

amount of public money they administer has increased by 47,569 per cent. The quorum has increased by none.

Why was the Knowl's bill treated with such scant courtesy? Why shouldn't the quorum—the minimum number of members required to be present for the transaction of parliamentary business—be raised to 50? Why is there such tolerance of flagrant truancy on the part of so many members of the Commons? These are questions of much more concern to the taxpayers than the wretched debate that has been going on for weeks over a flag design.

There is a growing feeling that this truancy racket has much to do with the miserable pass which the present parliamentary session has brought itself.

Yardstick Of Poverty

A University of Wisconsin economist in a report to a U.S. congressional committee has explained what is meant by "poverty" in terms of American standards. He classified a member of a four person family with a total income of not more than \$2,500 in 1957 as a "low income person." A member of a six person family with family income of less than \$3,296 he termed "poor" and an unattached person with an income of less than \$1,157 he put in the same category. On this basis he estimated that in 1957 more than 32 million Americans were "poor."

The house committee, reporting on President Johnson's antipoverty bill, used the level of \$3,000 in annual cash income per family as the dividing line. On this basis it said that 9.3 million families, more than 30 million persons, still were poor in 1962.

To many less fortunate nations, this interpretation of poverty would appear as fantastic. But of course, it is in the framework of the national economy that such estimates must be arrived at.

One thing which the impoverished appear to share in common everywhere, as a group, is the fact that they are marked especially by lack of education. In the United States, nearly two out of every three low income families are headed by persons with no more than a grammar school education. It is also noted there that of the poor, 22 per cent are nonwhite, but nearly half of all nonwhite families live in poverty. One-third of all poor families are headed by a person over 65, and almost half of all families headed by such a person are poor. A fourth of all poor families are headed by a woman, and nearly one-half of all families headed by a woman are poor.

Generous Provision

Defense Minister Hellyer estimates that release of some 50 of the top officers in Canada's armed forces—now paid from \$15,800 to \$25,000 each year—will lop around one million dollars from the defense payroll. Actual saving, however, will be only around \$300,000 a year after pensions.

While the pension per man will vary according to his years of service, his time in terminal rank and other factors, if a pension average of 70 per cent of final pay is applied, the senior officers who must retire will do so on pensions ranging from \$11,000 to \$17,500. Officers of junior rank will be pensioned in proportion. As the Guelph Mercury remarks in this connection, "pensions such as these compensate somewhat for lost careers."

It should be remembered, too, that the officers will retire on these allowances at relatively early ages, and that they are in good health. The admiral who must quit is only 51. Another high naval officer, also leaving, is 47. With sizeable life incomes already guaranteed by the state, they are free, if they wish, to step into lucrative civilian careers, where their abilities and executive training can bring additional handsome rewards.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Canada Council has just made it known that the sum of \$245,000 has been granted to major symphony orchestras in the country. The largest grants went to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra—each for \$60,000. The smallest grant was passed out to the Regina Symphony Society for \$3,000.



"OOPS! THE WATER'S OFF"

THE LAST GREAT WAR? Stability Through Nuclear Stalemate

Twenty-five years ago this week—just as it had twenty-five years earlier—the world marched off to total war, as total war then was understood. Six years and millions of casualties later, the advent of the nuclear era made World War II what many hoped World War I would be—the war to end war.

Hiroshima and the development of the hydrogen bomb made it clear that humanity must end war or war will end humanity. The danger of a nuclear holocaust has imposed caution even on the Chinese Communists. And it was the fear of a nuclear exchange that led the Soviet Union to withdraw its missiles from Cuba.

The nuclear stalemate, freighted though it is with terror and the constant peril of war through accident or miscalculation, nevertheless does provide its own peculiar kind of stability; the danger of an intentional attack is particularly small. This is a stability in a divided world where mean divided countries and peoples.

The wall that separates the two Berlins is more spectacular, perhaps, but no more real than the divisions between the two Germans, the two Koreans, the two Chinas, the two Vietnams, the two Laoses and, on the side of the cold war, the two Kashmiris.

The chief risk the world faces is the small, nonnuclear war which might escalate into a Great Power nuclear conflict. In South Vietnam, particularly, not also to a lesser degree in Laos and Mexico, American soldiers are engaged in shooting war, in Cyprus, Malaysia and Yemen, the United States is trying to end violence and achieve settlements.

The United States has backed India in her border conflict with China. It has had confrontations with Panama in recent months as well as with Cuba. And Washington, though not involved directly, has kept close eyes on the army mutinies in Tanganyika and Kenya, the revolts in Zanzibar and Gabon, and the border wars between Algeria and Morocco, Kenya and Somalia and Ethiopia.

The danger in these peripheral areas is that American intervention would draw in the Russians or Chinese or vice versa.

PUBLIC FORUM

POOR FERRY SERVICE

Sir—We recently returned from a visit to your lovely island, after having enjoyed the beautiful scenery, friendly people, delicious food, lovely beaches, and good motel accommodations.

However, never before have we experienced such poor ferry service. We realize this is difficult but such poor service bears very bad publicity for Prince Edward Island. It would be nice if, on this Centennial year, a special effort would be made to accommodate the extra tourists who no doubt have been entertaining.

Our experience with the ferry service was as follows: CAPE TORMENTINE TO BORDEN. Arrived at Cape Tormentine around 4:00 p.m.—a ferry left about ten minutes prior to that. The next ferry left at 8:30, however it was full so we didn't leave till 6:00 p.m.

WOOD ISLANDS TO CARIBOU. We arrived at 8:15 p.m.—a ferry left at 4:00 but was a too full to accommodate us. We waited in line and another ferry left at 8:30 but it also was full. We did not leave till 7:30. To add insult to injury, when the second ferry left a trail of re-routed drove up, passing all the cars lined up with people in them with fingers crossed that they might get on this ferry, and this certain re-routed got on the ferry immediately.

DOINGS AT OTTAWA

Sir—After the recent splendid Centennial Celebration we turn our thoughts to Ottawa and think of what our leaders have been doing for those who elect them. Their role, they must admit, has been a selfish one.

Raising their salaries and side-tracking the Pension Plan are among their many failures. It is a pity that those who say "We will do it. We will do it." Perhaps in the heat and enthusiasm of his political campaign he lost sight of the fact that a promise is a sacred thing and should be kept.

Are we going to stand by and see one money going down the drain, while our leaders squabble over this question, ignoring more important matters. Like Nero who "iddled while Rome burned" or those who forget the memory of the Fathers of Confederation, Sir Wilfred Laurier, Sir John Macdonald and many others who could find the vision of a united Canada and worked assiduously with that end in view. Have our leaders caught that vision or are they like Edward Markham's "Man With the Hoe" who was so busily engaged in raking mud at his feet that he failed to raise his eyes and see the a g e l holding out the stars and stripes to him as if they were.

Should they not emulate the actions of our illustrious leaders who have long since "passed beyond the veil" and give their best to those who have placed them in a position of trust? M.R.L. MURPHY, Summerside.

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Suggestions Of Readers

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen At East Providence, R.I. Nurse has a good suggestion. She writes: "It occurred to me after reading articles on poisons and dangerous drugs, that wrapping sandpaper around bottles containing possibly harmful substances would be a deterrent to the children, as it has a repulsive feel. On bottles, a rough material might be incorporated into the glass of the bottle during its manufacture."

All poisons should be placed under lock and key. Some manufacturers are trying to discourage children from opening the containers by utilizing tricky tops, but the responsibility for preventing mishaps of this kind rests with the parents. They don't realize their "baby" is growing and the time has come when he can reach previously inaccessible places.

Children will eat or drink anything from a familiar bottle and, in this respect, the nurse's suggestion is worthwhile. It is amazing what tots will do with poisons. They will be flunked at the table but will gulp kerosene or a bleach from a cork bottle as though it were the best tasting drink they ever had.

A Galesburg woman offers the following suggestion about allergy to a cotton rag: "First, rinse off soap thoroughly after bathing. Second, wear a larger bra (not the new ras), particularly under the breasts, and paid a dermatologist \$25 for telling me the eruption was caused by pressure. I switched to a mild soap, rinsed and dried thoroughly after bathing, bought a larger size bra — and my troubles are over."

This woman received \$25 worth of advice. The cause was detected and removed and cure followed. This plan might not work if the rash were caused by the nickel in the fasteners. This is a relatively common source of skin allergy. Furthermore, some persons are sensitive to the ingredients used in laundering clothing, and it may be that the detergent she used contained relief after more thorough rinsing of the garment.

PERFUME AND SUN M. M. writes: After bathing, I apply perfume to my arms but blotchy stains have appeared on my neck. Has anyone else noticed this? Did you ever hear of such a reaction?

REPLY Yes. This form of photosensitivity occurs in some people. It represents a chemical reaction between the oil of bergamot in perfume and the ultraviolet rays of the sun.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Nip peptic ulcer in the bud.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Next time you feel you'd like to be young again, just think of algebra.—Wall Street Journal.

There are, according to Encyclopedia Canadiana, nine varieties of maple growing in Canada. They list striped maple, sugar, yew, mountain, red, black, Douglas, broadleaf and Manitoba. It's quite an impressive list, but it still apparently lacks one, the maple from which the leaves for Mr. Pearson's flag have been chosen. Those leaves are different in shape than any Canadians have been able to find anywhere. It could be, of course, that they've come from a tree "prop" being cloned by one of those strange CBC plays—Owen Sound Soundings.

Serious Political Problem

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff Writer

The continuing deterioration in the Viet Nam: Nam poses a serious political problem for President Johnson.

South Viet Nam is the American's most important ally in the world for a decade it has represented a quagmire, gobbling up an increasing flow of men, plus money and supplies now flowing at the rate of \$2,000,000 daily.

But the recent religious rioting and cabinet shuffles still show up the absence of a hard core of civilian structure to build on.

It is being suggested here that President Johnson may have to take drastic steps soon, after deciding whether to commit the United States to an even more active role in the country.

The alternative is seen as continuing to let events run their course and still writing off the country as a front against communism in Southeast Asia.

TWO SOURCES There are two main sources of pressure on the president. One is Republican Senator Barry Goldwater, his Nov. 3 election adversary, who refuses to take the spotlight off foreign affairs. Some recent polls have indicated that foreign affairs is the most important election issue for a majority of voters.

The other source of pressure is the Communist Viet Cong, which eased its military action during the Saigon riots as it has during previous coups and riots.

But it would seem inevitable that—well before Nov. 3, ballooning, the Viet Cong will have struck even harder blows than before.

President Johnson's stock went up after his speedy decision to retaliate against North Viet Nam for the Gulf of Tonkin naval incident.

His own polls and everybody else's including Senator Goldwater's show him holding a substantial lead.

But that could change rapidly if the Viet Cong launched another major series of attacks. If Senator Goldwater capitalized on public concern and if the civilian situation in South Viet Nam continues to limp along chaotically.

POSSIBILITY SLIM Any possibility of negotiating a settlement with the Communists is regarded as slim, mostly because South Viet Nam presents such a picture of internal weakness.

One man who will have much to do with the president's decision will be Gen. Maxwell Taylor. His own post to Saigon as U.S. ambassador in an attempt to stiffen the government without resorting to any marked departure from the system of aid still in force. That hasn't worked. But he is said to feel that South Viet Nam is worth saving.

Depending on future circumstances, President Johnson may be forced to take a decision with much broader ramifications than any so far in the South Viet Nam conflict. He has pictured himself as a man dedicated to peace through prudent firmness as opposed to a Republican party recklessly quick on the trigger.

Events threaten to make him prove it.



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