The Guardian

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew

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Unsatisfactory Answer

The written reply which the Department of National Defense has given to a question placed on the order paper of the House of Commons by Mr. Heath Macquarrie falls considerably short of being satisfactory to the people of this Province. The question had to do with the discontinuance of emergency air ambulance flights by the RCAF, on the ground that a private airline company has taken over.

The Department reply states that it did not approach this company to take over emergency flights, but that the company has one aircraft "suitable for such flights" and it (the company) so informed the provinces in March, 1963. The provinces did not make use of the air line but continued to refer all emergency cases to the RCAF. Since October of this year, when Maritime Air Command headquarters became aware of the airline's ability, provincial authorities have been requested to "investigate use of the airline's aircraft prior to requesting RCAF airlifts."

In effect, the RCAF service has ceased to be available and the change imposes a heavy burden on families for the use, in emergency, of the new service. But there is another point which was raised in a letter published in The Guardian of November 30, by Dr. J.C. Sinnott, of the medical staff of the Charlottetown Clinic, and which is of much graver concern.

Dr. Sinnott wrote that he was appalled at the thought of transporting seriously ill emergency cases in an Apache aircraft. "It is not simply a matter of carrying a bit of freight," he said. "On such occasions, emergency medical services as well as qualified medical personnel and equipment are required. In my opinion, the cost to a private company of providing those services would be prohibitive."

The letter went on to point out that the RCAF is equipped now to do this in their Search and Rescue squadrons. Qualified medical officers, nursing sisters and special equipment are available. These special planes and equipment are unused most of the time; and it costs the taxpayer nothing extra to have them made available in emergency cases.

Dr. Sinnott concluded by urging that this problem receive "the serious consideration of our government and medical profession, before lack of equipment and medical personnel on one of the Apaches or bad weather contributes to a tragedy."

It is to be hoped that our federal members, who have been pressing this matter at Ottawa, will insist on a further explanation from the Defense Department, covering this vital factor.

Summing It Up

"Mr. Shaw, of Prince Edward Island," says a writer in the Winnipeg Free Press anent last week's Ottawa conference, "was very unhappy with his $600,000 sliver of the tax pie. Mr. Lesage of Quebec, who gets 70 times as much as Mr. Shaw, also was dissatisfied because he wanted more. But angriest of all the premiers was Saskatchewan's Woodrow Lloyd, whose province gets only $2.5 million of the $87 million."

The chief trouble, as the Free Press writer sees it, was that "the new formula is a retreat from true equalization. It does not equalize to the level of the top province (as Mr. Pearson had indicated in his opening statement at the conference.) It turns the resources revenue factor upside down, downgrading provinces with high revenue resources instead of upgrading those with low revenues.

"And, most heinous of all in the eyes of the less wealthy and less populated provinces, the additional 25 per cent of succession duties which the provinces will be allowed to keep is not going to be taken into account in making equalization payments. This is considered most unfair, as, of all the three shared taxes, succession duties fall most inequitably."

At the close of the conference, says the Winnipeg scribe, "the green baize doors of the chamber were opened and the press was allowed in to hear Mr. Pearson read a cliche-ridden and entirely innocuous communique. There followed an unusual press conference, Troika style, with Mr. Pearson in the middle, Mr. Lesage on his left, and Mr. Robarts on his right, fielding questions tossed at them by some hundred or so reporters. Each displayed tolerance and good humor."

That's how the curtain was rung down, leaving a good many questions unfielded and a good many reasons for hoping that more equity will prevail when the next occasion arises for slicing the tax pie and giving all concerned an opportunity of displaying the aforesaid virtues of tolerance and good humor.

Rubber Stamp Treatment

Senator Crerar is a gentleman for whom we have a great deal of respect. He is one of the most experienced and most capable members of the Upper Chamber, and his record in both Houses, extending back to 1917, is an impressive one. But he seems to have been on very weak ground in the reason he gave for supporting the proposal in the Gordon budget which would have the effect of discouraging the flow of American capital into Canada.

The matter came up in the Senate on Wednesday on a motion of Senator McCutcheon, former trade minister, to kill this measure which had been introduced and passed as a government bill in the Commons, as reported in yesterday's Guardian, the motion was defeated on a straight party vote, 39 to 23.

Senator McCutcheon argued that the bill was "bad legislation and should not be approved by this chamber." He said it was an opportunity for the Senate "to justify its existence as the chamber of sober second thought," and that it could not afford to take the risk of the repercussions which might follow.

That might be regarded as a debatable point. But it is significant that Senator Crerar is reported as saying that he agreed that the legislation was indeed "bad". He argued, however, that it had "a redeeming feature" in that it wouldn't become effective until January 1, 1965, by which time another budget should be introduced "and the proposal may be changed." Consequently he voted, along with all the other Liberal senators, against the McCutcheon motion.

On this reasoning, the Senate's job is merely to act as a rubber stamp for government legislation, however ill-advised, provided the measure doesn't come into effect until there is a chance that it may be redrafted before doing any harm. In that case, why a Senate at all? Has it no responsibility to sift the chaff from the wheat, the "bad" legislation from the good, regardless of other considerations?

Senator Crerar used to maintain that this was the Senate's prime duty and reason for existence, as indeed it is. But somehow his perspective has changed. Could it be that if this were a Conservative and not a Liberal government measure, he would have seen it in a different light?

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is expected that the first session of Canada's 26th Parliament will start a flurry of action about December 18 with an eye to adjournment on December 21.

* * *

From Dublin comes the announcement that a national monument to President Kennedy will be erected in the Irish capital. The Irish Arts Council will be consulted about a design

WHITE HOUSE MICROSCOPE

CLOSER TO BRITAIN

The Western Stake In Malaysia

Christian Science Monitor

It is good that the United States has drawn closer to Britain in standing firm against Indosenian President Sukarno's threat to the new Federation of Malaysia. That, of course, is the meaning of the disclosure that since September the United States has withheld from Indonesia spare parts for American-built aircraft as well as ammunition.

The British might have preferred Washington to go the whole way and suspend as well food shipments and technical help — but given Indonesia's precarious economic situation, to stop these would have been lacking in humanity.

Malaysia— which is made up of Malaya, Singapore, and the Borneo territories of Sarawak and Sabah — is now completely independent, if still within the Commonwealth. Why, then, it might be asked, does Britain have such a stake in the country? And why is President Sukarno so set on breaking it up?

BRITAIN'S INTEREST

Britain's immediate interest in Malaysia centers on (1) the availability of the naval and air base at Singapore; and (2) Malaya's tin and rubber which are one of the props of the sterling area. But there is a longer-range consideration.

A stable Malaysia is a shield to Australia and New Zealand against any overflowing southward of trouble on the Asian mainland. To a great extent, the United States' interest in Malaysia is parallel and complementary.

President Sukarno is a controversial figure, but he more than anybody has given the far-flung archipelago which is his country a sense of national identity.

The burning Indonesian nationalism which consumes him partly explains why he covets Sarawak and Sabah; for if geography were the only factor, an argument could be made that they belong more naturally to Indonesia.

But as a United Nations investigation has shown, the people of those territories prefer the Malaysian to the Indonesian flag.

OFFERS BETTER HOPE

One of the reasons is that at present, the Malaysian flag offers the better hope of sound administration and prosperity. The more prosperous and stable Malaysia becomes, the more will the weaknesses within Indonesia become apparent.

Then the problem of holding the country together will get harder and harder for President Sukarno (or his eventual successor). There has been dissidence before on some of its islands, and Sumatra is embarrassingly close enough to the Malayan peninsula to be able to see what is going on there.

The West would be foolish to encourage any break-up of Indonesia: the consequences would at least give opportunities to the Communists and ammunition to those forever on the scent of neocolonialism.

Indeed, there is a valid argument for the West's helping to make Indonesia a better fed and better run country. But the other side of the coin is that President Sukarno should be made to understand that the West will not allow him to break up Malaysia.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Sir,—Referring to a letter in your Dec. 3rd edition, "A Better Deal", I rather enjoy a discussion on such matters as it gives voters an idea of how the "Pulse of the People" reacts to certain conditions, etc. Now, I definitely do not agree with the writer's attitude that the senior citizens (not old age pensioners, please) are getting their just rights. "Lets look at the Record," once again, (Al Smith).

The present government promised a raise of ten dollars a month to their $65.00 already being received. They promptly discarded that idea after being elected, probably by the S.C. "on that note"... and just as promptly "upped" their own salaries, $8,000. Where is the justice there? A $50.00 check should promptly be forwarded to every Canadian citizen over 70 years as that is what is justly due them. Their first check was issued on October 26th, five months too late.

Not so with the previous government. Their election promise was kept to the letter. A government that will discard as valid a promise as that, cannot demand respect from the voters and so the sooner this debt is taken care of the better.

Now, as the writer suggests, trying to even exist on $40 a month is a "laugh," with living expenses "rocketting." A pensioner living in or out is expected to pay $60-65 dollars a month for room and board. Nursing homes and such charge from $100.00 up and up. So the writer complained rather sadly of not having a cent at the end of the month. How much has the senior citizen left?

The checks that are delivered into homes, etc., today are "overwhelming". To give one an idea; Children's allowance; unemployment insurance; disabled persons; blind pensions; veterans.

To say nothing of welfare agencies, etc., so why the "gripe" I do not know how the writer rates according to this. The people of Canada were never better cared for than they are today; and it's mostly due to the hard work, thrift and stick-to-iveness of the senior citizens of this great country. They have made it what it is today. So I do suggest that every Canadian citizen over 70 years of age should receive $100.00 a month while they live. They have rightly earned it.

I am, Sir, etc.,
MARY R. GAVIN
Charlottetown

Malta's Political Problems

By Rod Currie
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The leaders of Malta's five political parties have returned to London for what may be the final attempt to settle constitutional disagreements before independence next year.

As in the past, the most inflammatory issue is the influence of the Roman Catholic Church over the political affairs of Britain's over - populated Mediterranean island colony.

The four opposition parties also are disgruntled over the decision of Prime Minister Borg Olivier to invite Duncan Sandys, Commonwealth relations minister, to sit in judgment on the issues in dispute.

This announcement to the Malta legislature, coming after the breakdown of discussions in Malta, prompted a mass walkout of opposition members last week.

ACCEPTED INVITATION

Sandys accepted the invitation to impose solutions on the disputed points but said he wanted further talks with the leaders in London before he does so.

Sandys announced independence for Malta by next May 31 after a London constitutional conference last summer which also ended in disagreement, the opposition Labor party refusing to attend the final session.

The Labor party under former prime minister Dom Mintoff says the last elections were "a farce" because voters in the predominantly - Catholic island were threatened with excommunication if they voted for him. Although there was no formal church ban, some parish priests even decided to proscribe those who attended Labor meetings.

The governing Nationalist party won 35 of the 50 seats and Labor 16. The other nine seats went to the three other parties, all of which are opposed to independence and Commonwealth membership.

Oliver says the result was a mandate in favor of independence and insists that since the various parties are unable to agree on other points it is correct to ask Sandys' help.

WANTS NEW ELECTION

Mintoff agrees to independence but says there should first be a new election without church interference. The volatile opposition chief, who insists he is anti-clerie but not anti-church, says the right to a free vote is a human right and not a matter for arbitration.

Most British political observers agree and suggest that Mintoff has a strong case.

At any rate, Sandys finds himself in an unenviable position. Although he has indicated sympathy with Mintoff's position, it seems unlikely he will go so far as to approve new elections — particularly since there could be no guarantee the church would not again seek to influence the voting.

Our Yesterdays

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
December 6, 1938

Halifax, Dec. 5 — (CP) — Twenty-one years ago tomorrow, two ships collided in The Narrows of Halifax Harbor and caused one the major disasters in the continent's history—the Halifax explosion of Dec. 6, 1917.

A special service of Induction for Rev. E.B.T. Miller at Marie United Church will take place Friday evening, with Rev. T. J. Boyce of Mount Stewart, Interim - moderator presiding. The address will be given by Rev. L. M. Murray.

TEN YEARS AGO
December 6, 1953

Some 150 persons from districts in a 20-mile radius attended the evening session of a leadership school held in the King George Hall, Kensington, yesterday. The program was conducted by Lincoln Dewar, Floyd Griesback, H. B. Chandler, John Martin, Stan McInnis and Elmer Power.

Rev. W. Harold Brown, M.A. of Saint Edward's Presbyterian Church, Beachboro, P.Q. will be guest preacher at Zion Presbyterian Church next Sunday.

FINED FOR POLLUTION

OTTAWA (CP) — Chief Engineer R. Fanac of the Swedish vessel Sunadele has been fined $100 for an infraction of oil pollution prevention regulations, the transport department said Wednesday. He was convicted at Chicoutimi, Que., Nov. 18 of having allowed oil to escape into the waters of Port Alfred, Que., while his ship was there Nov. 9

Gas Poisoning Many Sources

By Dr. Theodore R. VanDellen

Carbon monoxide poisoning is not confined to auto drivers and to men working in garages. Such mishaps occur in homes and apartments. Natural gas is predominantly methane and is free of carbon monoxide. It has largely replaced the older illuminating gas but poisoning still occurs when there is a combination of incomplete combustion and inadequate ventilation.

Poisoning takes place when faulty heaters, fueled with gas, coal, oil, or kerosene, are used in the home or trailer. Stoves, gas refrigerators, and air conditioning units must be kept in good repair. Picnic grills brought indoors and gasoline powered motors inside the home are hazardous.

Few gases are as treacherous as carbon monoxide because it is odorless and colorless. The victim usually suffers initially from headache, dizziness, and nausea. Muscular weakness follows and the effect is like an anesthetic but there is no anesthesiologist to control the amount inhaled.

The subject wanders aimlessly through the house as though drunk, not knowing which way to turn, but is too weak and confused to escape. Those who have come upon the occupants of a house where everyone has died from this cause speak of the evidences of disorientation. The surroundings often are completely disarranged and the bodies are sprawled around the room in bizarre positions.

Fresh air and absolute rest are the best remedies for mild poisoning. Hospital care is required when the individual is found unconscious, and artificial respiration, when breathing has stopped. Oxygen should be administered, preferably by trained personnel. Most police and fire departments have emergency squads who know how to use a positive pressure face mask respirator. The new pressure chamber with oxygen under two atmospheres of pressure is reported to be of value.

Remember that defective heating equipment plus inadequate ventilation is a lethal combination. This is the reason most casualties from carbon monoxide occur in the winter months.

VEIN REMOVAL

R.W. writes: I'm 70 years old and my doctor has suggested that I have my troublesome varicose veins stripped. At my age, may I expect a complete cure from this operation?

REPLY

Yes. When a vein is removed, it cannot return. In addition, at your age, there is a good possibility that other veins will not become varicosed.

F.S. writes: I gave up alcohol three months ago and am still nervous and fearful. Is this natural?

REPLY

Yes, depending upon your emotional maturity and, to a lesser extent, upon your previous liquor intake. You must keep in mind that one sip and you will be a drinker again.

FEET FIRST

L.B. writes: Why do psychiatrists look at a patient's feet before making a diagnosis?

REPLY

Examination of the feet is included in a thorough checkup. This is not done to determine whether they are clean enough for the couch.

BALLS OF HAIR

R.C. writes: What is the danger to the stomach if a child continues to pull out strands of hair and eat them?

REPLY

Hairballs (trichobezars) develop occasionally and surgical removal is necessary when they obstruct the stomach.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A statistician reports that the average person takes more than 18,000 steps a day. And so many people do it without any real idea of where they are going.—Chatham News.

Man is the only animal that laughs— but almost invariably he does so either to keep from crying, or at some fool thing another man said or did.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

about the smoking that went on at the conference on smoking, one may be tempted to wonder what would happen if there were a similar conference on liquor.—Ottawa Journal.

The need for a good general education becomes more imperative as technology advances. It's not much use having the machines if we can't read the instructions.— Edmonton Journal.

The Waitress With An Art

Ottawa Journal

One of life's little joys that too often go unsung is that of being served in a restaurant by a waitress who makes an art of her work. In this art as in any art, there is a solid foundation of craftsmanship. Instead of dawdling over setting the table with napkins and cutlery before taking one's order, she takes the order first and gets the kitchen people started working on it so the arrival of the food is brought that much farther forward.

She times the arrival of the courses carefully, instead of bringing soup and hot course together and so giving one a choice between bolting the soup and eating cool meat and vegetables.

She times the arrival of the coffee to match precisely the vanishing of the last spoonful of dessert. And she gets the order straight.

But art is more than craftsmanship and the waitress who is an artist has mysterious insights and subtleties that the layman can enjoy but cannot understand.

She doesn't stand watching the dinner. Yet at the very instant that he decides another cup of coffee would be pleasant, her eye is there to be caught.

She handles the dishes without silly flourishes and yet with a manner— her own secret— that conveys the feeling that they are appealing things that will be delicious. More, she handles each dish in a manner appropriate to its nature. A simple omelet is embarrassed and spoiled if it is carried in as though it were chateaubriand.

Such artistry is rare, and a sheer delight. Perhaps if we were more inclined to show appreciation when we do find it we would find it more often.

Shorter Campaigns Needed

Ottawa Citizen

The Commons committee on privileges and elections has done well to recommend that the question of establishing permanent voters' lists be the subject of a special study.

Certainly, something has to be done to shorten the time now available for federal election campaigns.

The committee voted to ask Chief Electoral Officer Nelson Castonguay to carry out the study in consultation with the provinces.

Mr. Castonguay has long opposed any move to adopt permanent voters' lists on the grounds that this procedure would be too expensive.

He recently estimated that it would cost $100,000 to get the system started and another $10 million annually to maintain it.

It may be that such a system would be too rich for Canada's blood at this stage in its history.

But, as pointed out by M. J. Moreau, MP for York - Scarborough, the possibility exists that both the federal government and the provinces could make use of permanent lists, thus making it possible to share the costs.

Mr. Castonguay rightly agreed that a thorough study should be made on this question before any final decision was taken.

The Canada Elections Act now provides for the enumeration of voters before each election.

This process must start seven weeks before voting day under the regulations.

And because an extra eight days are required to prepare for enumeration, the election date announcement must come 57 days before polling day.

Electoral officers say that all this time is needed for the whole process.

No doubt the experiences gained by federal parliamentarians in campaigns over the past several years have influenced the latest action within the Commons committee.

Whatever else the coming study produces, it should result in some hard thinking on what might be done to shorten election campaigns.

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