

Premier Robarts Tells Britons Firm Federal Gov't Is Needed

LONDON (CP)—Premier John Robarts of Ontario has told Britons that Canada needs a firm federal government to counter divisive empire-building by the provinces.

In a speech, the Progressive Conservative premier proposed that Canada should "put aside partisan political disputes" to make minority government work in Ottawa for at least two years.

view of the opposition's role. In a luncheon speech to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Britain, Robarts cited regional conflicts of interest in Canada and said "there are potential dangers if there is no strong unified central government which will be directly responsible for progress and forward national economic policies. 'Once we permit provinces to develop empires we are going to be in trouble nationally,' he added in a departure from his prepared speech. However, Robarts predicted Canada would solve problems of national unity and development by compromise. For a start, he proposed less political partisanship. 'The parties will have to cooperate to make Parliament work for at least two years,' he said. 'Progressive legislation can be introduced and passed providing party lines are somewhat relaxed, and I suggest they will have to be.' He said at another point: 'It seems to me that in spite of the fact that there is a minority government in Ottawa, the people of Canada, and the people of Ontario, will want to put aside partisan political disputes and get on with the job of building the nation.' At his press conference, a reporter asked whether the premier's emphasis on political peace means that he disagrees with Diefenbaker's idea of more active opposition to the Liberal government. ADMITS VIEW 'Yes, you could say that,' Robarts replied. Asked earlier whether he intends to contest the national Progressive Conservative leadership whenever Diefenbaker steps down, Robarts said: 'No, I don't.' 'I'm not setting up any plat-

form for myself by coming here," he said in reference to his 12-day visit to Britain. Robarts replied he has "lots to do" as Ontario premier when asked whether he would accept the national party leadership should it be pressed on him. But he added: "To be completely honest, it would be difficult to take an absolutely categorical position over something that is not going to happen for some time."

Portugal Is Opposed To Sanctions

LISTON (AP)—Portugal has made it clear it will have no part in any boycott or commercial sanctions against Rhodesia.

"In the framework of a policy of good neighborliness, the Portuguese government cannot refuse to co-operate with Rhod-

esia," Foreign Minister Franco Nogueira told a press conference. Breaking an official government silence on Rhodesia's declaration of independence from Britain, Nogueira stressed the importance of the Portuguese African territories of Angola and Mozambique as transport routes for Rhodesia and neighboring African states. PILOTS ARE BUSY A ship enters Rotterdam harbor, the busiest in the world, every 18 minutes, day and night.

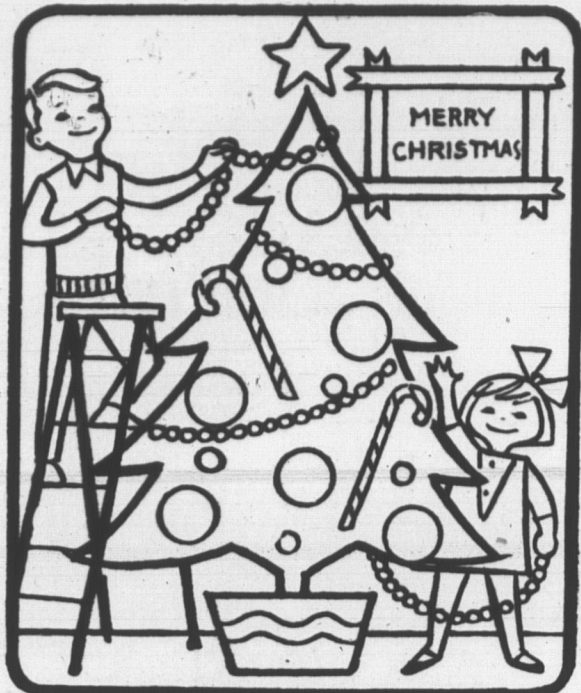
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