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PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1966.

Down To Business

Some unkind critic said that if our MPs were paid on a piecemeal basis for legislation passed, they'd have gone home for their Easter holidays nearly broke. But they are back to work now, after an adjournment since April 6, and the hope is that they will get down to business on the government's legislative program, which constitutes the real meat of the session.

But first the House will be tied down briefly on previous commitments. There are the reports of the independent commissions redrawing the constituency boundaries, for instance, which were tabled on March 19. The redistribution law said there should be a 15-day period during which objections to the new boundaries could be filed. But it will be recalled that the government had to get its 1965-66 estimates passed or be plunged into financial crisis. The result was an all-party agreement early this session to amend the redistribution law providing for 45 days instead of 15 for objections. The 45 days will be up May 4; and it is intended, now that Parliament has resumed, to devote five of those remaining days to winding up the budget debate, and the other seven to hearing redistribution protests.

After that, the members are expected to really get to work, aided by the new stream-lined rules adopted by the House last session. The rules narrow the scope for idle talk and opposition filibuster, and increase by nearly 50 per cent the time available for government business. Some 65 items are listed in the Throne speech that will require their attention, and there won't be any time for unproductive wrangling.

Finland's Problem

Finland is the most recent country to get into the bilingual problem picture. It's difficulty is, not so much to find a solution as to finance that solution without unduly burdening the taxpayers. At least, that's what's worrying the Helsinki government, which is reportedly spending millions of marks annually to maintain the two-language administration it's legislation demands. In addition, still further millions are spent on double-language street signs, translation and typing of official documents and similar items.

The first Swedes arrived in Finland about 500 A.D. Permanent Swedish settlement developed in the 13th century. The descendants of these invaders are still there. At one time it was the burning desire of every Finnish youth to speak Swedish. The development of industry, though, reduced the Swedish-language inhabitants, so that now there are only some 350,000 Swedish-Finns, representing about 8 per cent of the total population.

A law enacted in 1919, when, after World War I, Finland became fully self-governing states that Swedish and Finnish are the republic's official languages, and clearly requires that when the minority language is spoken by more than 10 per cent of a community's total population, that community must fall within the "double-language" category.

The language status of communities is decided every tenth year. To escape fluctuation, communities first applying for double-language status must have a minority of at least 12 per cent. Per contra, those seeking to be classified in the single-language category must have a minority group of less than 8 per cent on their first application.

The law also originally stipulated that the major cities, Helsinki, Aabo and Vasa should be regarded as double-language communities even if the minority fell below 8 per cent. This proviso was later wiped out, though the Swedish Peoples' Party,

with 14 seats in parliament, have urged that it be required. The law also requires that people applying for civil service jobs must be able to speak both languages.

The Swedish-Finns are largely concentrated in Finland's northwestern and southern coastal areas, and their numbers are slowly declining. The double-language standard doesn't seem to have done much to check this decline, and it is questionable what the future has in store for it.

Still Unexplained

In referring to the Victor Spencer case in the House of Commons on Feb. 23, Prime Minister Pearson stated that the surveillance being exercised over this man "in his own interest as well as in the public interest," had been "adapted to the requirements of this particular case." Justice Minister Cardin supplemented this assurance by stating that Spencer would be subject to a 24-hour tail by the RCMP.

It was understandable, therefore, that when Spencer was found in his home in Vancouver on April 9 after he had been dead for three or four days, Canadians were strongly critical of the RCMP for the inefficiency of its "surveillance" of the 61-year-old spy suspect. Mr. Pearson himself was quoted as stating, when queried as to whether the surveillance had been withdrawn prior to the suspect's death, that he was unaware of any such order having been issued.

Yet the government, it has now been revealed, called off the RCMP in the wake of strong protests in Parliament and by the public. The order is reported to have been issued by Solicitor General Penfield, under whom the RCMP is administered. Spencer, therefore, was no longer the RCMP's responsibility when Ottawa flashed word to Vancouver to stop shadowing the former postal clerk.

Surely the Prime Minister is on speaking terms with his own Solicitor General and should have been informed of this order immediately. Certainly he should not have been placed in the position of having to make the statement he did. He should at least have had the knowledge immediately after Spencer's body was found, and the public generally should have been so informed. It was an oversight for which it is hard to account, and which the Mounties, no doubt, will find difficult to forget.

Out In Alberta

Like all self-employed Canadians, farmers must pay the full shot of the Canada Pension Plan. They have also to make an additional payment for their hired men, and to deduct the latter's share of the premiums. Out in Alberta, resentment over these provisions has been growing and several southern Alberta locals of the Farmers' Union have already held angry protest meetings. Perhaps it is too late to do anything about it, but at a big rally near Red Deer recently, attended by top officials of the potent and militant Western Stockgrowers Association, a campaign for the privilege of "opting out" of the deal was discussed.

It is argued that big business, with its electronic and punchcard book-keeping machines, can adjust itself to the red tape involved in the pension plan, but for the farmer the multiplicity of forms to be filled and records to be kept adds up both to frustration and burdensome costs. Businessmen have learned to cope with such problems and pass on most of the cost to their customers. Those who fail to do so wind up in the bankruptcy court. But for the farmer—the western farmer particularly—there is no way in which he is going to be able to pass on any of his extra costs. He is the last in line, it is claimed; and that is what is causing all the uproar.

Nor is this all. The farmers insist that they are caught both ways. They are the ultimate consumers, so they have to pay for whatever the manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and transporters add to their cost as a result of social security. Thus when the bakers recently added two cents a loaf to the price of bread, the farmers have to pay the increase for the bread they buy but are in fact getting less for the wheat that goes into the bread—which is sold by the Wheat Board in the open market—than they did last year.

EDITORIAL NOTE

"Ontario residents," comments the Ottawa Journal, "might complain more about increases in taxes if their per-capita personal incomes weren't 33 per cent higher than the average for the other nine provinces." That will be a good thought to take to the next federal-provincial conference.



LYNDON BRIDGE

BUT IS IT ART? The Latest In Jigsaw Puzzles

National Geographic News Bulletin

It takes the patience of Job and the taste of a modern art connoisseur to put together the latest in jigsaw puzzles. Placid landscapes cut up into simple pieces are out. Instead, artist Jackson Pollock's "Convergence" is divided into 340 perplexing squiggles, swirls, and blotches. This is the ultimate in a form of intellectual exercise invented by the ancient Chinese. Assembling the intricate network of colorful splatters created by the late pioneer of "action" painting has its rewards. "You understand a Jackson Pollock better after you have made the puzzle," said an art student.

The Pollock painting is called the world's most difficult jigsaw puzzle. Its creators suggest that a team of four or five patient people work on it at once. One man shut himself up in his basement and attempted to assemble the Pollock puzzle alone. He emerged after a full day's effort muttering: "It can't be done, it can't be done."

CORNERS ARE CUT "Convergence" at least has a conventional rectangular shape. Many of the new jigsaw puzzles are round. These deny the jigsaw fan the comforting straight border to join together first as a framework for the rest of the pieces.

Among the new circular puzzles are reproductions of "Adoration of the Magi" by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, and Andrea della Robbia's "The Virgin and St. John Adoring Christ." It takes more than 500 tiny interlocking pieces to reproduce these masterpieces. Special dies are used to stamp out the segments.

Some round puzzles are printed in a solid color with no design at all. These include "Little Red Riding Hood's Hood" (all red), "Close-up of the three Bears" (all brown), and "Snow White" (all white).

One of the most elaborate modern puzzles is an original painting in oils on gold leaf of the life and times of Richard II. Done on wood in medieval style.

Strikes Responsive Chords

Ottawa Journal

Each person has his favorite sign of spring. Some judge by the pussy willows, some by the rising of the sap, and some by the return of the wild geese. But spring arrives for many on that day when they hear the first carols behind the barn. There is a heartiness in the clear song—an optimism that strikes a responsive chord in the heart.

Our robin is not a robin. The true robin redbreast is a native of the Old World, a bird about the size of a bluebird. This is the robin one meets so frequently in European literature. Our robin is a thrush, but the English pioneers named it the robin in remembrance of the bird that was common on the English countryside.

Probably robin redbreast is the best known of all our birds. It is a bird that prefers an environment around homes and farmsteads. Most of them go south in winter but it is not uncommon for them to spend the cold period in the northland, feeding on berries and weed seeds.

The nest has a base of mud, lined with grass. The eggs are a pale bluish green. One of the appealing sights on the lawn is to watch a mother, followed by three or four awkward, fluffy-feathered young, hoping for the worm that the mother pulls from the soil.

Through sunny days the robins sound their clear, far-carrying carols. Sugar snows may whiten the land and rough winds bludgeon the fields and hillsides, but the robins take it in stride. Soon nest building will begin, but for an interlude the red-breasts spend time making music while they hunt for food when the carols sound in the warming air, the countryman knows that true spring cannot be far behind.

The Three Bs

Christian Science Monitor

"The three Bs" Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms, I presume. "What century you livin' in, mister? We mean the three Bs—the Beatles, Bond, and Batman! Yeah! Zowie!"

In our infrequent encounters with the younger generation, we rediscover just how much times have changed. And we can't help noticing how much the younger set (enthusiastically supported by a sizable number of their elders), has had going for it these days.

Radio? The Beatles and their friends have it pretty well sewed up. Television? It's a batman's world. The movies? James Bond's whipping across practically every drive-in we drive by.

The toy and novelty manufacturers appear to be taking it all in stride. Translation: They're reported to be turning cart-wheels and that sort of thing.

But, we have observed, these matters sometimes have a way of getting slightly out of hand. The other day, for instance, we read that six-year-old Prince Andrew of the British Royal Family will be given an \$11,000 midget model of James Bond's gadget-happy sports car.

Don't get us wrong. We're the kind who believe that children and toys go together. It's just that we have a feeling that it's sometimes the simple things in life that make a child happy and contribute in a constructive way to its upbringing. And we have a notion this might hold true even when the child happens to be a prince.

We realize that in a Beatles-Batman era things move fast including, of course, the Beatles, Bond, and Batman. But we wonder if the transition from Goldilocks (and the three Bs) at age four to Goldfinger at age six isn't pushing it just a little?

Cirrhosis And Vision

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Cirrhosis of the liver is an intriguing disease. It is brought about by drinking too much, eating too little, or both. Some people abuse the organ for years and for some unknown reason, escape without a scratch. Physicians from a Santiago, Chile, hospital found that the color blind were more susceptible to cirrhosis of the liver than persons with normal color vision. A similar correlation could not be made with other hepatic disorders. This may be explained because color blindness is hereditary. A sex-linked gene also may contribute to a form of weakness that makes the liver more vulnerable to the toxic effects of alcohol and malnutrition.

Last year we wrote about a similar statistical study involving the heart. Chronic alcoholics with cirrhosis of the liver were less likely to develop heart attacks than heavy drinkers without liver trouble. Our only comment was that drinkers with cirrhosis do not live long enough to develop coronary thrombosis. This is only part of the story. The liver manufactures substances that help the blood to clot and when this process is malfunctioning, thrombosis is less likely to occur. In this regard, an ailing liver is a built-in anticoagulant machine that prevents clot formation in the coronary arteries. The organ also manufactures estrogen hormones that protect against atherosclerosis.

Several years ago we wrote about another study in which someone noted that most men with cirrhosis have very little hair on the chest. Very little has been added to this concept. The alcoholic destined to develop cirrhosis has other tell-tale findings that are difficult to explain. These include redness of the palms and nose, spider veins on the face and upper abdomen, Dupuytren's contractures of the hands, and enlarged breasts in men.

DISEASES OF THE TROPICS

Mrs. K. writes: What are the symptoms of tropical disease? REPLY Books have been written to answer this question. There are hundreds of tropical diseases and each requires individual treatment. Malaria, African sleeping sickness, yaws, and yellow fever are only a few of the better known tropical diseases.

GASTRIC FREEZING

P. O. S. writes: I have heard about a frozen treatment to eliminate the pain of a stomach ulcer. I got an ulcer eight months ago. Is this an acceptable procedure? REPLY Acceptable perhaps, but the results after six months to a year are not good enough to warrant recommendation.

EGG SIPPING

J. O. writes: Is there any advantage in sipping one raw egg a day? REPLY There is no advantage to us but animal and bird nest robbers like their eggs this way. An egg is an egg and boiling, poaching, frying, or scrambling does not detract from its nutritional value.

APOPLEXY

T. F. writes: Are cerebral hemorrhage and stroke the same thing? REPLY Yes, although in many strokes a clot rather than a hemorrhage develops in a blood vessel and the brain is damaged by lack of blood in contrast to the hemorrhage in which the clot presses on the sensitive brain tissue.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT

Wringers should have a safety release. (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 20, 1941) King George II of Greece in the dual role of monarch and premier called upon all Greeks to defend their nation "to the very end" as British and Greek troops fell back before the massed charges of German "blitzmen."

A portion of the Japanese press said that "it no longer is a crazy dream to expect a great war with Japan, Germany, Italy and Soviet Russia on one side and the United States, Britain and China on the other."

TEN YEARS AGO

(April 20, 1956)

The Earl of Bessborough left \$348,000 in his will. The former governor-general who had died a month previous left all his property to his son, the present earl, a merchant banker with film and radio interests.

SET UP 'SEVEN DAYS' FUND

TORONTO (CP) — Stephen Patrick, staff co-ordinator of the newly formed Committee to Save Seven Days and the Integrity of the CBC said Tuesday that the committee is accepting \$1 contributions for a "defence fund" to save the television program.

Mr. Patrick, a Toronto University student, said committee chapters have been set up in most Canadian cities to "help pay the cost of fighting this battle."

No Marked Improvement

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) — The unyielding nature of the United States government's basic attitude to China has been underlined in congressional testimony by State Secretary Dean Rusk. Every time the U.S. makes a proposal for better relations—exchanges of journalists, students, scientists or whatever—communist-ruled China rushes to broadcast its scorn. Time alone seems capable of creating any marked improvement in relations, Rusk said in his testimony, published Saturday.

Observers feel all that has changed despite domestic claims the U.S. has shifted its line, is public awareness of the problem of getting along with the Asian giant of 700,000,000 people. In recent weeks, the U.S. government has broadened its proposals for helping begin a thaw—proposals made as early as 1957 to China and brusquely rejected then as now.

The essence of Rusk's views run this way: "It is just as essential to contain Communist aggression in Asia as it was, and is, to Europe. At the same time, we must continue to make it plain that if Peking abandons its beliefs that force is the best way to resolve disputes and gives up its violent strategy of world revolution, we would welcome an era of good relations."

But Rusk could not predict quick changes in China. "Peking's present state of mind is a combination of aggressive arrogance and obsessions of its own making." His points emphasized the heart of the bitter mutual isolation between the U.S. and China: Formosa, home of the Chinese Nationalists and holder of a United Nations Security Council permanent seat.

The U.S. will continue to help defend Formosa, Rusk said, and attempt to make sure Formosa remains in the UN. "When it can be done without jeopardizing other U.S. interests, we should continue to enlarge the possibilities for unofficial contact (with China)," Rusk said.

But that is an academic exercise now, he suggested, in saying that the present Chinese leaders "seem immune to agreement or persuasion by anyone, including their own allies."

Rights Can Be Legislated

Milwaukee Journal

You can't, the argument goes, legislate civil rights. However, consider Alabama. In 1960 there were 66,000 Negroes registered to vote in that state. By vigorous effort the figure was brought to 111,966 before enactment of the voting rights act last August. Today, with the help of that act, there are 227,000 Negroes registered in Alabama—more than one-fourth of the total voter registration.

This means that the candidates in this fall's election must reckon with the Negro voter. So far no major candidate has a mentioned segregation, but the subject that used to be so popular with politicians.

The Negro vote is expected to count heavily in the Democratic primary next month—and against Mrs. George Wallace who is running for her husband's job. Atty. Gen. Richmond Flowers, who has frequently been critical of Gov. Wallace, is expected to get the Negro vote. If Mrs. Wallace wins, the Negro vote could contribute to the election of a Republican in November.

The Threat Of Failure

Toronto Globe and Mail

Grading in Ontario city schools is less than 100 years old. England never completely settled ungraded schools which, all over the world from the time of Plato to Einstein's school days, were effective because they allowed a pupil to proceed according to his abilities, not in a lock-step platoon with 35 or 40 others.

There was some justification for grading when Ontario pupils had to write exams at the end of each year, set by a central authority (as a check on teachers' competence as much as on pupils). These external exams disappeared long ago.

One of the worst features of grading is the threat of failure to be promoted that it invokes. It's ridiculous and damaging that a child should be labelled a failure at the age of eight or 10. Anyway, a pupil doesn't warrant being kept back a whole year; he may be behind only two months, or lagging in a couple of subjects.

One phony aspect is that grades don't mean the same throughout. In some schools a Grade seven may be a year and a half behind a Grade seven in others—even in the same city.

Large school boards in Ontario already have schools where pupils at the primary level (Grades one to three) are ungraded, and taught in groups, shifting from one to another, and to another classroom, as they individually develop.

A completely ungraded school system will require changes in the authorized curriculum and prescription of texts which are laid down by grades. But these changes can be made—as is being done for a new maths course for Grades one to six (by which teachers will take their pupils through progressive stages not marked off by years or grades). But the key to success or failure of the ungraded schools is the ability of the teacher.

Allowing an incompetent teacher to choose what he shall teach, and to advance or retard pupils by guesswork, could produce chaos. This is an argument for better academic and professional preparation of teachers—another of Mr. Davis' reforms that is on the way.

The time has come to take pupils out of educational strait-jackets and get the grade label off the classroom door.

NOTICE!

INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES

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