

Student Loans

Somewhat belatedly, we are informed that the federal student loan program in this province is in a serious way. To date, 547 loan applications for a total grant of \$414,000 by Island students are under consideration by the student loans committee, and the province's allocation for loans this year is \$248,000. Successful applicants are being notified that they will receive only 50 per cent of the loans asked for at this time, and the rules under which the applications are accepted have been tightened up.

So far as the restrictions are concerned, this appears to have happened all across Canada. We noted complaints in Ontario papers several weeks ago, to the effect that the authorities were asked to apply a means test to students before approving loans for the new academic year. Parents were expected to contribute 13 to 21 per cent of their taxable income before a loan could be approved, and were required to attest under oath to the truth of the information on the application. The means test would also take into account the students' summer earnings.

Last year across Canada, 41,284 students borrowed under the federal plan. Several hundreds of them may have misused the money—which averaged around \$600—but the vast majority clearly needed financial help to cope with the rising costs of higher education. The new regulations, whatever excuse may be offered for them, are clearly at variance with what the public was led to expect.

What was expected was \$10 million annually in scholarships which Prime Minister Pearson promised Canadian students during his election campaign in 1963. Finance Minister Gordon is also on record as having stated that university education "should be free for everyone who has the necessary qualifications. If there are to be fees, there should be scholarships and bursaries to meet them." Instead of moving ahead with this laudable objective, the government is now cutting back even on loans.

We should have received more information on this point from the provincial authorities after the Ottawa conference last fall on student loans. Were they consenting parties to this deal, or what? In any case, we are assured that the loan program now is at a critical pass, unless more money from Ottawa is forthcoming. The whole subject, we suggest, is due for a much more thorough airing than it has received.

Before The Battle

It's those Ottawa columnists again. We keep reading them and they keep making it hard for us to get their wheat from their chaff and find a true picture of what's doing in the political centre of the nation in this lull before the storm. So to speak, this interregnum between the announcement of a federal election date and the opening barrage of the campaign guns that will start almost before we've had a chance to run for cover.

Well, the commentators are not much help to us this time. They seem to be as confused as we are and as cagey about committing themselves on how the battle is going to go. But there's a general consensus that the Prime Minister has surrendered to the professionals of his party in agreeing to sound the charge at this time. He would, it is felt, personally have preferred postponement of the fray. He dislikes the wearisome task of campaigning across Canada and time and again has expressed the opinion that there was no need for it in the circumstances. But the Strategic Command has ruled otherwise, and that's that. His not to reason why, his but to do or die as the poet says.

Nothing new in this. But the pun-

fits are noting what the politicians or both old parties may not know—namely, that the average man on the street not only doesn't want an election now but has lost faith in the old parties and is highly critical of both the leaders. Also that the election news came, on both sides, as an anticlimax to what was a cut and dried affair. On the Liberal side, they say, look at Quebec—where there hasn't come a peep from Premier Lesage or Resources Minister Levesque about Quebec's present or future demands for weeks past. Not a single gesture in the way of opting out of anything federal since the first election rumors began circulating.

And look at the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, which hasn't sounded in weeks its warning knell that Confederation, unless it mends its wicked ways, is on its deathbed. As one astute commentator points out, the Royal Commissioners, especially its two key men, David Dunton and Andre Laurendeau, like Premier Lesage and Mr. Levesque, are loyal members of the Liberal party.

As for the Conservatives, where now is the anti-Diefenbaker wing which was so noisy a while ago? For weeks, not a finger has been lifted to do anything about the convention that only last February seemed just months away. The party Establishment, which twice attempted and failed to assassinate him, now seems reconciled to calling Dief the Chief again. There just isn't another chief around. Strange that this simple fact wasn't self-evident before now, but there it is. It goes to show that even with the aid of the commentators, politics is a mighty hard game to understand!

Still Going Strong

Born in 1950 at a conference in the Ceylon capital of Colombo, the Colombo Plan came into being as a co-operative undertaking to expand economic development in south and southeast Asia. It was scheduled to last six years. Now there is no end in sight for the plan or for the need to improve the area's economic health. After 15 years and despite almost continuous strife somewhere in the area, it is still going strong.

There are 16 regional member countries involved in this great undertaking, and six members outside the region—Canada sharing this responsibility along with the United States, Britain, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Actually most of the money and effort comes from regional member countries themselves, with help from outside members taking the form of grants, loans and technical services. Total figures on spending are hard to come by because the plan is largely a collection of separate national plans. But unquestionably it is one of the great movements of our time.

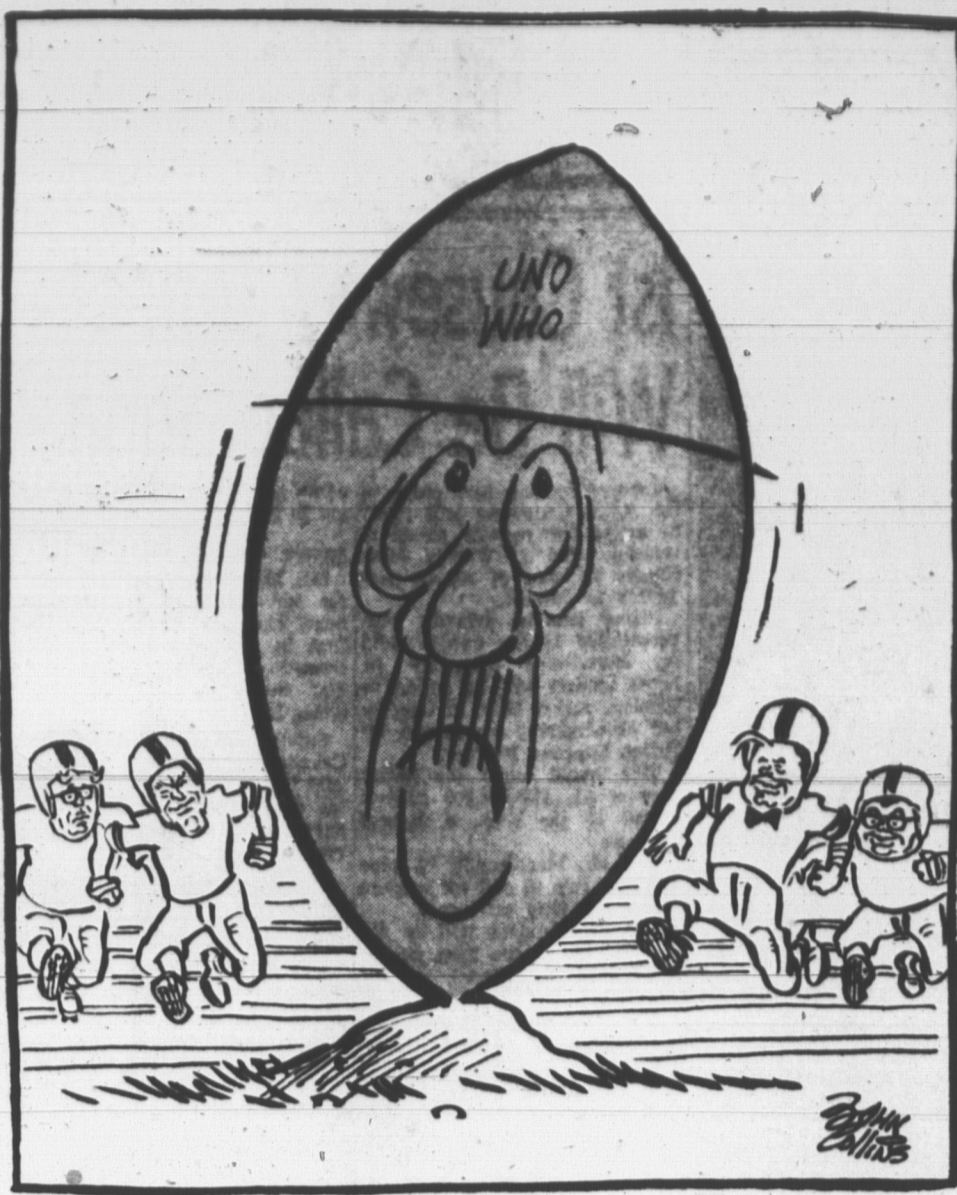
It has created new industries, power plants roads and railroads. It has produced more food through improved methods of culture, use of better seeds and fertilizers, expanded irrigation. It has resulted in increased spending for health, education and housing. Technical trainees under the plan number more than 5,000 a year, and experts to serve as advisers, 1,000 a year.

But we are warned in a recent report that the plan's results, though impressive, must be viewed against the area and people served. South and southeast Asia covers one-sixteenth of the world's land surface but contains one-quarter of the world's population. The population as a whole is increasing at a rate of 2 per cent a year with some countries having an annual increase of 3 per cent. Much of the economic improvement, and often all of it, must go to feed and clothe the expanded population. Incomes are pitifully low—less than \$100 a year per person.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The British have another first. A new pile-driver is being manufactured that makes less noise than a car engine that is just ticking over. At a distance of 25 yards there is no recordable noise, and the equipment has been tried out on 20 building sites at night without a complaint being received.

Don't blame the hens if we're not keeping up with other countries in productive enterprise. According to the bureau of statistics, the rate of lay for Canadian hens in July this year was 1,744 eggs per 100 layer hens, compared with 1,692 per 100 last year. Production in July ran to 35,112,000 dozen eggs, compared with 33,888,000 a year earlier, bringing January-July totals to 261,378,000 dozen this year against 256,652,000 last year.



ALL READY FOR THE KICK-OFF

OIL PROSPECTING

Fleet Joins Fishermen On Grand Banks

National Geographic News Bulletin

Portuguese fishermen on the Grand Banks call a soup made from codfish scraps the "soup of sorrow." Whoever eats it, they say, is bound to return to the foggy, treacherous waters. The Portuguese have been eating the pungent soup and returning to the Grand Banks of Newfoundland for more than 450 years. The maritime nation still sends some 70 schooners and trawlers to the Banks every summer. In 1965, the fishing fleet was joined by an unlikely new group of ships—totally uninterested in the staple codfish. The new vessels were exploring the vast Banks area—147,000 square miles—for oil.

The ships drilled for core samples and set off explosive charges for seismic reflection and refraction. Because of the importance of the Grand Banks fishery, the Canadian Department of Fisheries cooperated with the oil ships which represented U.S. and Canadian oil interests.

The Grand Banks are a part of the Atlantic continental shelf, extending about 350 miles off the southeast coast of Newfoundland. The cold Labrador Current and relatively warm Gulf Stream meet in the vicinity of the Banks. Air passing over the contrasting waters often produces dangerous fog, but the mingling of cold and warm currents also creates favorable conditions for plankton—directly or indirectly a major food for fish. Among the species on the

Banks are cod, haddock, rosefish, pollock, herring, and mackerel. In Newfoundland, "fish" once meant "cod," and a famous lawsuit on the island was fought on this interpretation. Cod has declined somewhat, but it still is king for the Portuguese. Alan Villiers, the famed sea captain, sailed aboard the Argus, a Portuguese schooner, when he fished the Banks on a summer. He described his experiences in the National Geographic Society's recent book, *Wondrous World of Fishes*.

"Though today's schooners have diesels, steam-heat, and electricity, they still depend mainly on the wind," Captain Villiers wrote. "And the 3,000 fishermen still fish in the centuries-old way. Each morning on the Banks they sail from the parent ship in one-man dories and pit their skill and luck against the sea."

SAILS SAVE FUEL

The Portuguese stick to the schooner rig because it is ideal for fishing off the Banks, where a ship has to remain at sea over many weary months. A powered vessel could run out of fuel. The dory fishermen use hooks rather than nets, because they get bigger and better fish. A doryman lowers a line bristling with 400 to 1,000 baited hooks. When he hauls it in, with luck he may have half a ton or more of cod. The man who catches the most cod during the season is called the First Fisher of the whole fleet. One famous First Fisher caught a ton of fish a day—single-handed.

Storms are as common as frogs on the Banks. In the old days, as many as three or four schooners might sink in a sudden gale. One single stormy night sent 200 dorymen to their deaths. The Portuguese fishermen are uncanny navigators. "Once a doryman vanished in the fog," Captain Villiers wrote. "Then a gale blew for three days, and more fog came. But on the fifth day the weather cleared and he came back smiling! He had to be hoisted in with his dory, for he was all but worn out. Yet he was fishing again later that day."

They are using it, the Birchers say, to suppress opponents. A law to "prohibit" anti-Communism, it seems, is being "surprisingly sponsored" by "the notorious Lester Pearson."

Canada is of course not alone in the Birchers' doghouse. Countries said to be 60 per cent-80 per cent (or more) under Red control include the U.S., Britain, France (70 per cent-90 per cent), Italy (70 per cent-90 per cent) and 84 others.

Only 21 countries get a really favorable rating, less than 40 per cent Communist-controlled. These include Western Samoa from the loony-bun experts, (purest of the lot with a score of 0 per cent-10 per cent), Bechuanaland, Spain, Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Sarawak, Chiang Kai-shek's island, Swaziland, Jordan, Kuwait, Sierra Leone, Malta, South Africa and Nicaragua.

It is hard to see Sarawak and Bechuanaland bringing the U.S. and Britain back to the right way of thinking. If, as Voltaire said, God is on the side of the big battalions, the Birchers have an uphill fight ahead.

What is not hard to see is why, if even 0.5 per cent of U.S. citizens take the Birchers' buffoonery seriously, American thinking on world affairs can sometimes be cloudy.

MORE DRIVE WORSE

New York state traffic police arrested nearly 200,000 people in the first half of 1963, an increase of 20 per cent over 1962.

'Cinnamon Diplomat'

Milwaukee Journal

President Johnson has been giving away many pens—those used to sign the flood of bills congress has been sending to his desk. In one week, he used 587 pens and gave them all away.

The president discovered recently that the pens cost the government \$1.11 each, so he switched to a type costing 17 cents. Thus the pens he gave away last week cost only \$99.79 instead of \$651.57. This economy came on the heels of a six-month program in which he saved several millions by having government officials repair old desks, file cabinets and typewriters instead of buying new ones.

There is an interesting comparison here with an order our government recently received from war bound South Vietnam. The government there is about to open a new medical school financed by our aid program. It has asked for 47 custom executive chairs, 18 of which cost \$258.75 each and come in a color called "cinnamon diplomat."

Also ordered is a chair listed as an "executive master commander," which the Washington Star says costs \$283.75 and is made especially for "the executive who prefers a distinctive superbly comfortable chair with a full high back support." Also on the order is an executive desk with a deep charcoal-walnut top and a matching console which together cost \$1,000.

The Vietnamese order found its way into news stories and suddenly Washington received a cancellation for the whole business. Is it a good guess that the president was on the phone again, telling the Vietnamese government that economizing goes for it, too, at least when it's spending our money?

From The Booby Hatch

Financial Post

Once a year all members of the John Birch Society, a U.S. propaganda group which stands politically to the right of Louis XV, get the inside dope, straight from the horse's rump, on what is really going on.

Their official magazine publishes an annual "scoreboard", said to be compiled by "highly qualified experts," showing the extent of Communist power in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Canada, the current issue says is now 60 per cent-80 per cent Communist-controlled. This will astonish Canadian Reds. They don't know their own strength. They are using it, the Birchers say, to suppress opponents. A law to "prohibit" anti-Communism, it seems, is being "surprisingly sponsored" by "the notorious Lester Pearson."

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Homesickness Not A Disease

By Dr. Theodore B. Van Dellen Homesickness is not a real disease but it may influence health. Nostalgia was invented as a medical term for the condition because it represents a combination of two Greek words meaning "suffering caused by an unfulfilled wish to return home." The ties that bind many of us to the scenes of our childhood are unbreakable and therein lies the difficulty.

Melancholia is the most common manifestation. It is not known whether this develops from thinking about the home that cannot be revisited or the years that cannot be relived. Depression may become so severe that the victim cannot sleep or eat. Weakness, smothering sensations, and stoop have been noted. Occasionally the yearning becomes so strong it changes the normal behavior of the body and may cause an actual illness.

Digestive disorders, diarrhea, and palpitation may ensue unless the person snaps out of the mental depression. It has been described as an empty feeling in the stomach and the person can hardly trust himself to speak, as the voice may tremble and choke up. I witnessed many such cases while attending a boarding school and again while in service during World War II. Sometimes the malady is so overpowering that a crime will be committed in order to get home. Now and then it is a cause for desertion.

Not everyone is susceptible. It usually strikes the nervous, sensitive, timid, and those who dislike to travel with the crowd. They have close family ties that are upheld with devotion and idealism. An abrupt break in normal relationships pulls strongly on the emotions. Recovery lies in fulfilling the desire or in furnishing a substitute. There should be diversion such as entertainment, good fellowship, work, and games to enable him to forget his feelings of unhappiness.

Homesickness is less likely to occur in children who are allowed to leave home from time to time to spend a night or two with grandparents or at the home of a friend. Four weeks at a summer camp also helps.

RIPE CATARACT

E.H. writes: What is meant by "when an eye cataract gets ripe?"

REPLY: A cataract develops slowly and is ripe, or mature, when the lens loses its fluid content and begins to disintegrate. In the past, surgeons waited until this stage was reached to remove the opaque lens. Now surgery is advised when practical vision is lost, regardless of the stage of cataract maturity.

STRIAE

P.D.Q. writes: In the past year I have gained 40 pounds. The skin on my abdomen and underarms has long reddish streaks or ridges. Presently I am on a reducing diet. Will reduction of weight help this condition?

REPLY: The long reddish streaks (striae) may persist as evidence of stretching of the skin.

STANDARD PROCEDURE

J.L.M. writes: I have large unsightly bunions on both my big toes. Can this condition be corrected by bone surgery and is there any risk involved?

REPLY: The risk is minimal, assuming the circulation to the lower extremities is adequate. This operation is a standard procedure of recognized value.

GLASSES NEEDED

E.S. writes: If one has cataract surgery, does this eliminate the need for glasses?

REPLY: No. Glasses are needed to do the work of the lens that was removed.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Keep the chip off your shoulder.

(Note: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore B. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

Daft Nationalism

Winnipeg Free Press

Nationalism dies hard and may be worth a few votes: which can be the only reason for four Scottish MPs deciding to boycott this year's House of Commons Christmas card.

The card commemorates the 700th anniversary of the founding of Parliament, and shows a Scottish king paying homage to an English king about that time. The MPs—all of them Laborites—claim that the card is unsuitable for sending out to their constituents.

It may seem somewhat ridiculous, even to Scots, to let happenings of 700 years ago rankle today. This is particularly so in the case of England and Scotland because, in hard fact, the Scots have been running England for more years than most Englishmen care to remember.

As for objecting to a picture of the Scottish Alexander II paying homage to the English Henry III, the Scottish MPs might be on firmer ground if they objected to a portrayal of Alexander—period.

Alexander's trouble was that he backed the wrong horse and had to pay up. In hopes of regaining some territory in northern England, he supported the rebel barons against King John. When the revolt fell through he had to pay homage to England. How he felt about this we do not know, but four years later he became the English king's bro-

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Civil servants in convention discussed the idea of giving a day off to men who have just become fathers. It is rather a reasonable suggestion, since most of them are so busy passing out cigars and talking about the new arrival they don't get much work done anyway. —Fort William Times-Journal.

Those who design cars, or other mechanical devices for that matter, should be made to take them apart, go through the motions of making repairs, and put them together again, before the products are sold to the public. We suspect the designs themselves would be much simpler and the contraptions easier to repair. —Windsor Star.

No Distracting U.S. Issue

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

As Canada digs in for the Nov. 6 election campaign, its third in four years, there doesn't seem to be any North American issue in sight that could disturb the current calm of relations with the United States.

Nor can U.S. observers familiar with the Canadian political scene see American foreign policy elsewhere being an issue for either of the major parties in Canada—Liberal and Progressive Conservative. Each has endorsed U.S. policy in Viet Nam.

But criticism of policy on Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic is expected from T. C. Douglas and his New Democrats.

SWITCH FROM 1963 This is something of a switch from 1963, when the debate about Canadian acceptance of nuclear arms filled the air.

Then, for example, the U.S. state department pitched in with a statement publicly differing from John Diefenbaker's views.

The Pentagon also became a participant through the release of edited U.S. Congressional testimony by Defence Secretary McNamara. Progressive Conservative Leader Diefenbaker, then still prime minister, used the testimony to argue that acceptance of nuclear warheads

for Bomarc missiles in Canada would make Canada a "burnt offering." Diefenbaker said McNamara's testimony showed that the Bomarc were regarded as discretionary targets for any enemy missiles.

Liberal Leader Lester B. Pearson, accused of being soft on Americans, countered with a pledge to restore relations with the United States, which he said had gone to pot.

ECONOMIC FRONT QUIET There seems today little of the 1963 concern about Canadian dependence on American investment capital, or the grip such capital has placed on the Canadian economy.

Today's events on the financial and economic front are pretty quiet. Each country has continued to enjoy an extended run of prosperity and there is more concern about inflation than recession.

While some senior Canadian authorities suggest the United States tends to take a tougher economic line these days, nothing seems involved that could be made into an election issue.

The labor scene is quiet and on the trade front, the United States seems resigned to watching Canada pick off huge Chinese, Soviet and East European grain orders while its stocks mount.

Old And New Indonesia

New York Times

Indonesia's new theme, judging from President Sukarno's major policy speech, is that the New Emerging Forces—the Nefos—must be independent and stand on their own feet. That same day Indonesia withdrew from the World Bank.

Eight months before, she had withdrawn from the United Nations. She had spurned aid from the United States and investments from the Western countries which, in Mr. Sukarno's special language, are Olofos, or Old Established Forces.

"O brave new world!" Actually it is a poor old world and pretty much always has been so far as Indonesia is concerned. The strength of that nation's position lies essentially in its immemorial way of life.

Most Indonesians live in rural areas at not much better than a subsistence standard. A can of kerosene for cooking, food plucked from trees or grown easily, a few lengths of cloth and a flimsy shelter for a mild climate—and life goes on, generation after generation.

President Sukarno, having followed a pro-Chinese policy for a long time without saying so, is

now formally lined up with Mao Tse-tung. As long as it suits his mercurial but always nationalistic purposes, there will be an axis linking Jakarta to Peking. The breakaway of Singapore from the Malaysian Federation has dangerously exposed Sarawak and Sabah for Sukarno's benefit.

He is President for life and he has an enormous popular following, according to all accounts. The Indonesians want him, so the world, including the United States, must somehow get along with him. It is a dismal prospect.

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