

Governs Prince Edward Island Like The Dow... W. J. Harries, Publisher... Wallace Wood, Managing Editor... Frank Walker, Editor... Published every week day morning (except Sunday and statutory holidays) at 165 Prince Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I., by Thomson Newspapers Ltd. Branch offices at Summerside, Montserrat, Alberton and Souris.

Member Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association and The Canadian Press... The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink... PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1966

Still In The Dark

When asked in the House of Commons the other day about the insistence of postal workers on a pay host in line with the "Pearson formula," Revenue Minister Benson said he knew nothing about it. The other members of the government, too, looked vague, as though it was a riddle to which they had no possible clue. Yet the term was used last Sunday by the president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, in announcing that the post office employees would accept nothing less than the formula applied by the government in settling other wage disputes—a 36 per cent wage increase, with half of it payable immediately while negotiations are in progress. Another union spokesman has described this as "the week of the last chance for our employer," and says when negotiations fail, as they seem likely to do at any moment, "we will take action within a few hours."

This threatened strike, if it occurs, will be far more serious than the wildcat strike of 1965, in which not all unions participated and which was limited to a few metropolitan areas. This time, the strike would be general. Meanwhile the government is also threatened with a strike by the International Association of Machinists, which would tie up Air Canada. The strike in this instance has been tentatively set for Nov. 14. Negotiations are still in progress, but, as in the case of the postal workers, the huge gap between the machinists' demands, and the company's offer, has not been narrowed substantially. This union, too, has been demanding wage increases and additional fringe benefits based on the so-called Pearson formula.

It is not enough now for the government to repudiate this formula—every taxpayer in the country knows that it involved wage settlements, by direct government imposition, which were economically preposterous. Its duty now is to undo the mischief it caused, as well as it can, by taking the lead in encouraging both labor and industry to accept the responsibility of maturity in wage disputes. In fields where strike action can be detrimental to many sectors of the economy, it should have a consistent policy on which it is prepared to act, and not leave the country at a loss to know what to expect.

Hamstringing Parliament

Our senior MP for Queens, Mr. MacLean, was among those appealing in the Commons to the government to give higher priority to legislation dealing with old age and veterans pensions and medical care. But apparently Defense Minister Hellyer's bill for unification of the armed services is of greater urgency, and it is being forced through second reading—which is tantamount to approval in principle—before being sent to the defense committee where the evidence for and against its expediency could be adequately weighed and considered.

It is this committee inquiry which should, properly, form the basis of the discussion the bill receives in the committee of the whole House on second reading. But Mr. Hellyer is determined that "approval in principle" must come first. When that has been given, and regardless of what testimony come out at the defense committee hearing, the Opposition will be in the position of fighting a rearguard action in protesting its provisions.

As NDP Leader Douglas has warned, this attempt at railroadng through a highly controversial measure could turn into a repetition of the flag debate and could delay

important legislation until after Christmas. Prime Minister Pearson turned this warning aside, with the remark that "these days any government proposal may result in protracted debate."

But this is not just "any government proposal," as Mr. Pearson well knows. It provides, among other things, that servicemen in the army, navy and air force will be compulsorily transferred to the unified Canadian Armed Forces, and that the prefix "royal" will be dropped where it has been used for the RCN and RCAF—something which the government has no mandate from the electorate to do, and which is strongly opposed by the majority of senior officers. It is the testimony of these officers, and of those who have been fired for being too outspoken on the subject, that the defense committee has a right to hear and report on before parliamentary approval should be voted, in principle or otherwise.

It was inevitable that such action would provoke bitter controversy, and thus throw the government's whole legislative program into confusion. And this at a time when there is urgent need for giving priority to measures of real importance—measures to which the government is committed in its election promises, and on which it is pledged to prompt action. No doubt it will seek to blame, as it has done before, the Opposition for the time now being wasted on Mr. Hellyer's pet project; but it puts a low estimate on the intelligence of the public if it expects this alibi to be swallowed. Whatever the reason behind this blitzkrieg to get the unification bill through, it smacks strongly of the kind of arrogance that brought the St. Laurent government into disrepute.

A Good Fresh Start

The ministers of agriculture for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) met recently in Paris and reported, after full discussions, that there was really only one solution to the basic problems of lagging farm incomes and hunger in a world of surpluses. They did not see how either could be overcome solely by present national and international policies. Subsidies don't remove them, necessary as these may be. Price supports don't remove them. Common agricultural policies and free trade areas don't remove them, however important they, too, are to the integration and expansion of trade.

What is needed most, the OECD maintains, is simply a constant thought for others when countries are formulating their own policies. They didn't say so, but it must have been the Golden Rule they had in mind. The rule that world economists thought they had thrown into the discard long ago, as inapplicable to the new order of things which were governed by "the law of supply and demand!"

As a conference bulletin phrased it, "the ministers expressed the wish that the interests of other countries should be taken into consideration in developing, modifying, and applying agricultural policies." More food aid will have to be given, it said. But just to give food is not of itself enough. That aid "should be oriented toward the requirements of receiving countries and their efforts to raise production." A proposal is now being examined to set up a special study group to take a worldwide look at prospects for production and the most appropriate ways of "adapting availability to needs."

Not as easy as it sounds. The European Economic Community, for instance, has triumphantly concluded agreement on its common agricultural policy. But the system it has adopted is based on levies on imports, high prices for home production, and subsidized exports. The economies of some other countries are being hit by this policy. Denmark is one example. And some critics overseas feel that further distortions are added in this way to the world balance of supply and demand.

In general the main trouble is that subsidies and protection appear to be necessary to reduce the rate at which the gap is increasing between farm incomes and factories. Yet, OECD notes, time has shown that they give little actual help to those who need them most—small farmers—and "they encourage the use in agriculture of more resources than would be economically desirable."

What is really needed is more "togetherness"—more of the "ability to see the world as one," which again adds up to a pretty good definition of the Golden Rule, as economists are beginning to see it.



"WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE MODEL WE HAVE?"

FOOD PRICES PROBE

Enquiry Leaves Lots To Be Explained

Montreal Star... There is nothing simple as Canadians are discovering from testimony given the Senate-Commons committee on the cost of living, about the price of a can of beans. The cost builds steadily all the way up the road from the farmer who planted the crop to the glossy labelled package sitting in the supermarket. But is the price out of line, and who is the pirate? We frankly don't know.

One thing the testimony does seem to be showing. For some reason or other we pay considerably more in Canada than they do in the United States for products which one might expect to be roughly in line, though the reason given by one expert—lack of competition—seems hard to credit. Still, the committee was given chapter and verse on some costs. MORE THAN IN U.S. Why should the cheapest flour in Canada cost 15 cents a five-pound bag more than in the United States? Why does a jar of Sanka coffee cost 96 cents in Washington and \$1.17 in Ottawa? Explain the crêpe mix at 39 cents in Washington and 47 cents in Ottawa? Explain, if you can, a net profit of one cent on the dollar by a U.S. food chain and 2.3 cents by its Canadian subsidiary? There may be good and sufficient reasons. Perhaps it is not as simple as an economist's to the Agricultural Research Council of Canada suggested, a straight question of "high prices and high profits."

This country is an expensive one to do business in because what we do must be done over great distances for small numbers of people. Nonetheless, hard as it is to follow the testimony before the committee, one is left with the feeling that something is wrong. The chains have presented their case with skill and one would be stupid to dismiss the arguments they have put forward as mere excuses. They are not.

MUST BE ANSWERED All housewives, it is true also, do not shop with price in mind. A study by the Consumer Association has shown that a family of four can be fed for far less—\$18.62 compared with \$34.87—by buying wisely instead of, to quote Time Magazine, plucking straight from the shelves. But why are food prices rising at three per cent a year?

Our Yesterdays (From The Guardian Files) (November 9, 1941) Under the guns of a heavier Italian force, a British naval patrol struck a crippling blow at the supply of Axis armies in North Africa when it "annihilated" two convoys, sinking 10 transport vessels and one destroyer and seriously damaging at least one other.

After 15 years in private life and in the comparative quiet of the Senate, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen has been called upon to lead the National Conservative party in wartime.

TEN YEARS AGO (November 9, 1956) The government picked the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, as the major component of the Canadian contribution to the United Nations police force for the Middle East.

The Middle East's unstable cease-fire stood up through its second day despite a border raid in Israel.

ASKS BUDGET CUT UNITED NATIONS (CP) — United Nations Secretary-General U Thant recommended Monday that the UN General Assembly spend \$14,304,000 for the maintenance of the UN emergency force in 1967—the lowest amount since the Middle East peace force was established in 1956. The six-country force, which includes several hundred Canadians, operates on the border between Israel and the United Arab Republic. It had about 6,000 men when set up in November, 1956, but has been reduced gradually to its present level of 4,000 men.

Dr. M. A. MacGregor of the Ontario Agriculture College, University of Guelph, told the Ontario Conference on Agriculture at Vineland: "The average consumer eats about 1,500 pounds of food per year; this was true of the average Canadian consumer 50 years ago and it's true today." While it's therefore safe to predict that total food requirements in Canada will expand at about the same rate as the population, changes in "consumer preferences" can have a great effect on agriculture and the people engaged in it. "In Canada," says Dr. MacGregor, "the major shifts in preferences have been towards red and white meats and away from cereal products. Fruit and vegetables remain relatively stable; terms of milk equivalents. The trend is toward increasing amounts of vegetable fats in the diet with decreasing amounts of animal fats..." But Dr. MacGregor points out that changes in preference are less important to the farmer than changes in "demand for agricultural resources." For instance, to produce a pound of beef requires "five times the resources" needed to produce a pound of cereals, he said. The result is higher costs for farmers.

E. S. Eaton, of the Federal Department of Agriculture, put it this way: "As demand turns to the more labor-intensive products, such as meat and fresh fruit and vegetables, from the less intensive products such as rolled oats and potatoes, the farmer is called upon to provide a greater share of the contribution to putting a meal on the table. Accordingly, his share of the consumer dollar should rise..." It's a bit of a shock to the layman to realize that his ever more expensive and sophisticated tastes in food do not automatically mean better times for farmers—and can mean harder times. It should be enough to make a man think twice before passing up breakfast porridge to make room for that moon-fiet mignon.

FULL COURSE MEALS 88c Includes Soup, Roll and Butter, Coffee, Dessert. All you can eat. DOW'S Restaurant Cor. Grafton and Pownall Sts.

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Malaria A Traveler

By Theodore R. Van Dellen... There were 151 cases of malaria in the United States during the first six months of the year. Imported malaria was responsible for 140 cases of which 100 were military personnel and 40 civilians. The majority came from South Viet Nam; others originated in Africa and Asia. The case from home were two children of one Kentucky family.

Our only concern is that an Anopheles mosquito will bite one of the victims and pass along the malarious condition. This need not be less of our own mosquito because disease-bearing insects are found in aircraft flying international routes.

Investigators from the USAP School of Aerospace Medicine recently reported that insects that transmit malaria, tick borne typhus, malaria, yellow onchocerciasis, East African coast fever, typhoid disease, dengue, and four other tropical infections have been found on these planes. Insect control at airports is not always effective. Aerosol spraying and vapor insecticides dispersed within the aircraft are most helpful.

Malaria has proved to be a stubborn foe especially in South Viet Nam and Thailand. The causative parasites have developed resistance to chloroquine our number one drug for treatment and prophylaxis. Other synthetic anti-malarials have proved ineffective but not quinine. In this respect quinine is again restored to a place of importance in the treatment of certain types of malaria.

Meanwhile public health officers are trying new products such as cycloguanil and combinations of the older drugs. Early studies reveal that cycloguanil offers protection lasting at least six months and in some cases, 10 months. Considering the number of men in the area and the low incidence of malaria, our service men need not be alarmed.

FAMILY HEADACHES D.E.E. writes: Is migraine hereditary? REPLY Yes, in many instances. If both parents are afflicted, 70 per cent of the offspring may suffer from these headaches. If only one parent is a victim, 44 per cent of the children may be troubled.

BASIC SEVEN R.G. writes: What foods contain nourishment and vitamins needed in our daily menus? REPLY Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for our leaflet in the basic seven foods. TODAY'S HEALTH HINT Smoking endangers the health.

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On The March Again?

By Harold Morrison Canadian Press Staff Writer... A minor triumph for West German right-wing extremists in the Hesse state elections has shaken Bonn and sent a shiver of concern through parts of Europe. One British tabloid warned: "Die-hard Nazis are on the march again."

The furor followed the success of the National Democrats—dubbed neo-Nazis by many of its former adherents—in capturing eight of the 96 seats in the Hesse legislature. This was the first time the extremists had gained a seat in any of West Germany's 10 states and elated party leaders predicted it would be followed by bigger victories in Bavarian state elections Nov. 20.

The Social Democrat moderates still retain control over Hesse, but the rise of the extremists, with their cries for West German independence and military power, opens new questions about the future of West German democracy. Apart from all other factors, it gives Russia new ammunition against reunification of East and West Germany.

BLAMES BONN West German diplomats tend to argue that the extremists, who maintain they are against the North Atlantic alliance and the European Common Market, would have been soundly crushed in Hesse but for political paralysis in Bonn. Some West Germans are infuriated by Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's weak leadership, his continual yielding to the United States without increasing West German military power and the prospect of higher taxation to finance more arms purchases from American factories.

Adding to the frustration is the lack of progress on German reunification. As diplomats see it, the Hesse outcome involved a protest, with some voters casting their ballots against the existing political hierarchy rather than in direct support of the extremists. Nevertheless, there is anxiety that more is involved than a protest. The rise of extremism may frighten moderates into greater co-operation and into the search for strong and attractive leadership.

The alternative may be another dark chapter in German history involving the destruction of West German democracy and collapse of the Western partnership.

The Oldest Story

Toronto Daily Star... At first sight, those are pretty startling charges which Major-General Carl von Horn has made against the United Nations.

The Swedish officer who commanded UN peacekeeping forces in Palestine, Yemen and the Congo alleges that the administrative staff of the world organization is riddled with corruption. UN officials, in the Middle East, he claims made money in "smuggling, black market deals, espionage and corruption" as well as patronizing the local version of wine, women and song.

And yet, somehow, there is a familiar note to all this. The Middle East has been having a peculiar effect on foreign troops and officials for thousands of years, ever since the first country boy from Homer's Greece discovered that they did things differently in Damascus. We can imagine Cato the Cen-

sur nodding grave agreement with General von Horn's charges, and commenting that eastern service ruined the discipline of Roman legions and the integrity of Roman senators. Everyone knows, too, what happened to poor Mark Anthony on that unfortunate visit to Egypt. And since Anthony's time, a long succession of conquerors have felt their martial virtues oozing away in the bazaars of Cairo and Baghdad.

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