

Mr. Pearson's Shuffle

Before Mr. Pearson had a chance to make the announcement he did last evening about his cabinet changes, that oldtime Liberal watchdog, Senator Pouliot, got in a few words. In a message issued while the Prime Minister was returning to the capital from his Caribbean jaunt, the senator told his party boss that he should postpone any decision about the future composition of his cabinet "until after your parliamentary supporters are given the opportunity to express their views and make their recommendations in a party caucus."

He went on to classify a third of the old cabinet as "above average," another third "average," and "the last third much below average." There was, he thought, "enough solid timber to replace all the dead wood in your cabinet," but he warned that "your veteran supporters are your best friends" and that they should be heard before any decision was made.

It would be interesting to know how the new lineup, without benefit of caucus consideration, meets Senator Pouliot's conception of what is needed to make the cabinet seaworthy. In any case, the job has involved a great deal of carpentering. Five new members have been named to fill vacancies created by electoral defeats and resignations, and the duties of several ministers have been shuffled in accordance, as Mr. Pearson said, with "a far-reaching reorganization of the cabinet designed to adapt governmental machinery to new conditions and changing needs."

Specific ministers would be charged with responsibility for manpower, energy and resources, for crime and correction. It will be difficult, now, to say who is holding those "key" posts about which there has been so much contention.

The new lineup gives eleven portfolios to Ontario, nine to Quebec, two to British Columbia and one each to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba. Out in the cold along with P.E.I. are Saskatchewan and Alberta. The West has lost out on Mr. Hays' replacement as agriculture minister to J. J. Greene, an Ontario newcomer. Miss LaMarsh has been shunted from Health and Welfare to the less accident-prone post of State Secretary. Mr. Favreau remains president of the Privy Council, and Mr. Sauve has an enlarged portfolio of Rural Development and Forestry. Mr. Winters, as expected, goes to Trade and Commerce, Mr. Sharp to Finance and Messrs. Martin, Pickersgill, Hellyer, McIlraith and Cardin to their old posts.

For the record, it is worth recalling that it was a year ago today that Mr. Pearson issued his memorable "code of ethics" to his then cabinet colleagues, telling them how necessary it was to avoid giving excuse for scandal and scuttled. This wasn't brought up at the press-conference yesterday; but it is too good a code to fall into disuse, its reissue on this occasion would be timely.

The French Election

Despite the sharp campaign against him, it is expected that General de Gaulle will weather the storm in the French presidential election tomorrow. The chances favor him because of the wide range of political differences that separate the supporters of his recent opponents. The effect of the voting on Dec. 5 was to show that the French people prefer keeping him for another term, but want him to reverse those policies which so dangerously isolate France from its allies.

ent in the New York Times. This writer points out that of the approximately 32 per cent of the vote cast for Francois Mitterrand in last Sunday's poll, nearly 26 per cent was contributed by the French Communists. The Socialist party, from which Mitterrand sought its full complement of 15 per cent, gave him only about 7 per cent. So that, if the runner-up to de Gaulle has acquired the voting majority which would have elected him president, his principal obligation for victory would still have been to the Communists. "Even those in the United States who have violently attacked de Gaulle's foreign policies as destructive of the essential unity of the free world," says The Times writer, "must balk at such a transfer of power in France as the only possible alternative."

We believe this would be the consensus of opinion in Canada as well. What one would like to see is a new President de Gaulle emerging from tomorrow's contest, no longer arrogant, scornful and self-satisfied, but heedful of the fact that his policies, though not his stabilizing influence, have failed of endorsement by his people. Nothing in the French Constitution could force him, if re-elected, to unbend in this manner, but it would be the course of wisdom, surely. There is to be a parliamentary election in another year, and if the French become too exasperated they can deny the Gaullists a majority in the next assembly.

Briefs & Money Galore

There will be a sigh of relief at the news that the B and B Commission has completed its public forums and hearings, and will settle down to prepare its report. Unfortunately, that won't be the last we shall have heard from it, for it has warned that its next report, like its last, will be of an "interim" nature. When it proposes to come to grips with a final report, goodness knows! Perhaps a year or two from now. If the meantime it has 410 briefs from groups and individuals to digest, and oodles of money to carry on with—all ten commissioners, and their army of bureaucrats and camp followers.

It's been the costliest and most briefed commission ever to go on tour across the country. At last report, it had cost \$2,500,000 but that was before it reopened its inquiries after the federal election. One commissioner talks confidently of it costing \$4,000,000 before it gets through, and he could be right.

More disturbing than the huge outlay of taxpayers' money, argues the Winnipeg Tribune, is the threat the commission poses to national unity, and its general futility. The forum it provided for divisive comment, particularly during the second round of public hearings, was a disservice to those Canadians who are earnestly and realistically trying to bring Confederation up to date. Instead of solving or reducing the number of language and cultural problems, its activities have tended to increase the causes of friction.

The chief point of criticism, underlined in press comment across the country, is that relations between Quebec and the rest of Canada have been surging ahead while the commission has been standing still. Its first report purported to be "an eyewitness report on the Canadian crisis," and the "crisis" theme has been dominant in its inquiries ever since. No wonder that they have encouraged all the crackpots and malcontents to speak their pieces, but to regard this as a fair sampling of public opinion is to belittle the common sense of the Canadian people.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Japanese have come up with a practical solution of the problem of what to do with old Christmas cards. A new type of card, offered in Japan for the first time this year, is made of chocolate, to be eaten after delivery.

It is said that if Franz Josef II, ruling prince of Liechtenstein and a smalltime ruler by our standards, sold his art collection he could finance his country's national budget for 30 years. The collection, richest in private hands in the world, is worth \$150 million.

A Nobel prize winning scientist, Dr. Willard Libby, says that for \$20 billion spent in research, man in 10-15 years could build a space ship that would have the ability to travel at a speed of 540,000 miles per hour. Less than three minutes would take him around the earth; 14 days would take him to Mars; it would still take years to reach parts of the solar system.



DOING THE LIMBO

GALILEE TODAY

Still A Land Of Biblical Enchantment

The hand of change lies lightly on the land where Jesus of Nazareth grew up. Today, as thousands of years ago, shepherds tend flocks on hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee in present-day Israel. And fishermen cast their nets in the same sea where a young man once addressed their predecessors: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." But there are signs of change. National Geographic reports in its December issue. In an article entitled "The Land of Galilee," assistant editor Kenneth MacLeish says that Nazareth still has carpenters, quietly pursuing the trade of Jesus's father Joseph though they now use modern band saws. Camel trains still roid past Kafr Kana, the traditional site of the wedding at Cana, but there is no modern highway. Galilee lies in the northern part of the modern State of Israel. A chief feature of the country is the Sea of Galilee, actually a 13-mile-long lake. One community there is Capernaum, the community where Jesus came to teach and heal. On the lake's shores, the Bible says, Jesus fed 5,000 people. He delivered the Sermon on the Mount on a nearby hill. "The Mount of Beatitudes is located by tradition only," Mr. MacLeish cautions. "The Crusaders thought it was the so-called 'horns of Hittim' a few miles to the west, where they themselves were defeated by Saladin on a scorching July day in 1187. "Others consider it to be the high hill above Tabgha from which all the sea can be seen. It is so enchanted a spot that it lends itself to legend. One can well believe that the greatest sermon ever preached was preached there. Tiberias, the principal city on the Sea of Galilee, is a caldron of cultures in which new West-

Hard On Housewives

When the Canada Pension Plan comes into operation next month, some housewives will find themselves drawn into the administrative vortex as the employers of cleaning women or other domestic help. If they pay their help more than \$11.54 a week they will be required to calculate 1.8 per cent of the excess, add matching contributions of their own, fill in the necessary return and bundle it off to the Revenue Department. The housewives' responsibilities will not end there. To determine if tax should be deducted, the housewife will have to ask her part-time help to fill out a TD-1 form showing personal tax exemptions. The individual sums involved are unlikely to be large enough to require tax payment, but a T-4 slip will have to be filled in.

MORE COMPLICATED

Until now, the housewife-help relationship has been an uncomplicated one as far as financial arrangements have been concerned. But from January onward, it will be invested with a degree of bureaucracy. There is to be a minuscule but essential nibble at the payment and

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

CIVIC TAX RATE

Sir:—There is an old saying that you cannot escape death and taxes, but recently my attention has been brought to the ridiculously high tax rates in this city. As a new taxpayer to this city I would like to point out the unreasonable tax structure. On a dollar the tax is assessed at \$25.25 per square foot of office, waiting room and storage area alike. On this assessment we pay two percent. Halifax rate is five percent, but in Halifax their assessment is much below Charlottetown's rates. So much below, that the tax bill in Halifax for my office would be \$135.00. In Charlottetown it is \$400.00. Today our rate is two percent and they tell us Halifax is five per cent, but take another look and see how ridiculous our tax structure is. Of course taxes are not based on logical thinking but instead on what the city needs for its treasury. I am, Sir, etc., FRANK BURKE, MD Charlottetown

TEN YEARS AGO

(December 18, 1956) Bob Beddard of Sherbrooke, Que., was officially named Canada's top-ranking tennis player for 1955, replacing Lorne Maize who topped to fifth place.

The governing committee of the Canadian Drama Award named Mr. John Alexander Lawson, Euston Street, Charlottetown, one of seven persons in Canada to win a Canadian Drama Award for his meritorious service in drama.

CARD PASSED CENTURY

The first commercially-produced Christmas card was offered for sale in Leith, Scotland, in 1841.

Effects Of Fallout

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A valuable colony of mice has lived peacefully for seven years in a laboratory at Los Alamos, Cal. The only catch is that the males are exposed to large doses of cobalt-60 gamma radiation before breeding. No genetic weakening has occurred in 35 generations. The heavily irradiated population has fewer mice per litter than the control group and scientists conducting the experiment believe that atomic rays cannot cause the genetic death of a mouse community unless the level is high enough to sterilize.

An absorbable chemical, such as iodine, becomes radioactive after it is tagged in an atomic reactor. The radiolabel does not look or taste any different than before, and it concentrates in the thyroid gland after being consumed. In the past we had no way to detect where the chemical settled and how much reached its destination. But a radioactive isotope emits rays that signal its presence, and tagged iodine is now a routine tool for thyroid research and is used in the therapy of tumors and other disorders of the gland.

A combination of insulin and radioactive zinc-65, used to determine the time and place of insulin's action, has increased our knowledge of diabetes considerably. Radioactive iron is used to test red blood cell survival and gold-198 to test liver function. Most of us are concerned mainly about fallout, but atomic energy also has its humanitarian side. Only a few of the approximately 200 radioactive species produced in nuclear explosions are known to be hazardous to man as a result of fallout. Many of these are transferred via the food chain to the human diet. They get into edible plants and animals including their secretions, such as milk. The troublemakers include iodine-131, strontium-90 and 89, cesium 137, carbon-14, zinc-65, iron-59 and cobalt-60. The concentration of carbon is very small but it is taken up in all organic forms of life and remains active for centuries.

HEEL PAIN D. H. writes: What can be done about policeman's heel? REPLY This painful condition usually is due to spur formation on the heel associated with irritation of a bursa in the area. If rest and relief of pressure are not successful, surgical removal of the bony growth and bursa may be necessary.

PULSE COUNTING

F. E. writes: Can you tell you have heart trouble by counting your pulse? REPLY Only a few types of heart disorders are detectable in this way, and in the majority, the defect is confined to changes in rhythm.

IDEAL PULSE

P. K. writes: What is the normal pulse for a man of 65? Mine remains 60—rain, snow, or sunshine. REPLY From 50 to 100. A rate of 60 is ideal because it is on the slow side of normal.

BUNION SURGERY

B. E. writes: Is surgery advised for bunions? REPLY Yes, if they are painful or unsightly and simpler measures give no relief.

TEA LEAF REMEDY

I. R. writes: Are tea leaves good for eyes? REPLY This remedy was popular 100 years ago, but nowadays there are better treatments.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Children should not have a die strange animals. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

A Happier Token

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP)—The latest American space epic shows the world a United States image of human and technical achievement—and rare public relations courage.

From launch to landing, the latest Gemini manned flight triumph, like its predecessors, has been a fully exposed venture. So far that decision has stood up, with no serious accident or death to mar the record.

The Soviet Union, for security or whatever other reasons, has never provided any on-the-spot public displays of its space men and machines at work.

It may not matter much in the pursuit of international prestige, but the American space rendezvous is a much happier token of American readiness to show and tell all than some other recent events.

The American credibility rating this year has been taking knocks at home and abroad. The war in Viet Nam is a root cause. It is often said that truth is war's first casualty. In Viet Nam, moreover, the U.S. is fighting a dirty and growing war under the searching praise of an unprecedented array of reporters.

NO OVERT CENSORSHIP There is no censorship in the way it was practised when the French were there, or as it was in Korea.

But the U.S. classifies its casualties as light, moderate or heavy, and there is a documented case that it applies the lights with considerable flexibility.

Again, was the United States ever serious about the "unconditional discussions" mentioned last April by President Johnson? Recent reports show that the United States a year ago shook off some kind of opening offered by North Viet Nam and thereby embarrassed Secretary-General U Thant of the United Nations, who had been asked by the United States to check into peace-talk possibilities.

There is belief here now that President Johnson, named as far back as October, 1964, to expand the war in the south—but not until after he was elected.

"Creeping signs of doubt and cynicism about administrative pronouncements, especially about its foreign policy, are privately troubling some of the government's usually stalwart supporters," wrote Murray Marder recently in the Washington Post.

He saw a mood representing a "perceptibly growing disquiet, misgivings or scepticisms about the candor or validity of official declarations." Marder and others see the

CLIP OUT AND KEEP WITH YOUR TELEPHONE BOOK

PLAN BIRTH CONTROL

TORONTO (CP)—The suburban Scarborough board of health agreed to study costs involved in a plan to provide birth control centres offering free contraceptives next year. The board unanimously approved Wednesday a cost study on such centres which would operate with 15 child health clinics now open on a one-day-each basis in township churches. The criminal code forbids dissemination of birth control information.

How to speed your Long Distance calls at Christmas



Each year at Christmas, such a huge surge of Long Distance calling takes place that delays are encountered. If it is not possible or desirable to make your special Christmas calls before or after the actual day, consideration of the following points will help you cut down delays and therefore serve you better:

- 1) Station-to-station calls are fastest (and most economical). Having the complete number, including the Area Code, to give to the Operator will also help speed your call.
- 2) There is no need to wait until 6 p.m. on Christmas Day to take advantage of lower station-to-station rates—they will be in effect all day.

As a matter of fact, because Christmas Day 1966 falls on a Saturday, the lower "Night and Sunday" rates are in effect from 6 p.m. Friday night through until 4:30 a.m. on Monday, the 27th.

Happy Calling and Merry Christmas



Cuts In Many Ways

Mall Street Journal

When the electric shaver first hit the market, many people predicted the demise of the conventional razor. It might have come about, too, if it weren't for the fact that technology cuts in more than one way.

Instead of reconciling themselves to early disappearance, the safety razor firms got busy in their own laboratories. In due course they were offering new and improved types of razors, as well as sharper, longer-lasting blades, with the result that the companies not only held on to a lot of their old customers but began adding new ones.

Recently two of the larger producers announced razors that feature a continuous ribbon of steel giving dozens of shaves. Whatever the consumer reaction to the development, it is one

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