

Rifts Within The Lute

Some years ago, when Mr. Diefenbaker was the "renegade in power," Mr. Pearson and his jolly mates were as cozy as could be with the press gallery scribes at Ottawa. As a result they got oodles of favorable publicity, and it looked like the beginning of the millennium for democracy when the Liberals finally got into office and the crusty Tories were relegated to the opposition wings. Here, it seemed, was an administration that was really alert to the value of the press and the need for maintaining its hard-won privileges in the public interest.

Now, what a sorry change has come about in these relations! The Liberals have developed an all-too-obvious tendency to think of the press as existing only to serve their interests. They took it hard when, a couple of weeks ago, detailed reports appeared in several places about a split in the Liberal caucus on the question of bank interest charges, making it evident that some Liberal MPs had talked to reporters about what went on behind the scenes, and that the newspapers had had the audacity to publish it.

Almost immediately after, the executive of the Liberal caucus registered a complaint about the presence of reporters in the lobbies—those rooms on either side of the Commons chamber, where members go to smoke and talk when they are not needed immediately in the House. No specific charges were made, but the Liberals wanted it agreed that reporters should be admitted only to the fireplace end of the room, "where, presumably"—as George Bain writes in the Toronto Globe and Mail, "they would be expected to stand in respectful attitudes, tugging at their forelocks."

The upshot was that a notice was posted in the press gallery advising members to avoid loitering in the lobby, and the general membership of the press gallery passed a resolution expressing concern over attempts to restrict the gallery's traditional privileges.

That's the score to date, and there is a good deal of ink being spilt over it. But actually there were rifts within the lute before this issue developed, and even before the wicked Tories were defeated. It could be said to have started back in 1960, at the Kingston "Thinkers" Conference, when Liberal policy adviser Tom Kent argued that newspapers should get along without advertising. A more noticeable break occurred at the last session, when former Finance Minister Walter Gordon clamped restrictions on ownership of Canadian newspapers.

The latest move appears to have been prompted solely by pique over the leakage of caucus news. Which should make it a lively subject for comment by that man Diefenbaker when he gets round to it.

Old Age Pensions

Will the Liberals increase the old age pension, as now predicted? Prime Minister Pearson himself has said that "increases in the pension are inevitable because it has been linked to the cost of living, and "when that goes up, so must the pensions." At the moment, he added, the government was trying to put the Canada Assistance program—payment of supplementary benefits to pensioners on the basis of what is called "needs test"—into operation, and at the same time was thinking about what more could be done to improve the position of pensioners.

One plan of action, of course, would be to implement the report of the special Senate committee on aging, which was made public earlier this month. A cardinal recommendation in this report was for a guaranteed income of \$1,260 a year to every single person over 65, with married couples getting \$2,220. From the political

standpoint, this scheme would have the effect of taking the pressure off the government for a continual increase in old age pensions and could be presented as a progressive step in improving the lot of our older citizens.

It would be much cheaper, too, than raising the basic old age pension to \$100 a month regardless of need. The estimated annual cost of doing this would be \$800 million. The Senate proposal would give everyone over 65 an income of \$105 a month to start with—more than the proposed higher old age pension—and the cost would be only \$100 million a year.

How come? Well, this is how the Winnipeg Free Press, a paper favorable to the government, explains it: The higher payments would be offset to a degree by reduced expenditures under the existing federal-provincial old age assistance programs (under which old people who require more than their old age pension to live on receive additional aid, subject to a means test). Furthermore, the guaranteed income proposal is intended, as the report says, "essentially for the benefit of old people already retired"—and who cannot therefore hope to benefit from the Canada Pension Plan. These people are now largely dependent on the old age pension of \$75 a month. As the Canada Pension Plan becomes operative, the number of people qualifying for a guaranteed income would diminish, as benefits through the CPP would bring contributors above the minimum pension level.

On the other hand, it could be argued that in removing one inequity, the plan would set up another. For example, if a man in his working life has scrimped and saved to buy himself a retirement annuity of \$1,250 a year, he would have no call on the government because his income, thanks to his own foresight, would be at the minimum called for. Undoubtedly this would work an injustice on some people, and we may expect to hear more about it if the bill is introduced.

Goodwill Ambassador

Tourism in this province has benefitted considerably by the marked increase in the past few seasons of the number of French-speaking citizens of the province of Quebec who have visited here in vacation time.

That the influx of "Quebecois" is bound to increase seems certain from the role of French-speaking goodwill ambassador just played recently by Professor J. Henri Blanchard, Ph.D., former vice-principal of Prince of Wales College, during a visit to his daughter in Sherbrooke, P.Q. While he was in the industrial city in Quebec's eastern townships, Professor Blanchard, who is 85, was interviewed by a writer for "La Tribune," the local French language daily newspaper, and a column-long story was subsequently published along with a photograph of the visitor taken by the paper's photographer.

As a noted leader of the Acadians in this province, Dr. Blanchard was asked how the French language segment of the population in the Maritimes is faring, and he said that while there was considerable strength in New Brunswick with 250,000 Acadians representing some 40 per cent of the population, the situation is somewhat different in P.E.I. and Nova Scotia. The English-speaking people of these two provinces, he said, "are becoming more and more sympathetic to the French-speaking folk. Here on the Island our troubles are mostly in the form of teaching staff. We have but the public schools and all subjects are taught in English. In the exclusively French-speaking localities, French is taught. Since 1893 we have even had a French-speaking school inspector."

Our distinguished Acadian octogenarian furnished his interviewer with a description of the farming and fishing economy of the Island, not overlooking eulogies of our potatoes and fresh seafoods. Told that an editor of the paper had been here on his vacation and had spoken highly of the beauty of the landscapes, Dr. Blanchard said: "Your friend should have just about spent his entire vacation living on the beaches. They are the finest in North America. Many Canadians of French descent come to our province every year for their holidays. Our camping grounds are really something."

EDITORIAL NOTE
The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism is still going strong. At least it was up to Dec. 31 last, when its cost to the taxpayers amounted to \$3,538,523, according to a return tabled this week in the House of Commons.



BATMAN AND ROBLIN

CARIBBEAN PROPOSALS

New Constitutions Being Planned

Commonwealth Survey

Six British territories in the Eastern Caribbean—the four Windward Islands of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica and Grenada and two of the Leeward Islands, Antigua (with its dependencies of Barbuda and Redonda) and St. Kitts—Nevis—Anguilla—are to consider, in a series of conferences in London in the spring of 1966, constitutional proposals by which the islands would become states in association with Britain.

Constitutional changes for the much smaller territory of Montserrat will be considered separately. The total combined land area of the six territories is 1,120 square miles and the total population is 457,000—the population of each territory varying between 50,000 and 100,000.

After the dissolution of the Federation of the West Indies in 1962, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago became separate independent countries and eight of the smaller participants (the territories already mentioned plus Barbados) considered the possibility of establishing a smaller federation in a series of meetings in their Regional Council of Ministers.

DRAFT FEDERAL SCHEME
Grenada eventually decided not to participate in these discussions, and announced its intention of seeking unitary statushood with Trinidad and Tobago.

A draft federal scheme proposed by the Colonial Secretary after consideration of the wishes of the seven remaining territories was put before a meeting of the Regional Council of Ministers in April, 1965.

However, Antigua refused to participate in this discussion and in August, 1965, Barbados, having considered the consequences of Antigua's withdrawal, published a White Paper not yet debated in its legislature proposing that it should have separate independence.

All the six islands since 1960

Was This Trip Necessary?

Ottawa Journal

President Johnson is so obviously anxious to spread understanding of the U.S. role in Viet Nam and to show willingness to explore every avenue to peace that it is easy enough to see why he sent Vice-President Humphrey on a sudden safari to South-east Asia.

Yet after the reports of the irrepressible Mr. Humphrey "snapping photographs like any tourist and buying souvenirs," as a New York Times correspondent wrote, many will ask the old question: "Was this trip really necessary?"

What will those who have grave doubts about U.S. policies in Viet Nam think of Mr. Humphrey stopping to buy two wooden elephants to send home to the Republican Senator, Everett M. Dirksen?

The ceremony and sideshow

People's Man

Toronto Telegram

The word "ombudsman" is a strange to our ears and, as it has no place in our ordinary vocabulary, quite meaningless. However, it is likely to become a part of our common language before very long.

The ombudsman has become an institution in Sweden and now the British Parliament is presented with a bill that would establish the same institution in the United Kingdom.

The literal translation of the word ombudsman is "the people's man"; but probably a freer and more meaningful translation would be "the people's counsel."

The ombudsman is a state employee and stands between the private citizen and bureaucracy. Where bureaucracy is arrogant or arbitrary, the ombudsman may be called upon to examine the citizen's interests and if he finds them offended, plead his case to the officials who have overreached their authority.

There is a great deal of merit in this institution, especially in countries where bureaucracy is becoming overwhelming.

Of course, under our system of government, any man can appeal to the courts for redress from a bureaucratic act which in his opinion, injures him.

But not every man has the knowledge or the resources required to take legal suit when he feels he has been mistreated by some agent of government.

Whether or not the British Parliament accepts the institution is problematical. However, the fact that the government has sponsored the bill to establish the ombudsman—which won't be called by that name in Britain—is significant.

It simply recognizes that, with the almost overwhelming burden of bureaucratic controls and disciplines, the ordinary man and woman need a referee.

WITHDRAWAL UNDER WAY
NEW DELHI (Reuters)—Indian and Pakistani troops have begun a full-scale withdrawal from all areas they occupied during last September's border war, official sources said. Saturday. Forces of both sides are due by Feb. 25 to be back inside their own frontiers.

Growing And Resting Hair

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

A hair does not continue to grow indefinitely. It rests at intervals. Less than five per cent of the tufts are sleeping at the same time; consequently, the process is not perceptible. The resting stage may be brief for hair in some areas and longer in others. The growing period ranges from two to six years.

Why do some people lose more hair than others? The growing phase usually is shortened during poor health and a higher percentage of the hairs are resting at this time. More fall out because resting hairs are less secure and are easily lost from the root. There is no need to be concerned about baldness as growth returns as soon as the hair comes to life.

The growing period of scalp hair is much longer than those elsewhere on the body. There also is a direct relationship between the final length and the duration of the growth period. Each hair sprouts 1-100 inch per day. It takes approximately 25 years to reach the knees at this rate and, formerly, many women achieved this goal. We can assume, in these circumstances that the resting period was very short.

But a sleeping hair grows out much faster when plucked than one that is pulled out when awake and growing. This explains why it takes up to four months to grow a new head of hair after the scalp is shaved. This is not true of shorter hairs such as those on the beard or eyebrows. According to Dermatology, hair on the extremities, trunk, and eyebrow grows for six months and rests for an equal period.

Is there a difference between a growing and a resting hair? Yes, but the hair must be plucked without breaking it off to notice the variation. The root of the growing structure is surrounded by a clear sheath and the tip is deeply pigmented. The resting hair has a tiny, inconspicuous sheath at the end that is lighter and thinner because it lacks pigment.

LIGHT AND MEASLES
M. S. writes: Years ago we were told that a child with measles should be kept in a dark room so the eyes would not be damaged. Is this an old wives' tale?

REPLY
This theory was held because the inflamed eye was sensitive to light. We now know that light does not damage the eyes and there is no need to remain in a darkened room so long as there is no discomfort.

FUNNY BONE
I. G. F. writes: What is done when the udder nerves are transferred forward? Is this procedure considered dangerous?

REPLY
This nerve is located in the groove known as the "funny bone." It is moved over when the bone has been injured and the callus is pressing on the nerve. The technique is not dangerous.

NERVE DEAFNESS
J. B. writes: What is the usual cause of nerve deafness?

REPLY
Injury and toxic neuritis, traceable to disease or to such drugs as streptomycin, are included as well as degeneration, otosclerosis, or excessive noise. In addition, a congenital defect may be responsible.

YOU NEEDN'T
Mrs. P. J. writes: Is it normal to get a big stomach after an abdominal operation?

REPLY
No, but the surgery offers a wonderful excuse when appetite and the feeling of well being return.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—
Preventive doctoring is not nearly as costly or painful as curative surgery.

Foster G. McGaw
(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

De Gaulle And NATO

By Arch MacKenzie

Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP)—The United States keeps waiting for President de Gaulle to put all his cards on the table about re-joining NATO.

It still is waiting because the French leader's press conference Monday really added little new to what has been said before or assumed.

De Gaulle said foreign troops in France after April 4, 1966, will have to have French commanders—as American bases in Britain now have British commanders.

April, 1966, is the 20th anniversary of NATO and the first date that any member country can withdraw.

A substantial body of opinion here assumes that de Gaulle probably does intend to take France out of the military establishment but still lean on the mutual-security phases of the alliance.

KEEPS SECRET
But the French president isn't saying precisely what he has in mind and does not appear to be anxious to do so despite American reports that France and the U.S. in 1966 would clarify their attitudes.

One unconfirmed report here is that the U.S. has refused to give France a bilateral defence pact if it leaves NATO.

De Gaulle's firmly-held views that the U.S. is badly mistaken in Viet Nam, coupled with the U.S. obsession about events there in relation to other global areas, does not improve the

climate for reaching a better understanding of the French view.

U.S. planning has been prepared for any French decision to opt out of the NATO military structure. In that case the NATO headquarters in France would be moved elsewhere.

TO VISIT RUSSIA
One view is that de Gaulle will be more precise about NATO after he visits the Soviet Union in June.

His reception there, where he may want to touch on the German reunification question, could have a lot to do with how far he presses his desire for a looser NATO arrangement.

President Johnson is being credited here by foreign media with a cool and calm attitude toward France, contrasting with the clash of views which President Kennedy unleashed.

The last presidential warning to Europe, saying no one nation could stand in the way of progress by others, came last May from President Johnson. There has been nothing much since, despite some heated private reaction to the de Gaulle view that the war in Viet Nam is "a stupid" war.

One possible reason for the U.S. restraint is that American allies in Europe are equally patient with France on other matters and the U.S. doesn't have to underline its concern about the threat to NATO unity which it sees in de Gaulle.

Youth Fare Program

Winnipeg Free Press

Last month American Airlines embarked on a new policy to attract young people to air travel. Its "youth fare" program allows anybody between the age of 12 and 25 to buy an identity membership card for which he is charged \$3. This card allows the holder to fly on any American Airlines domestic route for half-fare—but on stand-by basis only. This means that if an aircraft is full, the passenger has to wait till there is one on which there is a vacancy.

Apparently, although the plan has been in operation for just a month, it is successful. The airline announced that it has obtained 10,000 subscribers to the program, and that the plan brought an additional 5,000 passengers in the same period.

According to reports from New York, Air Canada and the national airline of Mexico have refused to follow American Airlines' lead, and have also refused applications by the U.S. airline to extend the half fare into Canada and Mexico. However, Air Canada's refusal apparently is only for this year. Youth fares are said to be part of the airline's plans for 1967—the Centennial year. The company is reported to be considering enlarged group fares, night fares, special excursion rates, lower rates for stand-bys and changes in the family fare plan.

This new fare package is being designed to take care of the thousands of people who will be travelling to and in Canada during the Centennial year, but some of the lower fares will probably be continued beyond 1967.

Perhaps it is wise for Air Canada to hold off a youth fare program until it has more planes in operation. But the half-fare program has much to commend it and Canadian young people will be looking forward to the establishment of such a program by Air Canada.

Sewers And Culture

Toronto Daily Star

The debates in the House of Commons are not always concerned with pedestrian issues like money. Sometimes they deal with philosophical concepts and historical assessments that make one believe a politician's soul is not entirely devoid of poetry.

The other day Creditite Giles Greigore and Liberal Ralph Cowan clashed on the role of a city's sewerage system in determining the level of its culture.

Mr. Cowan had some harsh things to say about Montreal's reliance on the St. Lawrence River for carrying off its refuse. Mr. Greigore opined that what Canada's largest city lacked in sewerage efficiency it made up for in music, architecture and theatre.

The debate was reminiscent of the argument that occurred before plans for Toronto's Art Centre were approved, one politician asserting that before this city looked to its cultural laurels it had better focus attention on the needs of its sewers.

Regardless of the connection

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