

That Rumored Increase

According to an Ottawa correspondent in The Globe and Mail, all three opposition parties have agreed in principle to a proposed indemnity boost for parliamentary members, though there is uncertainty about the size of the increase. A group of younger Conservative members are credited with promoting the scheme with the "tacit" approval of Prime Minister Diefenbaker, and with talking in terms of doubling the indemnity to \$20,000 a year.

The issue, it is said, came to a head at a Conservative caucus early in December. There was some opposition to the proposal, particularly in view of the Government's austerity program; but self interest carried the day, and the Prime Minister reportedly "agreed to other parties'."

The New Democratic party is quoted as having given an undertaking that if a figure can be agreed on unanimously for the increase, its members will support it without dissent. The Liberals have agreed in principle to the plan. Social Credit is said to be "wholeheartedly in favor of the principle although Sacred Leader Robert Thompson has said that the \$20,000 figure is too high."

The most disturbing part of this report is at the tail end. It says: "The Conservative strategy group, including the Prime Minister, has been thinking in terms of pay increases for members of Parliament ever since they realized last June 19 that Social Credit under many conditions would hold the balance of power in the Commons. Their study of the composition of the Sacred group led to the belief that the Social Credit members might be reluctant to vote against the Government and forcing a quick election if it meant putting a salary of \$15,000 in jeopardy." And, presumably, they would be still more reluctant if the salary in jeopardy were jumped to \$20,000.

We are hoping to see a denial of this report from some authoritative Conservative source. As it stands, it represents as barefaced a piece of political bribery as we have ever come across. There may be good reasons why a modest increase in sessional indemnities at Ottawa would be in order; but surely not on the ground indicated, or in the manner in which this raid on the taxpayers' money is being manoeuvred.

Outomded Already

How radically the situation in nuclear defense is changing was indicated by the announcement, the other day, that the United States is planning to dismantle its intermediate range missile bases in Turkey and Italy. These bases, established only four years ago, have become antiques in the rocket age. When they are dismantled, and somewhat similar ones removed from Britain, there will be no more deep-striking land-based ballistic missiles aimed in NATO countries and aimed at targets in Russia.

Instead, the NATO alliance will rely on a multinational force of Polaris submarines mounting missiles that can be fired at targets in Russia from below the surface of the sea. Such a multinational force may not be a reality until

close to 1970, but in the meantime the United States has more than enough long-range missile power to shield the alliance.

By a curious coincidence, the year 1959—when these now obsolete missile bases were established in Europe—was the year when Canada was supposed to have made a commitment to arm its NATO force in Europe with nuclear warheads. Or is it a coincidence? Doesn't it point up the very argument Prime Minister Diefenbaker has been using for delaying a decision on the matter at this time? The Prime Minister may be presumed to have more detailed knowledge of the changing situation than his critics have, but enough is known publicly to substantiate the statements he has made.

These statements find further corroboration in the fact that none of Canada's 14 NATO allies apparently cares two pips whether Canada acquires nuclear weapons or not. The political rumpus raised by this issue at Ottawa hasn't created a ripple outside Canada's boundaries. Newspapers in other NATO countries have all but ignored it, and so have NATO publications such as the monthly NATO Letter. As one correspondent has noted, "it would seem that the Canadian nuclear debate is taking place in a domestic vacuum."

Liberal Leader Pearson himself must have doubts about the wisdom of his demand that Canada get on the nuclear bandwagon now, for he has been backtracking on it ever since he made it.

Irradiated Lobsters

As indicated at the recent annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, a scientific team of the board is now using radiation equipment in Halifax in an experiment to extend the storage life of refrigerated fisheries products. Initially the effect is being studied on iced scallops. Plans are already being made, however, to extend the study to lobsters and other fresh fish products.

Scientists view this new approach to fish preservation with optimism. If the experiments prove successful it will mean that markets thousands of miles from the source of fresh fish supplies can give the consumer a top quality product unaffected by deterioration for a longer period than is now possible.

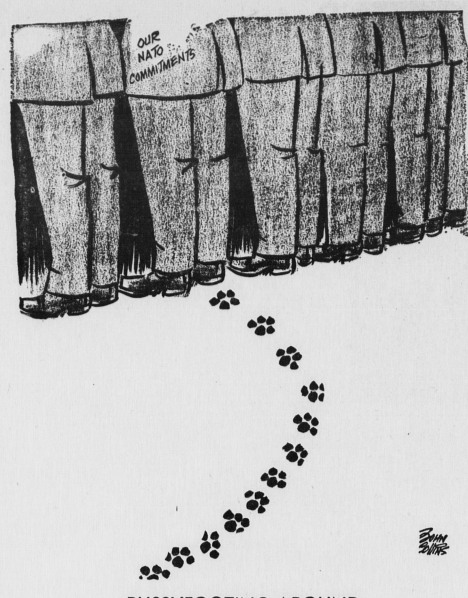
To assess the effect of low doses of ionizing radiation on the storage life of fishery products at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, an irradiation unit was obtained on loan from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. The products are exposed to a low dose of gamma ray radiation which reduces bacteria without making the products radioactive. Actually, the experiments could be described as a pasteurization program because the bacteria on the fish are being reduced much in the manner of milk pasteurization.

For the first experiment, several lots of fresh scallops were selected, shucked, irradiated and stored at the proper temperature in ice on the same day. Taste panels, chemical and bacteriological tests were performed twice a week for the first three weeks and once weekly thereafter. The results are described as "encouraging."

With fisheries research moving into the atomic field, who knows what wonderful developments may be achieved within the next few years in food storing as well as processing? Already the prospect of reaching world markets for our fresh Island lobsters may be just around the corner.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Revenue Minister Hugh John Flemming will be the minister to whom the Atlantic Development Board will report, according to Prime Minister Diefenbaker in replying to a query in the House of Commons by Mr. Pickersill. It is also reported, we know not on what basis, that Mr. Flemming will succeed to Mr. Davis Fulton's portfolio of Public Works in the near future. That will make him directly responsible for our Caseway undertaking, and for seeing that no time is lost in speeding up the preliminary work on this project which now rates top priority on the national agenda.



PUSSYFOOTING AROUND

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

A Pile Of Political Problems

The Members of Parliament, returning to Ottawa after spending the four weeks of Christmas recess at home in most cases, have naturally brought back a pile of problems relating to their constituencies or individual constituents.

When Question Period opened on the first day, Mr. Speaker observed the usual courtesy by allowing the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. L.B. Pearson, to "catch his eye" first. Then other Front Bench M.P.s asked questions. But the sixth and the seventh questions both came from the senior M.P. from the Lakehead, the industrious long-time mayor Mr. Hubert Badanal.

One of his questions asked if the Postmaster General had received a request that the City of Fort William and Port Arthur be designated as a single postal district. The significance of this is that today a 5 cent stamp is required on a letter sent from Fort William to the contiguous community but distant cities in the Port Arthur whereas if the united cities were regarded as a single postal district, only a 4 cent stamp would be needed.

AN M.P.'S PROBLEMS To find out the kind of problems an M.P. is now bringing back to Ottawa, I sought out "Bert" Badanal to ask him, as a typical constituent's Opposition middle-bencher, what he is working on.

First, naturally, he spoke of this postal problem. This is the Postmaster General, Hon. Ernest Fairclough, is already studying. The distance between the city of Fort William and Port Arthur is five miles, whereas the lakeside residential development from one end of the town to the other is 10 miles. It would be logical to advise the four cent postal rate between them, Bert believes; just as 4 cents carries a letter between Kitchener and neighbouring Waterloo, or between Ottawa and contiguous Eastview, or for distances greater than 10 miles, he believes, from one end of the city to the other.

"We might come to be just one city, not in the immediate future but eventually," Mr. Badanal said to me.

The second matter which Fort William's M.P. is pushing here now is the commencement of the planned new Federal Building. The Government has

California Taking Lead

California has either passed or is about to pass the most popularly supported nuclear energy bill to date so far.

California's claim the great day arrived just before Christmas. Not so, say New Yorkers, but even they admit that their state will have slipped behind by next summer.

California's each state now contains more than 17 million people or nearly as many as the whole of Ontario. The shift in population will have some important effects. It will put California in the lead in all the states in terms of political power. The next redistribution will give it more members in the U.S. House of Representatives, and it will outrank New York in national political conventions and in electoral votes at presidential elections.

Frostbite Needs Care Of Doctor

By Dr. Theodore P. Van Dellen Frostbite usually occurs when the fingers or toes cease to feel cold or painful. This lack of feeling is due to the fact that the body has become accustomed to the cold and does not give a signal to seek shelter or medical care. It is not a sign of getting acclimated to the cold.

If the individual has miles to walk for shelter, it is better to keep the shoes on rather than remove them before a camp fire. Less harm to the tissues results if the shoes are worn until the feet have been warmed by the camp fire.

Never expose the frozen parts to an open fire, extremely hot water, or any intense form of heat. The frostbite should be treated by the individual.

FLUSH CONTROL Mrs. M. J. writes: Can something be given to an alcoholic to help him control his drinking?

Yes—Antabuse or Teposol. But these tablets never should be given to a patient without the advice of a physician, and the alcoholic knows about it.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A book on living with your spouse... An astronomer says there are 100,000 planets in our galaxy... "Pull over bud," said the policeman.

We are feeling pleasant today over the news that in Buffalo, N.Y., parking fines are lower than they were in 1958. Back then it used to cost Grover Cleveland and other citizens of the city \$5 to park a horse, automobile or conveyance in the circular carriageway in front of the city building.

Although our taste for cranberry may be limited, the amount we consume each year is the most in the world. Cranberries are a native product of the United States, which in fact supplies most of our demands for cranberries in Canada.

Cranberry Farms Scarce

From The C.I. Oval Cranberry production is carried on in a manner reminiscent of some ways of the rice paddies in the Far East, and which requires skills more commonly associated with horticulture.

It is true that cranberries are found growing wild in this country, but they were first introduced to the shores of Prince Edward Island, and probably in marshes in some of the inland provinces.

Casual But Tidy

London Times Weekly Review Motor cycle jackets, fancy shirts and high-heeled boots are not the typical dress of most people who are in the advanced survey made by the market research department of Courtmills Ltd.

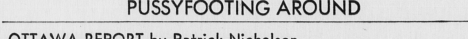
Few young men are extremists, the report says, and though they often dress casually in jeans and thick sweaters, they usually have a wardrobe of fashionable, but not extreme, clothes.

They are fashion conscious and keep up to date with such items as "casual" shirts, narrow trousers, slim ties, T-shirts and heavy-knit sweaters. The tendency is to look casual but neat, or slim and neat.

The survey, which was carried out among young unmarried men between 15 and 24, shows that although they number only 15 per cent of the male population over the age of 15, they are responsible for 34 per cent of the total expenditure by men on clothing.

They are prone to window shopping, but are not impressed by conventional advertising or by sales talk. They apparently know exactly what they want in advance and are apt to spend more on a garment if they buy it by themselves than if somebody else buys it for them.

Only six per cent wear detached collars, but they own an average of eight shirts each. Ties are bought in large numbers and some men own as many as 20. Most of all young men own football kit or similar clothing for outdoor games. Ties are bought in large numbers and some men own as many as 20. Most of all young men own football kit or similar clothing for outdoor games.



More U.S. Tourists

Montreal Citizens Its citizens from travelling to Europe one of the great rivals to Canada in the tourist field. This may be necessary as a way of improving the American tourist office will be opened.

More money is to be spent by the Canadian government next year to encourage and increase the flow of tourists to this country. There will be more publicity in foreign countries and new tourist offices will be opened.

This increased effort should be well worth while. For the Postmaster General, Hon. Ernest Fairclough, is already studying. The distance between the city of Fort William and Port Arthur is five miles, whereas the lakeside residential development from one end of the town to the other is 10 miles.

Not only has the lowered value of the Canadian dollar meant that Americans can buy more in Canada with their money; the American government may even begin to discourage

Americans are a travelling people. They will always wish to visit other countries. If it becomes convenient for them to travel to Europe they will be glad to do so. Canada has a large number of tourists in even larger numbers than the United States.

Letting Berlin Rest Christian Science Monitor Congress for more pressing reasons than that it is a proposal about what he once called "a bone in his throat."

After that he could talk about Berlin. He called again for a German peace treaty, but set no deadline. He suggested West Berlin could be made a "free city" with United Nations guarantees and with foreign troops and a certain limit.

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