

No Fond Farewell

"One cometh, another goeth," is the order of the day among the Conservatives. Mr. Davie Fulton's decision to come back into federal politics is being welcomed, especially since it is coupled with the assurance that he will "work with and support" Conservative Leader John Diefenbaker.

What is significant is that the party's executive in Quebec last week-end gave Mr. Balcer a unanimous vote of confidence as Quebec leader. It looks as if he'll take most of them out with him. It's all very well for an unnamed spokesman in the Opposition leader's office to say "good riddance," but that won't gain any Quebec votes.

Mr. Fulton's return, however, could help. He is said to have a clear understanding of the Quebec situation, and is himself fluently bilingual. With experience in Opposition and as a minister, he could have before him an important role, at a time when his particular knowledge and talents could be of greatest value.

In the meantime, however, Mr. Balcer has become an independent. He has already lashed out at the party to which he had given his allegiance, branding it as being "25 years behind the times," and we may expect that he'll not have a kind word for it from now on.

What this means, in effect, is that the advantage that a taxpayer in Quebec will have from putting his savings into Canadian companies will be reduced to a greater extent than in the past, and his income tax will rise, for he will be paying more of his income tax under Quebec regulations than in the past.

Although President Johnson took the position that he was simply restating American policy in Viet Nam in his broadcast speech on Wednesday night, it did reflect a significant shift in the American attitude toward negotiations.

Of course, President Johnson could not come right out and say that he was ready for a cease-fire, while trying to improve his negotiating position. He was still insistent that Communist aid to the North Viet Nam "aggressors" must be stopped, but his plea for a discussion to end the fighting struck a new note in the attitude that Washington has heretofore maintained.

with no appreciable effect on the Communists or on the will of South Viet Nam to support a so-called war of national liberation. The use of gas and napalm bombs has caused a wave of revulsion around the world which has given the Communists a potent propaganda weapon.

Recently in the New York Times a full-page advertisement appeared, signed by 2,500 U.S. ministers, priests and rabbis, who implored: "Mr. President, in the Name of God, stop it."

Another voice raised in this connection has been that of Dr. Hans J. Morgenthau, internationally known director of the centre for the study of American foreign and military policy at the University of Chicago.

"To call attention to these implications of our present policies," says the writer, "has nothing to do with pacifism, isolationism, appeasement, and softness on Communism. The difference between calling attention to them now, when we have still the freedom of choice, and of stumbling unawares deeper and deeper into a morass from which there is no retreat, is the difference between prudence and recklessness."

An Oversight?

The opting-out formula was passed only a few days ago, and already, according to the Montreal Gazette, one incidental effect of it will need correction. For it would appear to raise the taxation on residents of Quebec, in comparison with residents of other provinces.

This increase is not an integral or necessary part of the formula; all that it involves is that Quebec, because it chooses to move out of programs where cost has been shared with Ottawa, and to carry out these programs itself, will have room for it to occupy a larger percentage of the income field. It ought to mean that the taxpayer will be paying to Quebec what he previously paid to Ottawa, but that, as a taxpayer, he would be none the worse.

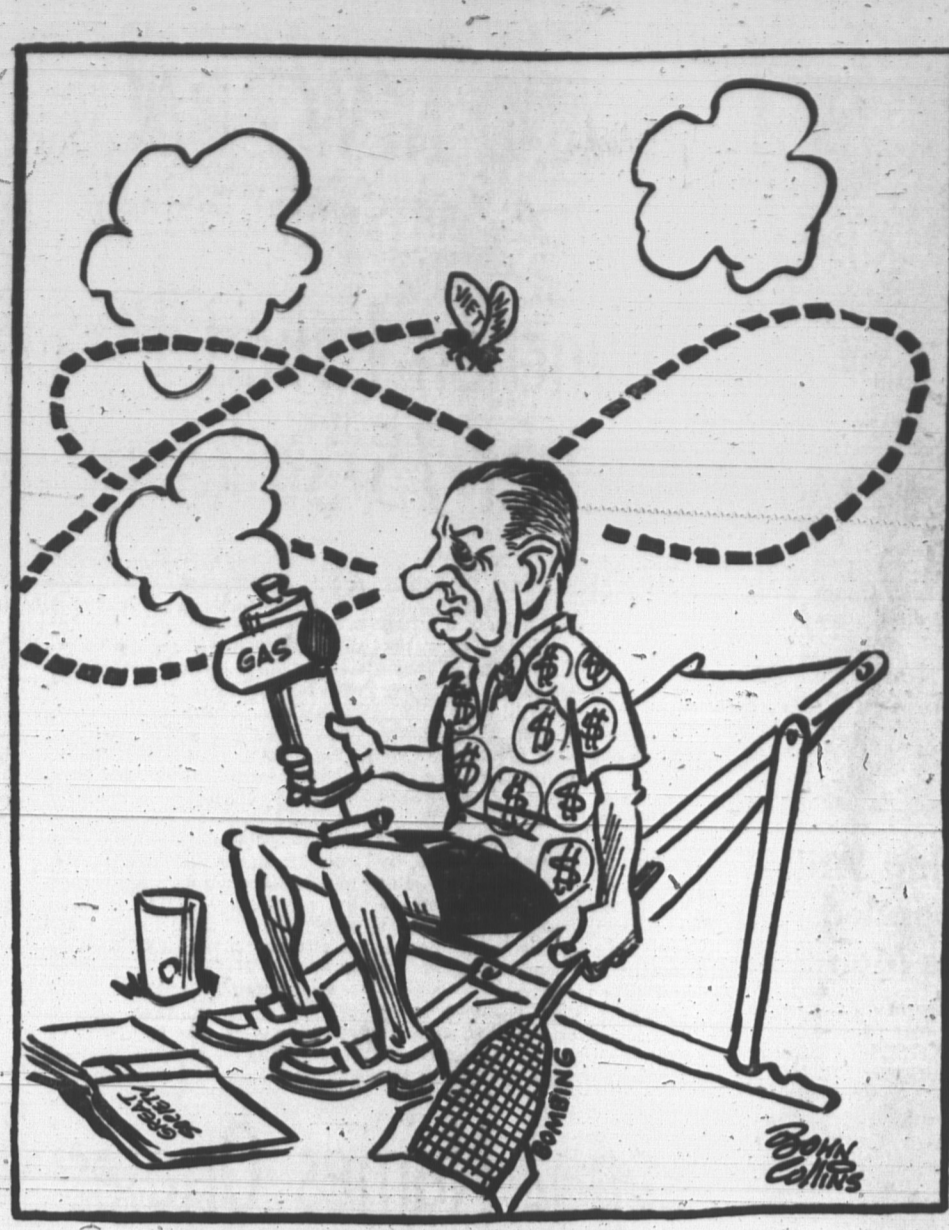
The trouble arises because the regulations for income tax are not the same in Quebec as in Ottawa. The federal government permits a taxpayer to deduct 20 per cent of his dividends from Canadian companies. The Quebec government permits the taxpayer to deduct only three per cent.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Helsinki for years has honored the great Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, with a week-long festival. This year it observes the centennial of his birth. And it is expanding the festivities to three weeks (May 15-June 4) with several noted artists and orchestras participating.

Some day when television watchers want their sets to turn off they will need only say so. The sets will obey spoken commands; and that day may not be so far away. Radio Corporation of America has obtained a patent for a syllable analyzer that can take spoken words apart and compress them into an electronic signal. A rough prototype can already recognize 200 spoken syllables.



THE MOSQUITO IS STILL THERE

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Queries Raised Re Dangers Of Stilbestrol

When Dr. P.B. Rynard, Conservative MP for Orillia, asked the Minister of Agriculture if he had heard reports of severe illness among animals caused by a drug called stilbestrol, he fired the first shot in what may develop into our most far-reaching enquiry involving artificially "improved" foods.

Stilbestrol is a synthetic preparation stimulating an estrogenic hormone. Drugs of this type are prescribed for women as contraceptives, and to alleviate menopause ailments. They induce sterility, but are also suspected of causing certain forms of cancer.

Diethylstilbestrol, to give it its chemical name, is widely used as a fattening additive to animal feeds. It dulls the sexual impulse of animals so treated, and makes their flesh retain extra fluid, thus increasing the content of water and other liquids in the body, while its residue lodges in the fat.

Stilbestrol is given to steers, by means of a pellet fired into the neck from a pistol; there it lodges just beneath the skin and dissolves over a period of six to nine months. A pellet, costing 80 cents, may add as much as 100 pounds to the steer's weight, thus increasing its price by up to \$22 when it is slaughtered.

Sometimes it is given mixed in corn mash; workers in plants where this is prepared have been afflicted through inhaling stilbestrol dust; farm families who have made themselves porridge from such mash have found their children suffering

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.

WEST POINT SERVICE

Sir, Recently in the newspapers our attention has been drawn to the proposed ferry service between Port Hood, Cape Breton and some point on P.E.I. The idea is being pushed by a Port Hood development group.

This mention of a ferry service brings to mind a subject that we have not heard too much about recently, and that is the West Point Ferry or at least a ferry from New Brunswick to a point in West Prince.

We would like to see a ferry between Port Hood and a point in eastern P.E.I. and we would like to see a ferry between N.B. and West Point. This may be asking too much, but surely with the heavy summer traffic these ferries would almost pay for themselves. And if there is a need for subsidy, the increased traffic on the highways would go a long way toward making up the subsidy.

I am, Sir, etc., Resident of West Prince.

Safety Belts Are Valuable

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Highway accidents accounted for 1,600,000 disabling injuries in 1963. These victims occupy 50,000 hospital beds on a year-round basis and require the services of 66,000 hospital personnel.

Many are in the prime of life and so disfigured or crippled that Providence might have deemed it better that they not survive. It is surprising how much damage is done when the body hits the steering wheel, dashboard, or windshield, as the car comes to a sudden stop.

Blows to the chest and abdomen are the next most serious. Facial injuries, including fractures, are common and vary from a broken nose to horrible lacerations. The steering wheel is a major peril for the driver, but the dashboard is the greatest threat to the passenger's face.

The value of a safety belt in protecting the head was brought out in a recent survey. Of 114 with facial injuries, only one was wearing a safety belt. He sustained a relatively minor fracture of the upper jaw and was convinced that he would have been killed had he not been wearing the belt.

NEURITIS INFLAMMATION Mrs. V.P. writes: What causes neuritis, and what can be done for it? REPLY Neuritis is an inflammation of a nerve. The term has been broadened to include irritation and degeneration of the nerve.

SNEEZING READER O. D. writes: I'm elderly and when I start to read I begin sneezing. Would this be? REPLY Allergy to ink or to the dust on an old desk or chair is a possibility. Psychological sneezing also occurs. We assume you do not have a cold, use snuff, or sit in a draft.

NERVOUS WOMAN F. M. writes: Is a woman who always has been nervous likely to develop schizophrenia during the change of life? REPLY No, but she is more likely to be depressed and suffer from palpitation, indigestion, headache, and other symptoms of psychosomatic origin.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Do not dry clean clothing or floors in an unventilated room. The result of their endeavors was that in February artisans from all over Canada met in Winnipeg and there discussed plans for a national organization and for united representation at Expo.

Nothing but good can come from all this. For at no time in our history has it mattered so much that we present ourselves to the world for what we are: a nation in the full bloom of youth, a nation proud of its past and of its present achievements, and unshakable in its belief in its future.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism cost taxpayers \$1,434,560 up to last January 31. What was the \$,424,000 for? — Hamilton Spectator

You never know how hard it is to drive a bargain until you buy a second-hand car. — Ottawa Journal

A doctor who had just started his practice, examined his first patient. He could think of no diagnosis of the symptoms so he said, "Have you had this rash before?" "Sure," the patient replied. "I've had it twice before." "Well," said the doctor with more assurance, "you've got it again." — Montreal Star

Space age children become very nonchalant about space flights. We asked one ten-year-old if he was going to watch for the Gemini flight and he said, "What for? It's just a routine flight. They aren't going to land on any other planet. It's just two men going on a perfectly ordinary trip." — Hamilton Spectator

Little Hope In Viet Nam

The United States-backed air assaults on North Vietnamese targets appear to be about as effective so far as scratching one's left ear when the right one is itching.

These assaults in the last two months obviously grew out of the repeatedly-frustrated efforts by the Americans and South Vietnamese to weed out the numerous and widely-scattered rebel strongholds which control at least a third of that South Asian trouble spot.

The task for the Americans and South Vietnamese would be relatively simple if the rebels were grouped in one or two sectors of the country. But as things stand, the rebels, led by the Viet Cong, are difficult to pin down.

They control a sizable portion of the country about 150 miles south of the 17th parallel that divides North and South Viet Nam, territory bordering Laos where the Communist Pathet Lao forces are strong, some more territory bordering neutral Cambodia and the entire southern tip of the country.

Further, these rebel groups, expert in guerrilla warfare, easily out-manoeuvre government forces and fade into the jungle when it is to their advantage.

Unable to manage the Viet Cong, the Americans turned on North Viet Nam, blaming the Communist government in Hanoi for the success of the rebel operations.

The United States aim is to frighten the North Vietnamese into stopping aid to the rebel forces so that the South Vietnamese could gain an upper hand in the war.

But the bombings of North Viet Nam apparently haven't changed the situation much in the south except in boosting the morale of the government supporters.

President Johnson had a way out of Viet Nam following his impressive victory in the last United States elections when American public opinion appeared to favor U.S. withdrawal because of the unstable government picture in Saigon.

And he was politely given a chance at some form of negotiations only last week when Prime Minister Pearson suggested perhaps the bombings on the north should be interrupted so that some basis for peace talks could be worked out.

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