

Handouts Galore

While poor Mr. Sharp has to play the Scrooge role with a tax increase in his pre-Christmas mini-budget, his boss, Mr. Pearson, finds himself with an unprecedented number of opportunities for playing Santa Claus. In the form of government appointments to distribute to his party faithful, that is. According to the Montreal Star, a confidential list prepared for the prime minister's office shows a grand total of 210 government positions coming within the next few months—theoretically within the preserve of the cabinet but in fact, the personal prerogative of the prime minister.

A grand total of 175 of these are the kind of prestige-laden, part-time positions ideal to reward Liberals who have delivered votes and money to the party at election time. By coincidence all these three or five-year appointments to various government boards will run out between now and next June 30. Since some of them are the last of the appointments made under the Diefenbaker regime, there will no doubt be a significant turnover of personnel. The openings include directorships in such important bodies as the Bank of Canada, the Atlantic Development Board, the Economic Council of Canada, as well as lesser organizations such as the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sports and various local harbor boards and bridge authorities.

All such appointments bring more prestige than money. But the prime minister also has six Senate vacancies to fill (one each from British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and three from Ontario) and there continue to be rumors that some ministers from these provinces will be asked to trade chambers, making room for new faces in the cabinet. The PM must also appoint, or reappoint, a new team of sixteen parliamentary secretaries whose mandate will run out on Jan 17. Ten judgeships will shortly fall open through retirement, including the chief justiceship of British Columbia, since the incumbent, H.I. Bird, is expected to retire Jan 8, 1967.

Apart from these political appointments, the prime minister will also have to fill some vital openings in the public service of Canada, the most important of them being the new chairmanship and chief operating officer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Altogether, his will be an onerous but pleasing task. Few mortals will have the privilege of rewarding merit at so little personal cost on so many levels at this gift-giving season, or of earning so many encomiums from grateful recipients.

Why Court Disasler?

It's an old story now, but people keep forgetting it and that's why it has to be repeated with added emphasis at every Christmas season. It's the fact that the Christmas tree—most popular of all seasonal decorations—is the single most dangerous thing during the year's worst fire hazard period. Fire prevention bureaus across the country have been telling us that, and warning us, among other things, that all Christmas decorations must be installed with fire in mind if a good safety record is to be maintained.

The worst hazard, state these authorities, is buying the natural tree too early, putting it up too early and keeping it too long. But imported "Hong Kong" plastic trees, and the new metal ones also have their hazards. The plastic trees can burn and the metal ones conduct electricity. They shouldn't have strings of lights on them, but can be illuminated by spotlights.

Trees should be kept away from

sources of heat and not installed near drapes, inflammable items, or doorways and windows that could provide avenues of escape in the event of fire. Lighting circuits should be checked for frayed wires or melted fixtures before adding the lights to the tree's decorations. Always to be remembered is the fact that lights produce heat and heat causes fire.

How many lights should be put on a Christmas tree? Well, if we want to be meticulous—and why shouldn't we?—here's a "guide to Christmas lighting ideas" from the U.S. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. To determine the maximum number of lights to use, multiply the height by the width of the tree and then multiply that figure by three. Half that number is the minimum.

The same rule applies for lighting trees outside or inside the home. This publication also recommends starting at the top and working down when putting lights on the tree. Place the lights nearest the trunk first, and then work outward. Always making sure, of course, to keep the lights from touching needles and branches. And being careful, too, about those Christmas streamers criss-crossing the room.

These are some of the ways by which we can prevent those grim disasters that carelessness brings in its wake at this season. No community in the country has escaped them, at one time or another. And they are all the more tragic because, in so many cases, they could so easily have been averted.

The Right Notes

We must hand it to Prime Minister Pearson for snapping back, as he did, at the Soviet Union for its latest propaganda outburst, charging that an anti-Soviet campaign in Canada was harming bilateral relations. Mr. Pearson said the charges were "the usual mixture of fantasy and distorted facts," that the government wants to improve relations and is taking all reasonable precautions to protect Soviet personnel and property in line with diplomatic practice.

"The government, however," he added, "is not prepared—and this is what seems difficult for the Soviet Union to understand—to interfere with the press or prevent criticism of the Soviet Union or its policy or the actions of Soviet representatives in this country. Nor is it prepared to prevent Canadian citizens, singly or in groups, within the area of freedom allowed by Canadian law, to do or say things of which the Soviet Union may not approve. I should be sorry to think that the Soviet Union so misunderstood the facts of Canadian democratic life as to attempt to make a genuine improvement of Canadian-Soviet relations dependent on an attempt by the government of Canada to curb these basic Canadian freedoms."

That said everything that was required, and in language far removed from the bureaucratic jargon that too often is employed in diplomatic relations. It struck the right democratic note, for all to understand.

So, too, in a quite different way, did U.S. Senator Wayne Morse, fiery and consistent critic of his nation's policy at home, at a press conference in Toronto the other night. Local newsmen may have expected some lively copy for their papers on this subject. But the senator promptly ruled out of order questions on the Vietnam war, the continental water supply, U.S. draft dodgers in Canada, and the whole U.S. political theme.

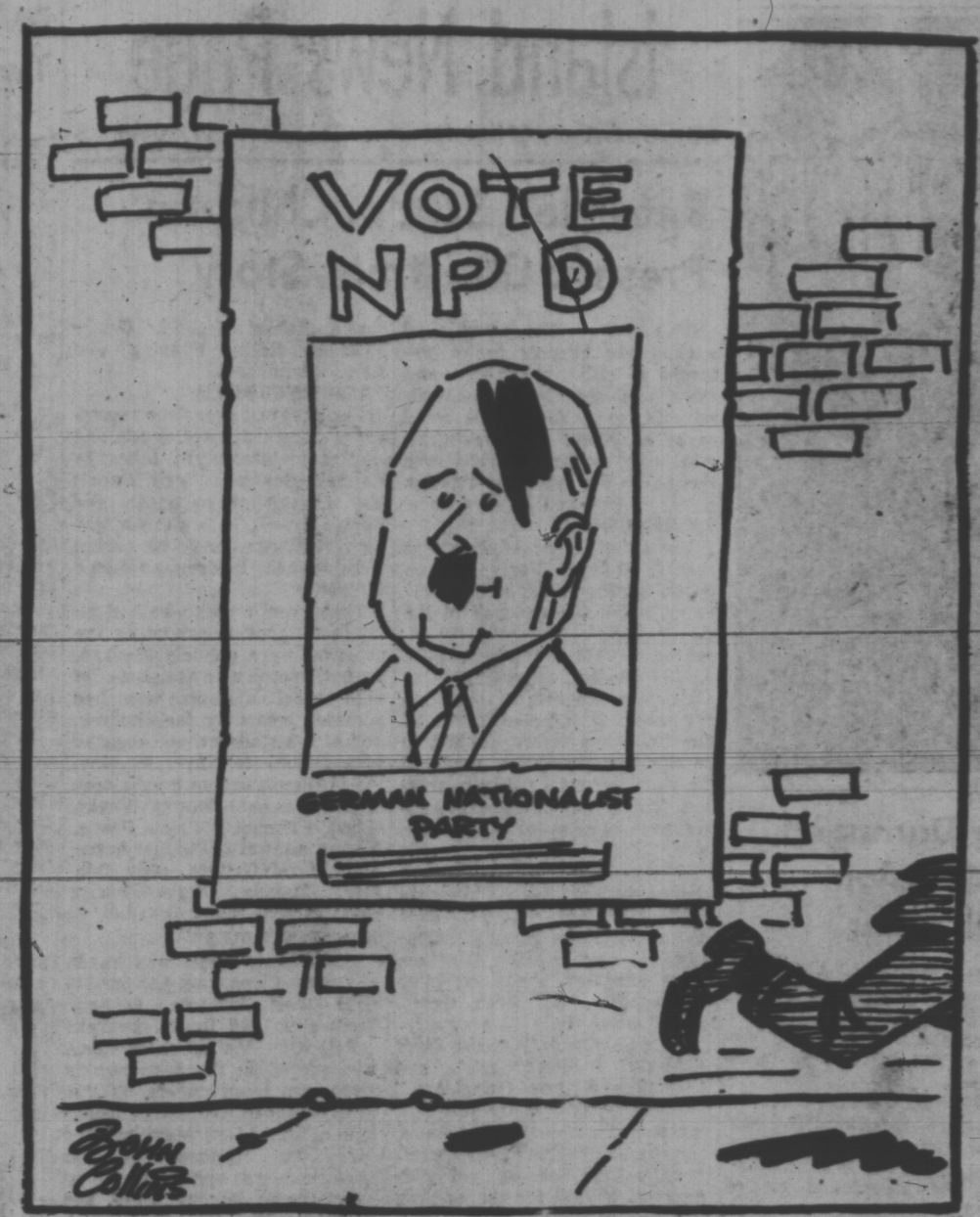
"I don't discuss American foreign policy outside the United States," he said. "I have control of where I talk and what I say. No senator or citizen has the right to intervene in foreign policy abroad. The advice and consent clause of the Constitution entitles me to give advice in the United States to the President, not in Canada to Canadians."

There's the attitude of a man who knows well how to distinguish true democracy from demagoguery.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The usual aerial-photograph may show only ten square miles. It gives some idea of space age achievements to note that many photos taken in space by astronauts cover more than 6,000 square miles in useful detail.

At the University of Massachusetts, some 100 students, many of them Negroes, have protested Mark Twain's great classic, "Huckleberry Finn," being on the required reading list. They say that it reinforces prejudice against the Negro and that the famous character known as "Nigger Jim" is particularly offensive. The reasons for this project, remarks the Christian Science Monitor, are all too painfully apparent.



YOUR FATHER'S MUSTACHE

MILITARY UNIFORMS

Far Cry Today From Heraldic Trappings

Soldiers once went to war in peacock-bright uniforms, but they now do battle in drab green and khaki. The practical concern for camouflage goes right down to the skin. Not long ago, U.S. military officials ordered hundreds of thousands of pairs of olive drab shorts and T-shirts for g's in Viet Nam. While underwear—standard issue since the end of World War II—made an inviting target for jungle snipers. The Canadian Government is considering a proposal to unify its armed forces, a change that would put all fighting men in the same garb. The innovation would be a historic first in the evolution of military uniforms. EARLIEST UNIFORM Surprisingly, distinctive dress for men under arms is a somewhat recent development. Though the heraldic trappings of medieval knights gave a degree of uniformity, the modern uniform did not come into being until the middle of the 17th century with the rise of national armies in Europe. The household troops of France's King Louis XIV (1639-1715) perhaps were the first true military uniform, designed to distinguish them as a unit. This uniform was a single-breasted frock coat with turned-up cuffs. The first official uniforms for officers of the British Navy were designed in 1748. Historians say that George II selected the colors—blue and white—because he fancied a blue-and-white riding habit worn by an eye-filling duchess. Gaudy uniforms reached a sartorial peak in the 19th century. European soldiers marched elegantly to battle in plumed hats, bearskin shakos, tailcoats, white crossbelts, and high gaiters. British infantrymen fought in purple breeches and thigh-high leggings of white. GUARDS ARE COLORFUL Two of the oldest uniforms still worn today appear wildly impractical. One is the Vatican Swiss Guards' gaudy yellow, red, and blue costume, supposedly designed by Michelangelo. The other is the scarlet-and-red Tudor garb that sets off the Yeomen Warders in the grim, gray Tower of London. Colonial America borrowed its soldier styles from England, and they looked perfectly splendid on paper. In practice, provincial militia wore the simple dress of woodsmen and farmers; the Revolutionary soldiers wore anything they could find. The official uniform at Valley Forge was said to be rags. General Washington warned Congress that unless more money was provided for uniforms, "there will be confusion again, and the Army will come into the field half clad in a thousand different colors." As America prospered, the uniforms of its fighting men improved. Soldiers wore colorful campaign dress in the Mexican War—a costume still reflected

Advice To The Drunk

Ottawa Citizen

Practical advice to drunks can always have value. But it is not quite certain that the following counsel, set forth in a recent news letter published by the Quebec Police Association, offers exactly the right clinical approach: Since you cannot refrain from drinking, why not start a saloon of your own in your own home? Be the only customer and you will have to buy a licence. Give your wife \$55 to buy a case of whisky. There are 240 drinks which you can buy from your wife at 60 cents a drink. In 12 days (when your case is gone) your wife will have \$80 to put in the bank, and \$55 to buy another case. If you live 10 years and continue to buy your whisky from your wife and die in your boots, your widow will have \$27, 12.47 on deposit. "That's enough to bring up your children, pay off the mortgage, marry a decent man and forget she ever knew a bum like you." The advice has the virtue of simplicity, and the flaws. It assumes that the wife is perfect. But what if she blows the profits on bingo, and the family is left with nothing but a hang-over? What if it was the wife's chatter that drove the husband to drink in the first place? To buy his liquor from her, and then have to listen to her troubles, when it is a well-known fact that it is the drunk who tells his troubles to the bartender.

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 17, 1941) The army and navy relieved the ranking officers of the Hawaiian area of their commands because the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor caught United States defence forces by surprise.

Havana police announced the discovery of a Nazi plot to install military reflectors capable of signalling planes and ships at sea from a mountain range commanding a broad view of the Atlantic Ocean off Cuba.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 17, 1956) Russia and Poland signed an agreement on the status of Soviet troops stationed in Poland under terms of the Warsaw Pact. It is believed to restrict the size, location and movement of the Russian troops and to demand approval by the Polish government before any future troop movements.

The United States state department challenged Russia to allow United Nations observers inside Hungary to determine the truth of Soviet charges that the Hungarian revolt was "stimulated from the outside."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Weston, Ill., was picked Friday as the site for a \$375,000,000 atom smasher. Closing out a competition that had involved dozens of U.S. communities seeking the enterprise, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission announced the choice. The 200,000,000-electron-volt proton accelerator is projected as the world's most powerful, designed to unravel many of the mysteries of the structure of matter.

PLYMOUTH, England (AP) The mothers of Plymouth rose up Friday in angry protest against a young lieutenant who ordered 20 Royal Marine commandos into the streets to gather panties and bras as a test of soldierly initiative. Each man returned to barracks with the triumphant trophies, but at least one got his face slapped in the line of duty.

Anginal Syndrome

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Angina pectoris is a symptom of a disease. It is a form of chest pain that results from narrowing of the coronary arteries. When the organ is forced to work harder during exertion to excitement, the heart muscle does not get enough nourishment. Cold weather and eating also increase the demands upon the heart and are likely to bring on the attack sooner. The pain disappears after resting or relaxing a few moments.

Many of the victims develop a constricting or burning sensation beneath the breastbone after walking a few blocks. Others describe the discomfort as a feeling of pressure, as though someone were sitting on the chest. Now and then the pain radiates into the neck and down the left or both arms. Variations are common in that the distress, ranging from an uncomfortable sensation to an agonizing pain, may be anywhere in the chest or in the jaws.

The duration of angina is measured in minutes. If the pain continues for 30 minutes or longer, chances are the individual is having a heart attack. A nitroglycerin tablet placed under the tongue usually brings relief within three to seven minutes. Some find that holding the breath also eases the pain. Long-acting coronary dilators (nitrites) are used by some sufferers to minimize the number of attacks.

Exercise is not detrimental and may be beneficial. It increases the mechanical efficiency of the heart and may encourage new arteries to form but it is never done to the extent that chest discomfort, shortness of breath, palpitation, or undue fatigue ensues. Physical activity should be avoided during the first hour after a meal. Many men find that taking a nitroglycerin tablet before leaving home in the morning lessens the chance of developing pain when walking to the bus or train.

Anyone with frequent attacks of angina during the day or when sleeping should consult his physician about the feasibility of having surgery to improve the circulation to the heart muscle.

SCARRED LUNGS K. F. writes: What is fibrosis of the lungs due to asthma? REPLY Fibrosis is scarring and may develop after years of asthma.

Britain's Rhodesian Stand

By Joseph MacDonewy, Canadian Press Staff Writer

Some reports from Southern Africa indicate lingering hopes of an Anglo-Rhodesian settlement even though the Rhodesian crisis clock, so long stuck at the 11th hour, has finally moved past midnight. Government spokesmen are restrained in their reaction. They do not knock speculation on the head. But they emphasize that Britain is firmly embarked on a course clearly charted in the communiqué of the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference in September.

They note, too, that although Prime Minister Johannes Ballhausen-Vorster of South Africa has pleaded with Britain and Rhodesia to get together again, he said nothing about assisting in any kind of a mediatory role.

Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith has been making conciliatory noises but he has done nothing about implementing Britain's "six principles" as Commonwealth Secretary Herbert Morrison invited him to do.

SMITH IS CHANGEABLE Smith is regarded as a man exceptionally prone to second thoughts—second thoughts that at times seem cleverly contrived to divide his British contemporaries. In this context, the sooner the United Nations Security Council proclaims compulsory sanctions against Rhodesia, the earlier will be the chance of getting something cleared out from Smith.

The official British view is that in accordance with Prime Minister Wilson's pledge to his Commonwealth colleagues—the Rhodesian affair now has been committed to an irrevocable procedure.

The sanctions resolution will go through the UN Security Council, given full Commonwealth support; thereupon Britain withdraws all offers of legal independence to Rhodesia on anything less than majority rule in the country of 230,000 whites and 4,000,000 blacks.

The trouble is that the Rhodesian affair has been surrounded so long with "ifs" and "buts" that this flat prospect seems difficult to swallow. It is doubtful if white- or black-Rhodesians really believe it.

They believe Britain's way is to give ground little by little in this dispute. Smith, in fact, has said that the terms offered by Wilson during their recent session.

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