

Still Far Behind

Among the supplementary estimates tabled in Parliament recently was an additional \$3 million grant to the Medical Research Council for its scholarship and grants-in-aid program, to bring the resources of the Council "in line with its responsibilities." This organization is the chief agency of the Government in its support of medical research carried out in the universities and teaching hospitals. The additional funds will be applied to the Council's 1966-67 program, for which provision had already been made in the main estimates for an amount of \$12,350,000. They may be taken, says a news release from the federal Department of Industry, "as an indication of the Government's intention to give strong support to medical research in this country."

Doubtless the extra grant will be welcomed. But in view of the federal plans for pushing medicare through on a universal basis, one wonders how far it will go in meeting the demands for the huge crash program that is needed at this time. The Gundy report, endorsed by nearly 400 of the country's top medical educators and scientists and presented to the Government in January, calls for spending of \$150 million on new research facilities in the next five years and a 5 1/2-fold increase in federal research grants by 1970. And we must give urgent attention now, the report says, to the problem of expanding our medical schools.

CAPITAL FUND — Ottawa plans, during the current parliamentary session, to establish a \$500 million Medical Resources Fund with the idea of providing \$33 million annually for 15 years for medical school construction. But this fund is for capital expenses only. It will not pay any part of the schools' operating expenses, such as teachers' salaries. And badly as they need more physical plant, the schools need teachers even more. They are in demand everywhere, and they must be wooed by the deans.

As for medical research, the Gundy report figures that to set up one new scientist in the business and support him, with his team of assistants and technicians, costs \$152,000. Once he's established, it will cost about \$40,000 a year to keep this scientist in his lab. At the moment, we have 1,072 full-time teacher-scientists in our medical schools. By 1970, the Gundy report says, we shall need more than double this figure, to 2,348. To build labs for these new men will cost \$93 million, plus another \$57 million to equip them.

This total of \$150 million for new facilities is almost as much as the total that will be available in these five years from the Medical Resources Fund. But that fund must also pay for teaching facilities in the expanded schools. The report says the \$500 million in the fund must be greatly increased or the spending of the money must be telescoped into a much shorter period than the 15 years now proposed by the Government.

LITTLE INDUCEMENT — Canada's top medical scientists now draw their principal support for their research projects from the Medical Research Council. But only 46 teacher-scientists—or about one out of 25—qualify for the top MRC rank of research associate. These men draw an average salary of \$14,000 a year, and are allowed to earn no more than \$6,000 extra from teaching or medical practice. Thus these top-line scientists earn little more than the \$19,000 income of the average practising Canadian doctor. Actually, most researchers earn a good deal less.

What disturbs the scientists more—the Gundy report calls it downright demoralizing—is the lack of money to finance their research projects. Actually, it seems, there is only \$25 million a year available today for all medical research in Canada; and

about \$1.5 million or that comes from the U.S. government.

The report makes clear the essential link between the money spent on medical research and the supply of doctors. Our supply is barely adequate today, with one doctor for each 879 Canadians—a ratio that places Canada about 20th among the nations of the world. Just to maintain this ratio we must somehow find 1,300 new doctors every year. But our 12 medical schools combined produce a total of only 850, of which a sizeable bloc—equal to the graduating classes of the three largest schools—quickly drifts off to the United States. Unless we want the quality of our medical care to suffer we must substantially improve that ratio, because the advent of national medicare will inevitably increase the demand for physicians' services.

Certainly the extra \$3 million added to the appropriation in the main estimates for Medical Research Council activities this year represents an improvement. But it does seem, in the circumstances, like a drop in the bucket.

Disenchanted

To their credit, it is the younger generation of parliamentarians who are denouncing most strongly, and with least partisan bias, the disgraceful level reached in House of Commons proceedings last week. "Men like Tory David MacDonald, the 29-year-old minister from Prince Edward Island," writes Michael Besto, of the Ottawa staff of the Toronto Daily Star, who has a feature story on the front page of his newspaper telling how the Munsinger debate—with its implications of vengeance, blackmail and character destruction—left many of these junior MPs disillusioned. Two months ago they took their seats in Parliament for the first time, filled with vigor and idealism; proud inheritors of its traditions. Their faith has been rudely shaken, and they have searched for the answers.

"What disturbed and frightened me," Mr. MacDonald is quoted as saying, "is that people in Parliament can believe their opponents can do only bad, and that they themselves are the only honest, true and righteous." He expected to find "this black and white thinking among children, or perhaps in wartime when you've got to hate the enemy," but not in Parliament, "among the supposedly mature men who lead the nation."

Politics, he maintained, must be based on "a certain basic respect among foes. If we don't respect people who hold views opposite to our own, we're lost." And he saw no trace of that respect as the parties who hold opposite views went at each other's throats.

The Prince County member is also quoted as saying that "to a degree, the Liberals may have been right in the election campaign when they said a majority government was needed." He thought the performance may have pointed up another Parliamentary weakness—too many lawyers. He named John Diefenbaker, his own leader, as the "prime exponent" of the courtroom style in Parliament, but referred to some of his disciples as having "gone beyond Diefenbaker in viciousness."

This rates full marks for outspokenness; but it leaves unsaid what the Star's Ottawa editor, Peter C. Newman, places strong emphasis on in the same issue of the paper—namely, the responsibility of Lester Pearson as well as John Diefenbaker for turning Parliament into a feuding arena. Also, as Newman points out, in view of the behaviour of their own front-benchers the Liberals are only mesmerizing themselves with the idea that they could control the House if they had a majority. Minority governments have been made to work in other democracies. What's lacking at Ottawa is not a majority but inspired leadership.

This writer says that even the most cynical members of the House have been made aware that their power to influence events is oozing away in an atmosphere of bitter persecution and shrill defense. Little wonder that their junior colleagues are voicing their disenchantment, and crying as it were in chorus: "A plague on both your houses!"

EDITORIAL NOTE

Oregon and Washington this summer expect to open a 4 1/2-mile-long bridge spanning the Columbia River at its mouth, thus finishing the Pacific Coast Highway and closing the last water gap left on the coastline between Canada and Mexico. Several years in planning, the \$24 million bridge will link Astoria, Ore., and Merger, Wash., and will replace a ferry that has plied the river for many years.



ARC DE TRIOMPHE?

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

What's Become Of Our Old Tradition?

Readers may ask why "Ottawa Report" never reported the most sensational story to break in Ottawa since Gouzenko fled the Ottawa Embassy.

True, on September 30, 1959 I could have reported: "Tonight I had dinner with John Diefenbaker and Ricky Munsinger."

And so on, until six years later I could have reported that the Liberals were considering the use of the Munsinger story as a secret election weapon.

But "Ottawa Report" never mentioned the gossip because quite simply, as long as a public figure is adequately performing his public duties, I believe that his private life is his own business. This used to be a healthy Canadian tradition; none thought the less of Sir John A. Macdonald because he hugely enjoyed the national drink of his native Scotland; none respected less Sir Wilfrid Laurier because there were suggestions of an illegitimate child; more recently, whispers of sex and evidence of drink in the highest places have not been blazoned in newspaper headlines.

Man is more devil than saint. It is unhealthy when a public figure can be assassinated by private slander; when the political future of even leaders and their parties can be jeopardized by the heated hurling of private charges; and when an election might be fought on what New Democrat leader Tommy Douglas, his halo set jauntily, described as The Goldilocks issue: "Who has been sleeping in my bed?"

ADMITTED AS SECURE Gerda Hessler was born in East Germany in 1929. A brief marriage in Germany to a citizen of USA - who by chance played baseball for the old Ottawa Athletics - gave her the name Munsinger. Sometimes she was known as Olga Schmidt; when she came to Canada, her friends in Montreal called her Ricky. That was no doubt why George Hees could not at first recall meeting a woman named Olga Munsinger.

Gerda Munsinger stepped ashore from the steamship Arco Star in Quebec City on August 7, 1956, a welcomed immigrant whose passage was assisted by the Liberal Government with the taxpayers' money. As an immigrant from behind the Iron Curtain, her background and security were presumably thoroughly checked, and she was approved by or on behalf of Immigration Minister J. W. Pickersgill as suitable to become a Canadian citizen. In the eyes of the Liberal Government headed by "Uncle Louie" St. Laurent, as evidenced by the regulations they enforced for would-be immigrants, Gerda Munsinger was judged to threaten neither the security nor the morals of Canada.

Our Yesterdays (From The Guardian Files) TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 23, 1941) Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy starred in Noel Coward's "Bitter Sweet" at the Prince Edward Theatre in Charlottetown.

Led by the King and Queen, their Empire's millions bowed their heads and prayed for its defenders and friends, and for a speedy victory.

TEN YEARS AGO (March 23, 1956) Walter Baker was appointed Director of the Charlottetown Protestant Welfare Bureau at a meeting of the directors held at the YMCA.

The Alberton Regals hammered out a strong 9-2 win over the Springhill All Stars in the Alberton Rink in the opening game of a two-game total series for the P.E.I. Nova Scotia Intermediate "B" title.

and all Canadians were entitled to rely on that government judgment.

DEATH OR DISHONOUR I have just read "The Last Battle" - describing the capture of Berlin in the Spring of 1945. This enthralling book was written by Cornelius Ryan, the author of "The Longest Day" about D-Day. He describes German doctors warning their patients of the fate worse than death which awaited every female between 8 and 80 years old in the path of the Russian armies, and giving them cyanide tablets or even rat poison for use in that emergency. Gerda Hessler lived through the Russian occupation for three years before escaping, undergoing several operations and permanent health damage, she says. This also deserves to be remembered when considering later events.

Did Dief and I really dine with her? Yes - we and 3,497 other people. The occasion was a dinner at Montreal's Show Mart, following the Quebec custom, to honour Pierre Sevigny just after he was appointed to the Cabinet. Most Quebec Ministers and Tory MPs bought tickets to attend; so did thousands of Tory supporters and friends and sightseers. I believe the Party Leader and the Press were invited guests rather than cash customers; anyhow, we were there.

STREP THROAT K. R. writes: What would cause five bouts of strep sore throat in six months? REPLY I assume that cultures were taken in each attack to determine whether streptococci were responsible. If not, the sore throat may be traceable to a variety of organisms, to allergy, irritation, or the common cold.

BOURBON AND WATER A reader writes: I enjoy a shot glass of bourbon mixed with a tumbler of water for relaxation after dinner. Recently I constantly retch and lose my meal. Why? REPLY You may have developed an ulcer or obstruction that is unrelated to the drink. Some persons also are sensitive to alcohol.

BUNION G. T. writes: Are there any exercises to decrease the size of a bunion? REPLY No. If anything, the bunion will increase in size with exercise unless proper shoes are worn and better walking habits are instituted. A well established bunion is best treated surgically.

IMPETIGO I.A. writes: Is penicillin or any other antibiotic helpful in clearing up impetigo? REPLY Yes. Impetigo is caused by various organisms, chiefly staphylococci and streptococci. A variety of treatments also are used, including all the better known antibiotics.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, C.O. Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Tantalizingly Mysterious National Geographic Society

Strange creatures may swim about in the dense atmosphere of Venus, target of recent Soviet space probes. On earth, space scientists point out, fish and whales live suspended in water. On Venus living things may float in the thick clouds that completely hide the planet's surface.

At present, no one knows if there is life on Venus. Scientists point out that in 1962 the Mariner II space craft reported that the surface temperature of Venus might reach 800 degrees Fahrenheit—hot enough to melt lead.

The finding, based on radio emissions from the planet, argued against the possibility of life on Venus, but some scientists believe the data could have been misinterpreted. The surface of Venus may not really be that hot. Even if it is, life might exist in the milder atmosphere. RESEMBLES EARTH Venus remains tantalizingly mysterious, though no other planet approaches earth so closely—a mere 26 million miles away. Like Mars and earth, Venus orbits about the sun in a region where temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold for life-to-be-a-possibility.

Furthermore, no other planet so resembles earth in size and density. These qualities bear on the life question because a very large planet would have such powerful gravity that living things would be crushed. A much smaller one could not retain an atmosphere for inhabitants to breathe.

No one knows what lies beneath Venus's clouds. Some astronomers have suggested that

the planet may be covered by jungles of incredible density; others say that Venus is more likely a dustbowl. Still other experts believe that an enormous ocean envelopes the planet, but they disagree on whether the sea consists of water or petroleum.

The contradictory opinions arise not only from the difficulty of gathering data, but the ambiguity of the findings, and the numerous interpretations to which the somewhat shaky facts lend themselves.

LIFE JUST STARTING? Some scientists envision Venus as a world where life is just beginning. The Venusian atmosphere, having more carbon and less free oxygen than that on earth, resembles the air that earth is known to have had long ago.

One theory holds that life once existed on Venus and was annihilated. Since Venus is somewhat closer to the sun than is earth, it has received more solar energy. Thus life could have evolved earlier and then been wiped out, possibly by the Venusians themselves through some development akin to the earthly hydrogen bombs.

Appearing as both the Morning Star and the Evening Star, Venus is the brightest and most beguiling of planets. With or without life, it remains, in Homer's words, "the most beautiful star set in the sky."

The ancients worshipped Venus; Polynesians paid homage to it with human sacrifices. Today earth's Twin Sister is again exciting the human imagination as man reaches out to discover her secrets.

Meaning Of Euthanasia

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Euthanasia has two meanings. The first is an easy and calm death and the second, painlessly putting to death persons suffering from incurable and distressing diseases. It is the latter that most of us associate with euthanasia. Some believe in it and others do not.

Most of the believers are healthy. Their belief is strong so long as they remain well. One of my patients reminded me from time to time that if he developed an incurable and painful disorder to induce death by injecting morphine into a vein. When he was stricken with a fatal disease, he promptly asked for a battery of consultants. All physicians have patients who beg for a "mercy killing" when suffering becomes intolerable. The doctor refuses because he cannot play the part of God and decide when death shall come. Several years ago the brother of a physician was dying of cancer and begged him to substitute poison for the pain-relieving drug he was receiving.

The medic thought about it at length and finally handed his brother a small box that supposedly contained enough poison to kill. The cancer-riddled victim thanked him, put the box in the drawer, and died three weeks later—it never had been opened, and the capsules proved to be nonpoisonous.

Euthanasia is widely practiced among suffering animals by giving them the coup de grace to end their misery. It also was practiced unconsciously by physicians prior to the turn of the century. There were no specific remedies and death was inadvertently hastened by withdrawing pints of blood, covering the body with leeches, purging, cupping, and what not. This was the custom of the day. John C. Lettsom (1744-1813) was said to have written the following: "When any sick to me apply, I phlebotomize, bleed, and sweat em."

If after that they choose to die, What's that to me, I Lettsom."

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The Strange Truth Medicine Rat News

A story used to go the rounds at one time of a little ingenious thievery at a giant Soviet industrial complex. Sentries were posted, not so much to keep spies out as to discourage light-fingered comrade workers.

One comrade worker passed through the barrier many times pushing a wheelbarrow full of straw. The comrade sentry always searched the straw, but never found anything in it or on the suspect's person.

Years later they met again under different, very friendly, circumstances. "Tell me, comrade worker, now that it doesn't matter, what were you stealing?" "Wheelbarrows."

But truth is stranger than fiction. Word comes from Castle Air Force Base, California, of the daring exploits of a 14-year-old and two 13-year-olds. They first ousted the base on their bicycles. They were in business.

They liberated some uniforms. The 14-year-old, donned that of a lieutenant colonel, his juniors those of captain or lieutenant as they took their fair

share of about two weeks they came and went as they pleased, getting sharp salutes from sentries.

They drove off with several thousands of dollars worth of equipment—including four trucks. That's an improvement on wheelbarrows.

With that sort of security, thank heaven their flair didn't run to H-bombs.

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U.S. Economic Pressures

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP)—An increase in U.S. tax rates this year is considered inevitable by many observers as the American economic book picks up fresh inflationary features under the stimulus of the Vietnamese war.

The current debate is primarily about the timing and whether a tax rise should be part of the restraining package including tighter credit and further reduced federal spending in the vast Johnson anti-poverty and other domestic programs.

Meanwhile, the president and his advisers continue to argue that both guns and butter are possible.

Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler, in a Feb. 17 statement that still stands publicly, whatever contingency plans are afoot, said:

"We have seen too many expansions turned into recessions by slamming down too hard on the brakes. We have seen far too much unemployment and under-employment and too much idle productive capacity far too long to countenance needless and drastic cutbacks in private demand—thus deliberately creating idle reserves of manpower and capacity."

COMPARE VIET-NAM-KOREA Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, also seeking to cool the economic situation cooled psychologically, has argued that the demands of the Vietnamese war comparatively are less than that of the Korean campaign.

The counter-contention is that Korea came during a period of economic slack and Viet Nam has pushed demand close to or even past supply, with consequent inflationary hazards.

The argument has a direct meaning for Canada, tightly tied to the U.S. economy.

Alberta Stakes New Claim

Lethbridge Herald

Alberta has many attractions. Despite periods of "unusual weather," it has one of the best climates in the world. The scenery is varied and full of joy. The chinooks alone makes Alberta spectacular.

Alberta has wealth and prosperity, good government and public administration of superior quality. No place on earth provides more opportunity for youth. The northern lands are opening up. Education is less expensive here and of a high degree of excellence. Social welfare is making giant strides. A certain areas ahead of any province or nation.

All this is so well known that doubtless repetition is tiresome, but Texas has had that effect on the natives.

But now Albertans learn that that they have really been hiding one shining light under a bushel.

Did you know that the province is rat-free, while other provinces fight desperately to keep them out?

It's true! Joe Curba, the pest-control supervisor of the agriculture department, confirms it. He keeps a vigilant patrol at the Saskatchewan border, since rats infiltrate from the east. Evidently Saskatchewan is unfriendly to rats and they scurry out as fast as they can.

One rat does a damage of \$20 a year. In the U.S. damage is estimated at almost four billion dollars annually!

Now if there were just some way to keep out those two-legged rats one reads about in eastern crime scandals!

LIBRARY BUILDS UP ANTIGONISH, N.S. (CP) — Dr. Malcolm MacNeil of Boston has presented a large illuminated globe showing the latest frontier changes in Asia and Africa to St. Francis Xavier University here. Another new acquisition is a dictionary of the Scottish language, presented by Frank Ross, former lieutenant-governor of British Columbia.

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