



**Starts Voyage In Small Craft**

KINGSTON-ON-THE-LAKE, Ont. (AP)—A former British naval captain sailed out of this ancient riverside town Saturday for a "there-and-back" jaunt to Kingston, N. Y. He is driving a converted lifeboat powered by two tiny diesel engines.

Cecil Harcourt Smith, owner of the 61-foot converted lifeboat Aries, hopes to be the first man to make the double Atlantic crossing in a small-engined boat.

A crowd of nearly 2,000 jammed the riverside walk here as Harcourt Smith and his four-man crew were given a ceremonial send-off by Kingston corporation officials.

Harcourt Smith took with him a letter of greetings from Mayor George Lines to Mayor Frederick Blagden of Kingston, N. Y., on the Hudson river.

Harcourt Smith and his crew will keep in constant radio touch with his base at Kingston and with British naval wireless stations in Britain and Canada.

**Australian Election To Take Place End Of This Month**

(By Louis L. Leck)  
SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—A bitter, four-week campaign will end May 29 when Australians elect a new House of Representatives.

A total of 298 candidates were nominated May 6 for 121 seats with full voting rights and for two Territories seats whose members can vote only on matters affecting their constituencies. At dissolution the Liberal-County party coalition held 68 seats and the Labor Opposition 53.

In his opening policy speech Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies made no reference to the Vladimir Petrov affair. The prime minister has made it clear that he will not use the disclosures concerning Russian espionage in Australia, made by the third secretary of the Russian embassy at Canberra, for electioneering purposes.

**Urges Sweeping Revision In Senate Probe Rules**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senator William Knowland (Rep.-Calif.) called Saturday for a sweeping revision in the ground rules for Senate investigations, pledging that the Republican leadership will back changes at the opening of the next Congress.

In an obvious reaction to public criticism stirred up by the televised McCarthy-army dispute, Knowland said the Republican party committee will ask its counterpart Democratic group to co-operate in adopting a uniform code for inquiries.

Although details are to be spelled out, Knowland said in an interview he thinks such a code should deal with the rights of witnesses, methods of issuing subpoenas, hearing procedures and television and broadcasting problems.

"This is not a partisan matter," the Republican Senate leader said. "Senators of both parties are deeply concerned with laying down ground rules for the fair conduct of hearings and at the same time not ham-stringing the proper investigative function of Congress."

**LABOR PROMISES**

The more important of his promises included:

1. Abolition within three years of the means test which restricts the payment of old age and invalid pensions by the application of property and income qualifications. The estimated cost of abolition is \$120,000,000 a year.
2. The effect of the means test is that an old age pensioner's income must not exceed \$5 10s \$12.40 a week from pension and private income combined. The pension rate is \$3 10s a week, and if private income exceeds \$2 a week the pension is reduced by the amount by which private income exceeds \$2. In addition a pension is not payable if the pensioner owns property worth more than £1,250 excluding the house in which he lives.
3. An increase in pensions costing about £50,000,000 a year.
4. Tax concessions to industry costing about £23,000,000 a year.
5. Unrestricted government loans for home building and home purchase.
6. Abolition of sales tax on food.

**Denies Any Promise Cede "Gib" To Spain**

LONDON (Reuters)—Prime Minister Churchill today denied that any promise had been made during the Second World War to cede Gibraltar to Spain.

He was replying to a question by Ernest Davies, Labor, about an article published last week by Gen. Franco, under a pen name, which said that when Britain's war position was grave, Churchill promised the Spanish ambassador "the return of the fortress of Gibraltar if Spain remained neutral."

Churchill said: "No promises to cede Gibraltar to Spain were made during the late war."

Plans are under way in many parts of the world to probe once-in-a-lifetime eclipse, which will occur on June 30. At dawn of that day, a giant shadow will fall upon Canada and, racing 3,000 miles an hour, this sudden darkness will leap oceans and continents until it expires in Pakistan.

The moon will be riding across the sun's face for a few precious seconds out of the entire lifetimes of hundreds of scientists and then not for another 200 years will the sun's eclipse—as it would appear left—span both North American and European continents. Canada has the lion's share of its 8,000-mile journey, and so far Canadian scientists with U.S. teams

are spreading their nets across this 80-mile-wide track which will obscure the sun for 2,000,000 people. Their observations in that spark of time may alter yet again man's concept of the universe. To Dr. Clarence A. Chant, at right, Canada's 89-year-old dean of astronomy, the eclipse will merely enhance the world record he already holds. He has studied five eclipses, with his best results gained from an Australian observation point in 1922.

"Perhaps those eclipses occupied five minutes out of my entire life," he said at his home at Dunlop observatory in Toronto. "Yet they were the most valuable five minutes that ever fell to one man."

**Sees No Limit To Possible Size Of A-Explosions**

LONDON, (Reuters)—Prof. C. F. Powell, retiring president of the Association of Scientific Workers, said Saturday there is no limit to the magnitude of explosions which now can be produced with nuclear weapons.

Development of the hydrogen and cobalt bombs have brought the extermination of human life on earth within the range of technical possibility, he said.

Powell, professor of physics at Bristol University, was speaking at the 11,000-member association's annual conference here.

He urged Britain "with its special interest in the matter" should take the initiative in bringing leading American, Russian and British statesmen together to ban weapons of mass destruction and set up an effective system of international control and inspection.

"Without such international control the world will continue to live in the shadow of the frightful catastrophe," he said.

"Our situation is one of extreme gravity. One can almost hear the tolling of the great bell of history."

**Royal Journey Has Reasserted Human Values Says Churchill**

LONDON, (Reuters)—Prime Minister Churchill said this week Queen Elizabeth's tour of the Commonwealth may have brought "memorable benefits" to mankind.

He was moving an address of welcome to the Queen in the House of Commons following her return Saturday from the 50,000-mile journey.

"This Royal pilgrimage has reasserted human values and given a new pre-eminence to the grace and dignity of life," he said.

He added: "It may be that the lively sense of universal brotherhood and the bright hopes of the future may stir in humanity those qualities which will enable it to control and survive the dread agencies which have fallen into its as yet untutored hands."

The Prime Minister concluded: "We in the House of Commons welcome the opportunity of putting on record, in the most urgent and most solemn manner open to us, our acknowledgment of these memorable benefits."

Canadian National Railways.

In the Peace River district, about 15 per cent of wheat is sown and operations will be general this week-end.

In the Okanagan Valley weather continued warm with a heavy rain early this past week. Tree fruit damage apparently is not as severe as first anticipated. Soft Kelowna district causing fairly heavy damage locally.

**Fair Progress With Seeding in W. Canada**

WINNIPEG, Man., May 21 — Fair progress has been made with seeding in southern and central areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. But unsettled weather in northern areas and in Alberta has further delayed seeding operations; little seeding has been possible in northeastern Saskatchewan to date. Moisture conditions are now mostly good for germination but there are still sections in west-central Saskatchewan where further rains will soon be required, according to the weekly crop report of the Department of Agriculture of the

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