

Government By Retreat

Two of the promises on which the Pearson Government was elected had to do, respectively, with a new contributory pension plan and a municipal loan fund. A federal-provincial conference had been planned for the fall to discuss the pension plan and fiscal relations, but no date had been set. Now Prime Minister Pearson has intimated that pensions along with the loan plan will be discussed at a conference to be held in Ottawa July 26-27, to which provincial premiers have been invited.

Premier Lesage is opposed to both these measures. He wants this conference for a battle-ground on which to wage war against them. Mr. Pearson has maintained that the measures are within federal jurisdiction—otherwise why should he promise them in a federal election campaign?—but appears to have yielded to the Quebec Premier's demand in connection with them.

The Canadian Press quotes Ottawa informants on Saturday as saying that the Federal Government is anxious to sidestep an open fight with Mr. Lesage's government, because of the effects it might have on the volatile climate of public opinion in Quebec. A good political reason; but why didn't Mr. Pearson think of this when he drafted his campaign pledges? Premier Lesage's views on the matter were no secret.

Now the Pearson Government has put both these policies in jeopardy. And having yielded in this case to Quebec's demands, where is it going to draw the line? No matter what happens at the coming interprovincial conference, "the volatile climate of public opinion" in Quebec will remain a problem for Mr. Pearson. What he needs now, it seems, is a little of the intestine-stamina he acquired former Prime Minister Diefenbaker of lacking, in those days when he stood forth as the valiant champion of "action and decision" at Ottawa.

Of course Prime Minister Pearson has promised a further statement on the conference matter today. Everything he has to say will be awaited with careful attention. Meanwhile the impression is strengthening that what Canada is getting is government by retreat rather than through leadership.

Reform Badly Needed

Perhaps there is something in the contention of the Financial Post that our system of budget-making at Ottawa needs reform. With the complications of modern government business, it says, it is almost impossible for budget planners to foresee all the ramifications of their tax plans when they are actually applied to the realities of various businesses.

"We should learn something from the British and the Americans," adds The Post, "where a proposed tax changes get widespread discussion before enactment. Prime Minister Pearson seems to be coming around to accept this view. Our system of secret bureaucratic budgeting, dramatic announcement and almost instantaneous enactment doesn't make sense in today's world where taxation is so complex and an inevitable element in all business decisions."

This helps to explain the predicament in which Finance Minister Gordon found himself in his budgetary pronouncements at the recent parliamentary session. The Toronto paper rather overstates its case, however, when it argues that there is "lots of precedent" for the changes Mr. Gordon made under pressure from the

payors. "Donald Fleming," it says, "made 14 changes in budget measures in his career as Finance Minister, withdrawing some and altering others. Earlier finance ministers have wisely done the same thing when proposed measures proved, on wide scrutiny, to have completely unintended side effects."

The difference here was in the extent and effect of the changes. Mr. Gordon's was so sweeping as to make his original budget almost unrecognizable, affecting his estimated revenue for the year to the tune of a hundred million dollars and causing widespread confusion in the construction industry and on the stock markets. The "public explosions" set off by his budget—as The Post calls them—never occurred before because the changes on previous occasions were of a comparatively minor nature.

This does not stultify the argument for the need of reform in the matter of preparing the budget. The Toronto Globe and Mail suggests, in this connection, a two-pronged reformation. Within the Cabinet, it says, there should be a committee of policy makers. On occasion this committee could be enlarged by the addition of certain civil servants and the Governor of the Bank of Canada. This committee should then, throughout the year, assemble in Ottawa groups of business leaders from all over the country in vigorous and informal work sessions.

In this way the academic views of civil servants would be balanced by the practical views of business, and the executive committee of the Cabinet would be furnished with broad information of both sorts on which to base policy. What the Cabinet committee would then select for use in the budget, of course, would be the committee's secret until it was told in the House. These basic budget decisions should be made by the committee, not by the Finance Minister working alone.

This, of course, wouldn't ensure a painless budget; but it would prevent a repetition of the lamentable exhibition given by Mr. Gordon on this occasion.

To Study Consumer Credit

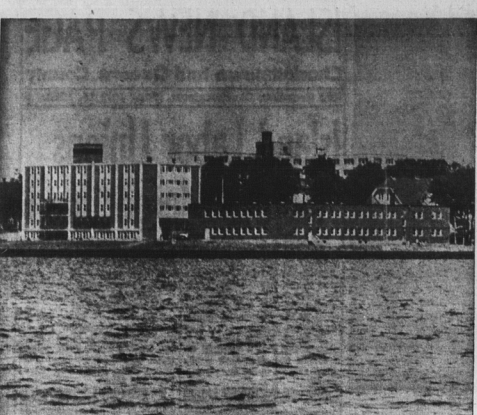
A few days ago Solicitor-General MacNaughton tabled a motion to set up a special joint committee of the Commons and Senate to study all aspects of consumer credit and the law affecting it. This recalls the fact that last year a credit reform bill, introduced by Edward Nasserden, Conservative member for Sotherton, was talked out on the floor of the House. Although, no fewer than nine bills along the same lines have been introduced, but none has been approved, although all have received substantial vocal support from members of all parties. And at present Senator David Croll is making his fifth attempt to get such a bill through the upper house.

In spite of past failures, sponsors and supporters of credit reform are said to be hopeful that the joint committee will come up with recommendations which the Government will be able to bring forward either at the present or the next session of Parliament. This view is expressed by the Winnipeg Free Press, which strongly supports the movement and which cites, in this connection, the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures showing the amount of consumer credit outstanding in Canada last March 31.

These figures included sales finance company credit on consumer goods, cash loans and instalment credit through small loan companies, outstanding balances with department, furniture and appliance stores, secured and unsecured bank loans and home improvement loans. The total was \$3,664 million; which means that, on average, every Canadian man, woman and child has a personal debt of around \$200. The statistics show that Canadians today owe about three-and-a-half times as much to banks in the form of personal unsecured loans as they did in 1954. Debt to department stores, on charge accounts and instalment accounts, have doubled in the past nine years.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Statistics show that there are at present 62 closed-circuit educational television installations in the United States. Of these, 266 operate in institutions of higher education, 98 in elementary and secondary schools, 47 in medical and 31 in dental schools, and 20 in military institutions.



CITY'S WEST WATERFRONT SPORTS NEW LOOK

SHOULD POOL EXPENSES

Mounting Cost Of Nuclear Research

The cost of the new Nuclear Research Centre at the University of Alberta, more than a million dollars, probably has raised the eyes of some taxpayers everywhere in the province. Yet the fact is that the physicists at the university are getting a research instrument for "atom-smashing" which, by comparison with those already in small both in capacity and cost. The ante in the big poker game of nuclear physics is rapidly rising to astronomical heights. Physicists are asking for particles which are asking for particles and higher energy levels. As these requirements rise \$40,000,000. The latest bid in the United States comes from a scientific advisory panel to the government. It proposes construction of a new proton accelerator capable of boosting nuclear voltages to cost as much as \$1,000,000,000. EXTREMES OF COST The accelerators now envisaged are of such magnitude that, for that matter, do not merely lie utterly beyond the reach of a provincial university such as ours. They approach extremes of cost which even the government of the U.S., with its great resources, is reluctant to do.

This is evident from the fact that four years ago the U.S. and Russia accepted, on paper at least, a suggestion that super-accelerators be built on a cooperative international basis. Since that time, however, no interest in actually collaborating on a 1,000-bev proton accelerator has been shown. The trend is nonetheless significant. The U.S. and Western Europe have already found it necessary to pool their efforts in the construction of particle physics, because of cost.

Thus, in particular, the U.S. and Russia, in the U.S. and Russia, at the upper limit, already exceeds the capacity of individual nations. This is parallel with the tendency of the cost of defence, at the national level, to outstrip national resources. In general, technology is outstripping the national resources, rendering it more and more inadequate and unstable as a unit of political, military and economic organization. As men plunge still deeper into the atom's nucleus, develop

Back On Speaking Terms

Congo And Cash

High Cost Of Insurance

Britain is back on speaking terms with the six Common Market countries but no closer to joining the club. The ministers of the European Common Market reached a compromise decision Thursday to consult with Britain on a ministerial level every three months. The meetings will be held within the crumbling forum of the Western European Union. The permanent Common Market commission will be invited to attend when European economic matters are on the agenda. It is understood membership will be discussed. This decision is a concession by France but implies no fundamental change in her anti-British position. However, there is satisfaction in London and Brussels that the meetings will prevent British and European trade policies from drifting further apart after President Charles de Gaulle's January veto.

The quicker a newly independent country can stand on its own feet, the better for all concerned in the European Union. It is encouraging, therefore, that United Nations Secretary-General U Thant has decided to withdraw UN military (but not civilian) contingents from the Congo. This has been partly influenced by financial considerations. The UN would hardly have considered repatriation of UN forces unless satisfied that the situation in the order was unlikely to persist. Happily, U Thant can count on getting the necessary support to keep the UN Congo operation going until the end of the year. The general assembly will, after a long debate, eventually come through with a resolution.

Motorists in Ontario are going to be hit by another round of increases in the cost of automobile insurance. As a group, they have to take most of the blame upon themselves. The Independent Automobile and Casualty Insurance Conference has announced increases of 10 per cent for drivers over 10,000 miles a year and 10 per cent on others. The companies have mustered some impressive statistics to show that the increases are necessary. They show a 25 per cent increase in all accidents, a 25 per cent increase in accidents involving personal injury and an 11 per cent increase in property damage accidents. With an actual 10 per cent increase in damage, in the first quarter of this year.

Cooler Up Here

Financial Post

Canada is immensely popular in the U.S. so long as its policies faithfully serve American interests. Any deviation from that straight and narrow path is likely to make some of our neighbours crabby. U.S. News and World Report headlines its story of Finance Minister Gordon's lukewarm (now withdrawn): "Is Toward Mexico's Line. Toward U.S. Investors' Line." Many investors will hang back until they see how far Canada is going to go down the Mexican road.

This allusion to Mexico is absolutely misleading and unfair.

"Won't Eat" Era Normal

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Junior won't eat and hasn't gained weight for months. This is a common complaint of parents and a thorough examination shows that 9 out of 10 of these children are normal and healthy. Mother is told to let nature take its course.

This is sound advice because the youngster is likely to be going through the "won't eat" era—a normal phase of development. Most infants have a ravenous appetite during the first six months of life and a pound or more per month. But some time in the first half of the second year, appetite begins to wane and the tot gains less than 1/2 pound per month.

The desire for food reaches its minimum between the second and third year and the baby may go weeks and even months without putting on an ounce. It is during this "won't eat" period that the worried mother brings the boy to the family doctor. She is told not to worry because the child is likely to die. Furthermore, appetite generally returns as quickly as it disappeared. A growth spurt is bound to follow.

A different situation exists in malnourished and markedly underweight children. Some are ill and may harbor an infection such as intestinal or kidney disease. Now and then, infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, gastrointestinal disturbance is responsible. But the majority are physically sound and have no appetite stems from anxiety or an inferior constitution.

Of course, the intelligence which has set out to explore the only alternative to national inferiority or military catastrophe. Not even Russia and the United States, let alone President de Gaulle's France, can indefinitely escape the political consequences of the persistent enlargement of technological scale.

These boys and girls usually are small boned, nervous, jittery, and easily upset; some live under constant tension. The majority have received every tonic on the market and have swallowed that number of pills. But these products seldom help because anxiety is the basic cause.

A mild sedative often does wonders even though these tots may not appear to eat more. They receive greater benefit from food when calmed down and waste less energy in fussing and fretting.

MIGRAINE AND PERSONALITY

C. B. writes: I'm not tense or nervous yet suffer from migraine attacks periodically. Can you suggest any factors other than the emotions?

REPLY: We don't know the cause of migraine but many possible causes have been studied. The personality has received considerable attention but this is only one facet of the problem.

NOCTURNAL SEIZURES

M. M. writes: Is there a type of epilepsy that occurs only at night?

REPLY: No, an epileptic seizure may come on at night as well as during the day. Generalized tonic-clonic seizures are common at night.

Today's Health Hint

Cold baths ease the pain of sunburn.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Then if love really were blind there would be no business for the beauty parlor. —Stirford Beacons—Herald.

A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is to give shares with the dog, when you are as hungry as the dog. —Jack London.

Little girl: Mommy, what do you mean by "wonder"? Wonder, too? —Gall Reporter.

The gopher, which used to outnumber the Saskatchewanians, 1,000 to one, has all but disappeared. He can't really be blamed for a few Saskatchewanians. But even if there was a mass exodus, it seems that they should have turned up somewhere else. —Calgary Herald.

Power To Burn

Gall Reporter

There is something irresistibly attractive to many people in the sight of a steam locomotive, when these monsters of the rails were replaced by diesel units. It seemed that the railroads had gone out of railroading.

There is very little glamor in a diesel locomotive, but if you watch them for a while, you get an impression of controlled power that is impressive, to say the least. It is interesting to note that since replacing steam locomotives with diesels our two rail ways report that they have increased the average weight of freight trains by 45 per cent and the average speed has been increased by 26 per cent.

It was unusual to see a freight train of more than 60 cars hauled by steam, whereas diesels are now hauling trains of more than twice that number of cars. It is said that the diesels may soon give way to oil-fired gas turbine locomotives, but this will have to see.

So, after heaving a nostalgic sigh for the steam locomotive, and its lonely whistle echoing across the great open spaces of our countryside, let us give a passing thought, at least, to the automobile, which made it possible some years ago, for us to be restless sitting down, would appear to be here to stay. It has been said that with all the improvements and refinements made by the manufacturers of these chrome-trimmed chariots, the most important trim in the car is the nut that holds the steering wheel.

Every time one hears the creak of rubber, and sees one of these characters rear up at a pedestrian cross-walk and smile condescendingly at the startled pedestrians whom they have temporarily reprieved, on a chime of a quotation from the Bible: "Behold Jesus, the son of Ninnimbi who driveth furiously," No one should be permitted to drive these days under the age of 18 at least.

The Complex Scientist

Ottawa Journal

Everyone is for science these days but enough is enough. Down at the University of Miami the Institute of Marine Science is going too far. They are proposing to build a fish farm, the very soul out of fishing.

They are only about \$200,000 shy of the \$600,000 necessary to up what they are calling a "fish behavior" building. No real fisherman will send them a nickel.

Let the ichthyologists find out if they can, how propolis talk or why fish migrate. We wish them luck in studying the feeding preferences of sharks. No one should be permitted to cast about to dust in a quiet dash-pool at sea.

Science can't answer questions like these. A fisherman knows it's too deep for research. And even he doesn't know what the fish will take until he's on the water on a baggy down on about to cast his quiet dash-pool at sea.

But then he knows. Always.

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Table with 2 columns: Time and Destination. Rows include 8:55 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 8:40 a.m., 9:10 a.m., 10:35 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 2:20 p.m., 2:55 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 8:50 a.m., 8:25 p.m., 7:05 p.m., 8:25 p.m., 9:35 p.m.

ATLANTIC DAYLIGHT TIME

IMPORTANT

The operation of THREE vessels demands tight scheduling if there is to be no disruption in service. Two slips are available at Cape Tormentine, but only one at Borden. That's why we ask for your full co-operation. We regret that vehicles arriving too late to be loaded before scheduled departure times will have to wait for the next sailing.

Canadian National