appear to be gradually drifting away from the centres because current programs do not fulfill their needs, the directors conclude.

Some 100 members of the Canadian Recreation Centres Association met in Riviere du Loup to discuss the problem.

One major reason for the indifference of youth, they said, is that few recreation or community centres allow their older members to plan or help plan the activities themselves.

The directors were told that "the rates of attendance at the recreational centres is proportional to the integration of youth in the administration."

Older members would also feel a greater sense of participation if they were kept informed of their centres' financial situation.

Variety of programming was essential and the usual sports activities should be supplemented by sing-songs and classes in painting, sculpture and dramatics.

Directors were criticized in using too many entertainers from outside their centres or district and not encouraging local talent. Such talent might be discovered readily "in a room where there is an atmosphere of simplicity and human warmth."

Some of the blame for the declining attendance was attached to parents who did not encourage their children to attend. Parents should realize, the directors said, that the centres encourage the full development of youth, physically and culturally.

SMITH WINS AGAIN

BULAWAYO, Rhodesia (AP)—Prime Minister Ian Smith was re-elected Saturday as president of the ruling Rhodesian Front party. He was unopposed.

PATTERNS CHANGE

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government says high interest rates have brought startling changes in the savings pattern of the American public. More money is being invested in government and corporate securities and less in cash-type assets, the securities and exchange commission reported Friday.

Foreign hospitals needed urgently in South Viet Nam

South Viet Nam has few doctors and more than half of them are in the armed forces, so foreign hospitals are much needed. A Canadian Press reporter visited a Canadian-supported hospital near Saigon where repairing hare-lips is one of the specialties.

By DOUGLAS AMARON

HO-NAI, South Viet Nam (CP)—Pham looked up from her canvas-covered cot in the hospital ward and smiled the first recognizable smile in her 13 years of life.

Somewhere in Viet Nam, 400 other children and grown-ups also are able to smile, thanks to the skill of a dentist from the Philippines and the devotion of the staff of a small Canadian-supported hospital in this village 18 miles north of Saigon.

Administered by Les Freres de St. Jean de Dieu, a religious order with headquarters in Montreal, the Ho-Nai hospital is the medical centre for thousands of war refugees who live in the area. The staff of about 80 religious and lay personnel includes four brothers from Quebec province.

Brothers Norbert Lacerote of Asbestos in the Eastern Townships and Bernard Samuel of Petite Riviere in the Gaspé have been here since the hospital opened 10 years ago. Brothers Jean de Dieu Spennard from the Ste. Agathe des Monts district and Pascal Clement from Ste. Monique near Montreal are more recent arrivals.

Pham and the 400 like her were victims of an affliction common in this country—hare-lips. Apart from a slight scar, she now is a beautiful girl who can look forward to a full life that otherwise might have been denied her.

All 400 operations were performed in the last 10 years by Dr. Napoleon Sanchez who joined the hospital as a young volunteer worker soon after it opened. He is still there on a voluntary basis and his work has won the admiration not only of the staff here but of medical authorities throughout the country.

"He is a brilliant man," said Rev. William Gagnon, the hospital's superior. "In mending their lips he has not only helped them physically but psychologically because they are able to go out of here as new people."

WAR IS EVER-PRESENT

Ho-Nai lies in flat, fertile country with rich, red soil that reminds you of Prince Edward Island. But the resemblance ends there because on all sides are the rice paddies, banana trees, thatched cottages, lumbering slate-gray buffaloes—and the war.

"The war is with us day and night," said Father Gagnon, a French-speaking Franco-American from New England who is on his second tour in Viet Nam. "It is in the bombing and the shooting at night and in the tragedy of the refugees that is with us all the time."

Father Gagnon tells of a mother—he presumes it was the mother—who brought two desperately sick babies to the hospital one day, left them there and never returned. Both babies died as did an aged man unable to speak and without identity whose friends similarly left him and didn't come back.

"We didn't know his name or his religion or anything about him," Father Gagnon said.

"All we could do was bury him—and the babies too."

Ho-Nai is in a "safe" area, almost encircled by huge

United States bases and not far from one of the largest airfields in the country. But the nights when there are Viet Cong raids are more frequent than the quiet nights and the brothers' sleep is broken regularly by the thunder of guns, bombs and small-arms fire.

TWO SHARE A BED

A complex of neat, spotlessly-clean one-storey brick buildings, with bed space for 250 patients, the hospital rarely has an empty bed and frequently two patients share the same bed. They are victims of illness (war casualties are taken elsewhere) and many have tuberculosis, probably the most prevalent disease in the country.

The four Canadians, in their 30s and early 40s, work at a variety of jobs in the general administration of the hospital where most of the staff is Vietnamese.

Brother Norbert, who was in North Viet Nam for five years before he came here and who speaks the language fluently, said an average of 14,000 outpatients—those who do not require hospitalization—comes to the hospital each month.

For the patients in hospital, there is a Vietnamese government grant of about six cents a day and in addition each patient is expected to pay an admission charge of slightly more than 50 cents if he has the money, but frequently pays less or nothing.

There is no further charge to the patient whether he stays a week, six months or longer,

and some, including a six-year-old boy with tuberculosis, have been there two years.

The hospital's monthly deficit is from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and would be more but for its own farm with 100 pigs, 150 rabbits and 600 chickens. A generator provides electric light but except for operations is used only at night when one of the recreational highlights is movies shown by Brother Bernard.

Equipment is adequate and includes radiology machinery but expansion plans, including an administration building, have been postponed for lack of funds.

The well-kept grounds are abloom—with brilliantly-hued bougainvillea trees but even here the war has taken its toll. A change of wind blew over the grounds chemicals being sprayed from American planes to destroy foliage that might hide the Viet Cong. Many of the hospital's trees were left as leafless skeletons.

Although long- and far-removed from home and obviously prepared to remain here as long as they can serve, the Canadian brothers are as up to date on "happenings in Canada as the mail allows.

They receive two French papers, Quebec L'Action and Montreal La Presse, and read them from cover to cover. Aug. 24 was a big day for the brothers when a bundle of 45 papers arrived from home. It mattered little that they dated back to March and April.

Facing serious financial crisis

LONDON (CP)—Less successful teams in the third and fourth divisions of English League soccer are facing what one expert has called "the most serious financial crisis in their history."

Smaller, less popular clubs have experienced a general decline in attendance. And the government's financial squeeze, designed to bolster the economy, has made it difficult to get bank loans and overdrafts.

Another vanishing source of revenue is the transfer fee—the price one team pays another to obtain a player it wants.

First and second division clubs used to find the smaller teams had a handy knack of developing young players they would then buy for several thousand pounds.

This process has changed recently and the big teams more often trade among themselves with sums in the £100,000 (\$300,000) bracket sometimes changing hands.

SOLD FORWARD

Of the 18 deals during the summer involving more than £20,000, only two concerned clubs outside the first and second divisions. Third division Middlesbrough sold inside forward Ian Gibson to second division Coventry City for £60,000 and bought centre forward John O'Rourke for £20,000 of the fourth division for £20,000.

Fourth division Barnsley—to its discomfort—provides the perfect example of the plight of many smaller teams.

This Yorkshire club, winner of the 1912 Football Association Cup, now rests at the bottom of the league in the ignominious 22nd place.

Attendance has been falling off and this season it has dropped below 3,000 for several matches. For one against Luton, only 2,041 passed

through the turnstiles on the same day that 56,000 persons crammed the London ground of Tottenham Hotspur when Spurs beat Manchester United.

Last season, Barnsley spent £33,393 on wages and operating costs but it has an income of just more than £18,000. It also must repay a £43,000 bank loan.

£600 FOR WAGES

The club employs 19 professional players and 10 juniors. It also has a trainer, an administrative staff of three and grounds keepers and cleaners to look after the pitch and stadium.

The weekly wage bill comes to about £600; the gate for the Luton match was £300.

One suggestion for getting the ailing club back on its feet is that it issue 80,000 shares at 10 shillings (\$1.50) each and use the revenue to buy players on the transfer market. But critics doubt the club could find enough people with faith in its future.

Teams in the two lower divisions have formed a liaison committee which plans to lay the case of the smaller teams before the Football Association, the English League and the government's sports council.

The clubs hope that high finance and the fight for national and international fame among the top clubs won't squeeze them out of professional soccer.

EEL MAKES MISTAKE

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (Reuters)—An eel, probably thinking it had found a mate, was blamed Thursday for the breakdown of the submarine cable linking Guyana and Barbados. Officials said the cable looked as if it had been bitten by the amorous eel.



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