

A Pettifogging Answer

Industry Minister Drury has given the brushoff to proposals for assuring further aircraft repair and repair work for the plant of the Engine and Heating Company in Charlottetown. He says such proposals are impractical. And when queried on the subject in the House of Commons on Monday by Mr. Heath Macquarrie, the minister added something else to his disappointing statement.

As reported by Canadian Press, he said he believed that he had convinced the representatives of the Prince Edward Island government to this effect. Namely, that their proposals for obtaining further employment on governmental projects for this plant, in place of shutting it down, were "quite impractical". This, says the CP report, referred to suggestions by P.E.I. Industry Minister Rossiter, whom The Guardian contacted yesterday and who flatly denies that Island representatives gave any indication of being persuaded that their proposals were not practical and equitable. Why indeed should they?

If there were convincing reasons for excluding a plant in this province from a small part of the employment benefits accruing from military contracts, why didn't Mr. Drury give them in reply to Mr. Macquarrie's query in Parliament? Why, instead, did he bring provincial authorities into the matter, implying that they had presented such an unconvincing case that he had no trouble in sending them home converted to his own negative views on the subject?

The minister didn't quite say this, of course; he said he "thought" this to be the result of his meeting with the Island government representatives. But he had evidently no grounds whatever for this belief, and certainly no right to inject it into what purported to be a factual reply to a parliamentary question.

Just what Ottawa regards as "practical" in the allotment of defence contracts may be gathered from figures released last week, prepared for the Commons defence committee by the department of defence production. They show that for 1962-63, of total expenditures of about \$253,000,000 Montreal got \$117,000,000, the rest of Quebec \$120,000,000, greater Toronto \$82,000,000, the rest of Ontario \$31,000,000, and the remainder of Canada \$36,000,000. Of this latter figure, only \$15,000,000 was spent in the Atlantic Provinces. Our provincial allotment was so small that it does not appear as a separate item.

Perhaps that is why it has become "impractical" to continue it at all, in the opinion of the hon. member for Saint-Antoine-Westmont. How, we wonder, does this coincide with the opinion of his cabinet colleague, the hon. member for Prince?

Much Too Tempting

The Canada Pension Plan has still to be threshed out in Parliament, and therefore a word of warning sounded by the Financial Post in connection with the disposal of funds which will accrue under the plan may be given the consideration it would appear to merit.

There can be little doubt, says The Post, that this gigantic accumulation of money will lead provincial politicians into temptation with perilous frequency. By 1957, it is estimated that the provinces will have invested or made available for investment the immense sum of

\$5,000 million, which is almost as much as Canada's banks and life insurance firms have managed to collect in their entire history.

What guarantee is there that at least a portion of the funds won't be channelled into public projects dear to the heart of the politicians but poor investments for pension fund participants? Attention is called to recent New York City experience as an example of the dangers inherent in the political administration of funds of this kind.

New York taxpayers have had to produce an extra \$400 million in the past 25 years to wipe out deficits in the pension fund maintained for city employees. Pension money had been consistently invested in large blocks of low-interest New York City bonds. This was no doubt easy financing for the city, but the yield wasn't big enough to produce the pensions guaranteed to the plan's participants.

Beginning 30 months ago, the fund's controller began investing the flow of new contributions in good grade higher-yielding securities and mortgages. The fund was put back on a sound basis and the annual deficit wiped out as soon as the fund administrators returned to investing in the type of issue that they probably always would buy. Very likely, adds the Toronto financial paper, the Canadian government will try to build into its overall plan a range of investment safeguards or the provinces will establish a list of "approved" investments. That, certainly, is the least that can be done to avoid the appearance of running a multi-billion-dollar slush fund.

Fantastic Mission

We have become accustomed to reading about fantastic experiments in space, but this flight of Ranger 7 to the moon with a mission of taking several thousand close-up photographs of areas where American astronauts may land in 1969, is surely one of the most complex and difficult undertakings in the history of science. Here is what the director of the California Institute of Technology Jet Propulsion Laboratory has to say about the objectives of the spacecraft launched at Cape Kennedy yesterday:

"Ranger 7 must hit a target one quarter of a million miles away with a high degree of accuracy. The equipment must perform a variety of functions. It is a piece of flying hardware that must embody all the complexity of a guided missile. After launching it must pause briefly in a "parking orbit" about earth. Then it must accelerate to escape velocity and set sail in the general direction of a lunar intercept.

"In its early hours, it must undergo a complicated set of adjustments to lock onto earth and sun, thus stabilizing itself in space. About 16 hours out it must undergo a mid-course maneuver to edge itself on a precise intercept trajectory. Just before impact, if it finds itself in the wrong attitude for picture-taking, it must swing around. It must then turn on its cameras, take good clear pictures, and send them back to earth before crashing."

That is a lot to ask. Added to which is the marvellous complexity of the cameras. There are three separate ways to turn them on at the proper moment, about 10 minutes from impact. They are on two separate and independent "chains," so that if one unit fails the other can still get pictures, starting 1,120 miles above the lunar surface and continuing to operate up to a fraction of a second before contact. The last pictures taken and telemetered back to earth are expected to distinguish objects on the moon as small as an automobile.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our farmers will be interested to learn, on the authority of a West German doctor, that the clock-work that goes on in their chicken yard is part of an "international language" consisting of 30 distinct sounds. Apparently the vocabulary enables chickens of different types and different countries to communicate without difficulty. The German researcher, who has kept his ears attuned to the barnyard for more than 50 years, claims to have got the hang of the language, and to have joined in some of the henhouse chatter himself.



Spine Curvature Common Ailment

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Milwaukee is famous for its art center and its beer, but it has another claim to fame—the Milwaukee brace. This device is used as a corrective support in spinal curvatures. Because it is adjustable, the patient remains comfortable while sitting, lying down, standing, or walking.

Curvature of the spine (scoliosis) to the left or the right is a common ailment. It usually develops during the early years of growth and often is recognized before the age of 10. Boys are more likely to be affected during the early school years. In adolescence when three to five times more girls than boys develop it. The curve may be shaped like a C or an S.

When poor posture is responsible for the outlook, good cause the vertebrae and structures otherwise are normal. Other causes are congenital, defective vertebrae or paralysis of the muscles of the trunk on one side. The latter destroys the normal balance of the supporting muscles.

The muscles may be weakened or paralyzed by polio or other neurologic affections. Spinal curvature occurs when one leg is shorter than the other, but by retractor, possibly the origin of curvature.

Despite the cause, the crookedness may escape detection for years because it comes on slowly and seldom produces distress. The left shoulder may be higher than the right or a hip or shoulder blade may be prominent. The defect may not be noticed until a parent sees the child sitting or a young girl is being fitted for a dress. Now and then fatigue and backache may provide a clue.

Mild curvature may correct itself with additional rest during the day, provided the youngster makes an effort to sit and stand erect. Exercises keep the spine flexible and improve the balance of the trunk muscles. They must be done faithfully over a long period. Progressive curvature calls for more specialized care, involving traction or the use of corrective plaster jackets and braces. Approximately five per cent are severe enough to require surgery.

F. R. writes: "What is meant by scar tissue following duodenal ulcer? Is it said to affect the stomach valve?"

REPLY Some duodenal ulcers leave scars after healing, especially when the lesion is chronic or has recurred many times. The scar may pull on the exit valve of the stomach and obstruct the passageway.

STERNAGE TALK E. G. writes: "My 14-year-old daughter insists that if you eat a lemon after a full meal you won't gain weight. Right or wrong?"

REPLY Wrong. She is rather young to be spreading old wives' tales. Calories do count, regardless of whether one claims to be contrary.

BONE FRACTURE B. H. writes: "How could a person come up with a cracked bone in the leg if he has not had a fall or other injury?"

REPLY This is unusual unless the bone is defective. Cysts and tumors, for example, weaken the skeletal structure so that spontaneous fractures occur.

BERET AMONG THE STETSONS

OTTAWA REPORT

Against Time Limits on House Debate

Patrick Nicholson's guest columnist today is J. Ernest Faeser, a progressive Conservative MP for Moose Lake-Lake Centre.

When editors are short of material for the daily expression of their views they frequently turn to a rather shopworn subject they describe as the Public Image of Parliament. The general tenor of these editorials is nearly always the same, that Parliament is mostly talk and not much action. There may be some justification for this view because the word "Parliament" is derived from the French word "parler," which means "to speak."

However, a my attempt to draw a public image of the House of Commons as a place of time-wasting speeches and partisan wrangling misses the main point of democratic government. The very fact that relevant debate may be carried on until all disputed points are either clarified or withdrawn is the public's greatest safeguard against ill-considered or irresponsible legislation.

Recently there appears to be a concerted effort in some quarters to impose definite time limits on House debate and criticism of government legislation. The result of such a move would be to restrict the main purpose of the Official Opposition, which is to examine in the light of national interest and public policy the proposals brought before Parliament.

Of course the Official Opposition must act at all times with responsibility and reason, because the fundamental basis for a good Parliament is to have a strong Official Opposition offering an alternative to the governing party and prepared to assume office at the call of the electorate.

The present Prime Minister,

when he was leader of the official Opposition, stated this position very clearly in these words, as reported in Hansard: "It is the duty of all Members of the Opposition in this House to give the people a chance to return what they would consider to be a better government."

In earlier times Parliament functioned on a two-party basis, with the Prime Minister as the head of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition sitting directly opposite as a sort of checkmate. It is that there are now five parties, four of them in Opposition with leaders who insist on their right to speak on all occasions, even though Parliament's Rules prescribe only one leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

When a government policy is announced in the House and the leaders of the three smaller parties claim the privilege of following the Premier, John Diefenbaker in stating his views there may be some justification for Premier's comment on excessive oratory.

Admitting this degree of repetition is correct as many from the Opposition's watchdog role in all Government legislation to wit, its role in the 1963 Budget, the initial Pension proposals, the \$75-a-month Pension, and the flag debate.

The charge against Opposition MPs that their oratory is a delaying tactic is delaying Parliament by the records of the Opposition in this House.

There is no justification for the present attempt to prevent full Parliamentary discussion by imposing time limits for consideration of each piece of government legislation.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WRONG IMPRESSION

Sir—Will you kindly publish this in your paper in fairness to the tourist industry of P.E.I. who are wondering why a not more tourists are coming to your lovely Island.

We were told at Aulac not to go to the Island as every place was filled, but we took a chance and found many places have vacancies here and found excellent accommodation in Charlottetown this week.

It is time this wrong impression is corrected as many from U.S.A. wish to come here.

I am, sir, etc.

H. J. WAITE, Bangor, Maine.

DISCUSS LEVELS

OTTAWA (CP)—The low water level in the Great Lakes is to be discussed by a Commons committee. Resources Minister Loring gave notice Tuesday of a motion to refer the subject to the Commons committee on mines, forests and waters.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The pleasure of a drive in the country these days is likely to be spoiled by the revving smell of the DDT which county spraying has spread in the ditches. The DDT is used in getting rid of weeds (which do no particular harm in a marginal farmstead) as well as in any case. It would be wise to cut the weeds periodically instead of the spraying and endangering wild life by the use of poisons—Kingston Wild Staff.

Pravda, the Soviet's official newspaper, was sweeping reforms in Russia's consumer goods industry. The new stocks are being put up because they were so bad and costly nobody wanted to buy them. In a competitive system, they'd have no such trouble.

Canadians run into a somewhat queer situation in connection with our history books, and indeed about our history, but possibly the worst example of this unfortunate fact occurred in British Columbia this year. It has now been revealed that a text book on Canadian history read in the western province by senior matriculation students referred to Mackenzie King as "the Conservative prime minister." In 1947 Mackenzie King celebrated his 50th year as Canada's prime minister, but the following years were defined by Liberal Louis St. Laurent. The text book, "This Golden Age of Conflict," was corrected after its first printing, without any explanation—Brookville Recorder.

Butler's Moscow Visit

By Joseph MacSwiney Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Russians have ensured that Britain's foreign secretary, R. A. (Rab) Butler, will have plenty to talk about on his first visit to Moscow.

The Kremlin has apparently invited the premier to Laos, the perennially embattled Southeast Asian kingdom, but topics range from Germany to nuclear weapons. Butler, 63, is known as an earnest, plain servant with a self-effacing air but he would be less than human if thoughts of the forthcoming British general election did not whir in his imagination in this trip.

Ever since the assassination of the late Premier, Harold Wilson, there has been talk in London that perhaps Britain will regain an increasing role in world affairs.

This has been encouraged, if anything, by recent developments in the United States. The Republican party's nomination of Senator Barry Goldwater as presidential candidate is widely interpreted in Europe as a departure from extremism.

Some observers also feel that frictions in the long post-war partnership between Britain and West Germany point to new opportunities for British diplomacy.

OBSTRUCTING

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Spacewoman Wanted

Shelburne, July 29

The increasing size and weight of the Nova American man may rule him out as an astronaut in the future. The average man is 5 feet 10 inches and the average weight is 165 pounds.

These height and weight standards will not be a handicap for the man on the moon, a three-day jaunt away. But when the destination is Mars—as it could be in ten years—travelling time is six months and every inch and pound is a costly addition.

rich living may further aggravate the problem in the future.

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Special certificates worth \$100 each are inserted into a number of packages of the new full King Size PETER JACKSON Filter Tipped Cigarettes. Buy a package today — you too can win \$100 cash.

Mrs. Marguerite DeVelle, 6228 Tulon Street, Halifax, N.S., receives \$100 Cash Award from PETER JACKSON Representative Ed Munro.

T. L. Carvill, 261 Boston Avenue, Summerside, P.E.I., receives \$100 Cash Award from PETER JACKSON Representative H. N. McLeod (left).

YOUNG CAN TO Special certificates worth \$100 each are inserted into a number of packages of the new full King Size PETER JACKSON Filter Tipped Cigarettes. Buy a package today — you too can win \$100 cash.



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