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The strongest member is weaker than the weakest link. PAGE 6 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1982

"Come Off It Judy!"

Mr. Pearson and his followers are said to be more exasperated with the Social Crediters in Parliament than with the Diefenbaker Government itself at this time. And, as usually happens when people become exasperated, they have a tendency to lose control of themselves. Take this excerpt from Hansard, for example. Miss Julia Marshall, Liberal member for Niagara Falls, is admonishing the minority groups on their duty to fall in line with the Liberal non-confidence motion. She declaims: "This is not a matter of amusement." (Had they been laughing, wonder?) "We were not sent here to collect our indemnities, to live in leisure while the people of the country bleed."

Mr. Thompson: "Oh, come off it Judy!" Hansard doesn't say so, but there must have been chuckles at this re- port. It was, we suggest, a quite ap- propriate answer to such windy rhetoric. The Social Credit leader put the lecturing lady in her place, if only for a moment.

Other comments could be quoted from the debate, indicative of the arrogant attitude of self-righteous- ness the Liberals have shown on this issue. It hasn't paid off, for no one is under any illusion as to the political motives behind the Liberal efforts to unseat the Government. If it were a question of concern for "the people," they would be better employed in listening to the Secre- tars than in lecturing them.

"I think," said Mr. Thompson in this connection, "that we must rise above those things that divide us politically, to the level of statesman- ship which the nation needs at this time. Let us have a few months at least free from partisan considerations. Let us keep Canada first." This debate has—thanks to the Liberals—given the Secre- tars an opportunity to shine in a new light—as the stabilizing influence at the wheel of an unsteady ship of state. No doubt it's a calculated manoeuvre on the part of Mr. Thompson and his followers, to suit their own ends; but where is the party that hasn't been jockeying for position since the House opened? Who can call them to account for this crime? It so happens that their statements have a less penny sound than those of their critics in this instance, what- ever their attitude may be on other political issues.

De Gaulle's Reform

President de Gaulle is meeting resistance against his proposal to have a new French president chosen by direct popular election. Some critics are citing the case of Louis Napoleon and the rampant and un- derly parliaments of the Third and Fourth Republics as examples of this procedure. Louis Napoleon was the nephew of the great Bonaparte who, by using the weapon of plebiscite, overrode Parliament, destroyed the Second Republic, and ruled as Em- peror of the French until 1870.

In President de Gaulle's resort to the plebiscite—three times since 1958, with a fourth referendum scheduled for October 28—the par- liamentary deputies who overthrow the French Government last Friday force the possibility of a new man on horseback arising in the future. It was to prevent just such an oc-

currence that the French people, after the fall of Louis Napoleon, approved a republican type of re- gime which, from 1870 to 1958, avoided dictatorship by subjecting every government to strict par- liamentary control.

President de Gaulle and his sup- porters look at the other side of the coin; namely, that those self- same parliaments splintered in- to so many contending points of view that they brought France to the verge of Army intervention in 1958, at the height of the Algerian crisis. At that time, the Army and politi- cians agreed on General de Gaulle as president. The General, since his tenure, has steadily enlarged the presidential power at the expense of Parliament, until, since April, 1961, the National Assembly has been a little more than a debating society, with little or no control over government policy.

It is the perpetuation of this strong presidential regime that is in issue now. De Gaulle regards it as necessary to prevent, after he is gone, the lapse of France into what he termed last week the "catastrophe" of parliamentary control.

But take him out of the picture, and what might happen? France is a nation of splinter parties; and as a single party the Communists are as strong as any. In a contest in which each party puts up a candi- date for the president it could easily turn out that a Communist and an extreme right-winger would win the right to enter a run-off election. In such a circumstance—and it is a probable one—the voters would have no real choice, as the Economist of London points out. The moderates, the great middle class in France, would have to choose between two factions they dislike. It sounds like a very dubious reform, at best.

Macmillan's Pamphlet

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan is, by tradition, precluded from tak- ing part in or attending his party conference now in session at Llanudno, until the last day (Saturday) when he addresses a mass rally. It is known that he intends to make a strong speech on the European Common Market issue at that time. But in view of the historic impor- tance of this matter, Mr. Macmillan felt that his assessment of the situation should be known before the conference got to debating it. So he has taken the unusual course of a Prime Minister in office of pub- lishing a pamphlet on the subject. The pamphlet came out a few days ago, and it argues force- fully that Britain can best save the Commonwealth by joining Europe.

Mr. Macmillan says Britain is putting forward new proposals to try to meet points raised at the Commonwealth conference, but there appears to be no thought of a complete renegotiation, as some of the Prime Ministers would have liked. "I myself hope," he says, "that a complete outline of agreement will soon emerge, which we shall then submit to Parliament." Particularly does he stress the importance of future Anglo-American relations.

"In the event of Britain's not joining," Mr. Macmillan adds, "it seems to me inevitable that the realities of power would compel our American friends to attach increasing weight to the views and interests of the Six in Europe, with others who may join them, and to pay less attention to our own." In his view this would mean the United States and the Common Market group con- cerning policy with increasing dis- crepancy for Britain. And this, in turn, would mean the Commonwealth being left out in the cold, too.

Probably we shall hear more about this pamphlet when the Canadian Commons gets round to dis- cussing the Commonwealth Confer- ence discussions and Canada's par- ticipation therein. Certainly it deals with an issue of cardinal importance to all concerned. For his own part Mr. Macmillan calls it "the most fateful and forward-looking in Brit- ain's peacetime history."

EDITORIAL NOTE

A writer in the Financial Post recalls that ten years ago, when the public learned that some doctors blamed cigars for lung cancer, Canadians were smoking cigars at the rate of 20 billion a year. The figure today is 37 billion—an in- crease of 85 per cent in a decade when the population grew only 30 per cent.



THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Mr. Martin On Free World Trade

Hon. Paul Martin has directed a brilliant shaft of common sense through the fog of mis- understanding and the darkness of ignorance which becloud the popular view of the rapid de- velopments in international trade and politics. Typical of the gloom in which we grope today, Mr. Martin's views were given no significant headline, and little thoughtful comment. Although they pro- fered Canadians a real gleam of advice through the develop- ing clouds.

Paul Martin, longtime Liberal M.P. from Windsor, Ontario, has been variously one of the elite Prime Minister Mackenzie King's bright young men—and the others all went to their sundry rewards from parliament—then a widely-known Minister of Health, then candidate for the leadership of the Liberal Party. One is that he should retain the leadership of the Liberal Party. It is that he should retain the leadership of the Liberal Party. It is that he should retain the leadership of the Liberal Party.

Now at CROSSROADS. Mr. Martin suggested that there three possible courses face us. One is that we should retreat to a greater degree of economic isolation that would be disastrous, he believes.

The second has some appar- ent attractions: it rests on the plain fact that, if the world is moving towards regionalism, the most obvious region of all is North America. But such a

The Ecumenical Council

By Alan Haver and Steve Wright

A long-term move toward restoring the disrupted unity of Christianity starts this week and will be vividly before a conven- tion of modern times. It is a cautious beginning. The council will also occupy it- self with the study of the doctrine and liturgy, ranging from debates on eating fish on Fridays to the question of schism and unity. The council will also occupy it- self with the study of the doctrine and liturgy, ranging from debates on eating fish on Fridays to the question of schism and unity.

Others watch CLOSELY. Religious outside the Roman Church will watch the confer- ence with interest and sym- pathy. One of the best summaries of their attitude comes from a letter by Pope Paul VI, old canon of Ely Cathedral in Cam- bridgehire who for the last 18 months has been in Rome as personal representative of the archbishop of Canterbury and York on the Vatican secretariat for promoting Christian unity.

The numbers of agreement be- tween the two churches are more in point, and far greater in importance, than those which are being discussed. "This indispensable fact must be kept firmly in view. For it is the common bond of unity, and the basis of the present urgency, bodies of Christian people who agree that they must stand separated by so little."

Eating Habits In Britain

Gall Reporter

The eating habits of Brit- ish people are changing, notes a British paper. The amount of food eaten has decreased since 1956, when a free market was established and the government's control over food supply was ended. The report shows a decided drop in certain meat purchases. Poultry is still popular, however, but has fallen, although there has been a decided increase in its purchases.

Lower imports of beef, rather than a reduction in demand, with meat prices rising while those of poultry were falling, may be the reason. The report also notes that the amount of food consumed in the home has declined by 15 per cent since 1956. The report says that the amount of food consumed in the home has declined by 15 per cent since 1956.

Infant Eczema Will Show Up At Two Months

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen A PROFESSOR OF DERMATOL- ogy from England's University of Dundee says that allergic eczema are more sensitive and alert than normal children. Ac- cording to Dr. Van Dellen, this "sensitivity" makes a child more prone to allergic eczema for knowledge and intelligence" is the cause of allergic eczema, provided they are not em- barrassed or thrown out of line by the eczema of their infancy. This should be of some con- sideration to the parents of babies who are allergic eczema. The condition is more common in boys than in girls and the majority get eczema after their first birth- day. Allergy plays a role in that many of these infants come into the world with an in- born predisposition along this line. At least 50 per cent develop allergic eczema sooner than as hives or asthma.

The manifestations of eczema appear after the first few months of life and occur most often in bottle-fed babies or in those who receive too many ad- ditional foods such as eggs. But not all are relieved after the eczema has been treated, and that fact is not always the cause. These babies have more sensitive skin and react to dryness, scratching and irritants in soap and water. Itching may play a role in the cause and in the treatment. In this respect, eczema begets eczema and favors the spread and recurrence of the disease.

Various ointments and salves relieve itching and soothe the skin, but they do not prevent eczema from returning. Hand cream and emollients are also helpful. Dr. Van Dellen will send leaflet on infant eczema if stamped, self-addressed en- velope accompanies request.

FAT IS HEAVY R.L.V. writes: Why is over- weight bad for the lungs?

It does not damage the lungs but most obese individuals feel poorly and because it is more dif- ficult to move about with that extra blubber. Try walking a mile or a flight of stairs with a 50-pound bag of sand on your shoulder. This requires the same work as carrying around 30 pounds of extra weight.

BOUT OF PLEURISY F.B. writes: Our 17-year-old son had what the doctor called pleurisy. It cleared up in a few weeks after two shots of penicillin. After five or six weeks another attack came on. Is there such a thing as chronic pleurisy?

Yes, but it does not behave like this in all probability the second attack is a remnant of the first—provided the diagno- sis is correct.

BITTER WINDS A.V.E. writes: On my regu- lar yearly checkups I'm told my heart is in good condition. But in the last two winters when cold winds blow, I have difficulty in breathing and seem to shut off the air. Does this mean an ailing heart?

Not necessarily; many healthy people have trouble breathing when bucking a cold wind.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Invention isn't the only thing born in necessity. For ex- ample, there's a mosquito bal- work—Woodstock Sentinel-Re- view.

Gadgets cannot make a one- thing better than the average man can see better than he can think—Calgary Herald.

No matter how hard a politi- cian tries to be, he will always be a politician. He always gives up something for credit for winning it—Ottawa Journal.

Item from the mystifying but fascinating information front. Newly printed Canadian \$1 bills bear the signature of J. Louis Beaulieu who was appointed Governor of the Bank of Canada in July, 1981. They also bear the inscription, presumably the date of issue, October, 1854. Financial Post.

Bowlering Dickens

The Printed Word

A news dispatch from London brings word that Miss Doris Dickens, a great-granddaughter of Charles, is "judiciously re- writing" the novels of her fa- mous ancestor. She has already written "Nicholas Nickleby and 'Oliver Twist' and 'Great Expectations' and is now working on 'David Copperfield' and 'Bleak and Rye.' It would be fruitless to voice much of a protest. Dickens is in the public eye and anyone is free to do with his works whatever may seem good to him or her. Other literary commentators of England have not escaped the hand of the rewriter. Charles and John Dickens and Bar- tholomew Dickens have had their names comprehensively re- written. Thomas Bowdler did worse than that by expurgating the plays to make them fit in his royal opinion for family read- ing. He also cut out some 10,000 words of his life in preparing an

expanded edition of Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. A. D. Thackeray have been fairly free from the van- dals, although there has been a few alterations. What would happen to his other classics if Hollywood producers were to role out a play. What they did to Kipling's Kim is a horrible ex- ample. There is some comfort in remembering that the classics of the literary world are the worst their modern revisers can do to them. Every few years, in the name of scholarship, one produces a new, and per- haps more accurate, version of the Bible, but the original ver- sion remains the one that is most people quote or misquote. There is ground for hoping that Charles Dickens will survive his sacrilegious scalpel of his descendant.

Enormous Crabs

The Times, London

A crab over a foot wide and weighing nearly 1 lb. is re- ported to have been caught by a spear fisherman and there are many who will feel that he is welcome to it. Tiny crabs, shy and only by the thousands, are drawn attention to themselves, scuttling away with their little sideways run and disappearing.

MIGRANTS At large in blue Atlantic of the sky. Wild geese wing south above re- membered hills. Reading the chart of rivers re- directionally. Following a pace—and bay—di- rectionally. Practical navigators, they can find a course from fixed, familiar landmarks, known to generations of their kind, can spot. Air corridors their flock has al- ways flown.

We are place-keepers on a southward route. Guarding perhaps some water- course or pond. The foremost squawk always picks us out. "There is the brook. Light in the field beyond." Fall afterwards, across the cedar swamp. We hear them honking as they make their bank. —Victor Hovest in The Christian Science Monitor

Large advertisement for 'The Ecumenical Council' featuring a list of cities and ticket prices: Charlottetown to Sackville \$2.10, Sackville to Moncton 2.80, Moncton to Truro 3.80, Truro to Saint John 4.80, Saint John to Halifax 5.20, Halifax to Antigonish 5.60, Antigonish to Sydney 9.25, Sydney to Quebec 12.50, Quebec to Montreal 12.50.