The Guardian

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Why Not Speak Out?

Both Dr. Sidney Smith, Minister for External Affairs, and his predecessor Mr. Lester B. Pearson seem to be of the opinion that the United States Government is being unreasonable in its negative reaction to Russia's proposal for a conference. From statements they have made on the subject in recent weeks one gets the impression that, in their view, such a meeting might possibly bring good results.

If that is the official Canadian view, why doesn't the Canadian delegation press it in the United Nations General Assembly, as the Indian delegation has been doing for some time?

President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles have said on several occasions that, while they agree in principle on the desirability of a top level meeting of the big powers, they do not think that one would have much chance of achieving beneficial results at this time. They are of the opinion, too, that before any such meeting is called the Russians should show their good faith by some practical gesture of co-operation in disarmament and other problems. These views are shared, though perhaps not quite as energetically, by Prime Minister Macmillan and Foreign Secretary Lloyd.

If the Canadian Government has good reasons for believing that the Russians are really anxious to sit down at a new summit meeting and talk things over in a genuine spirit of conciliation and that a good chance of easing tensions is being thwarted by American obstinacy, the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister should not hesitate to make their views known in the U.S. where they would be certain to receive considerable support. They would also be justified in asking the United States to reconsider its position. Too much is at stake to allow any opportunity for improving international relations to go by default merely because of the querulousness of any one government or individual.

The Scientific Aim

The first U.S. satellite launching efforts have resulted in failure. The whole world knows the story. The Russians, of course, took no such chances. They launched their satellite first, then told the world about it. It is quite possible that if it had not been sent successfully into orbit, they would have said nothing.

As the Montreal Gazette points out, this American determination to obey the highest principles of the International Geophysical Year has marked—and retarded—the U. S. program from the start. When the White House approved the project, in 1955, it was stated explicitly that Vanguard must be a "purely scientific" project and that all information concerning it must be made public as the project progressed.

This washed out the previous Project Orbiter, authorized the previous year, which would have used military rockets. One of the rocket carriers suggested for Project Orbiter—a Jupiter-C—rose to a height of more than 600 miles in September, 1956. It could have put a satellite into orbit well before the Sputniks.

All that is past and the United States suffered a major propaganda defeat in the matter. But the original scientific principles are still being followed. If scientists all over the world are to track the Vanguard satellites from the beginning of their careers, then they must be alerted before the satellites are launched.

The United States is still following the prinicple of telling the world even before a test satellite launching is achieved. This is the scientific, rather than the propaganda, method of operation. It certainly has its disadvantages, but this fact was known from the start. It is unfair in the circumstances to blame American authorities for the wide publicity their efforts have received, though all will regret the series of mishaps which culminated in the explosion of the launching vehicle yesterday.

Mr. Pearson's Generosity

Mr. L. B. Pearson, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, told a Liberal meeting in Espanola, Ont., the other evening that "the award is not a personal prize but belongs to members of the External Affairs Department and to the Canadian Cabinet and Parliament for the support and direction given in United Nations affairs".

That was, indeed very generous of Mr. Pearson, especially when it is considered that by the time the prize money is distributed among those mentioned, each individual's share, including Mr. Pearson's, is going to be small!

We are of the opinion that the committee members who picked Mr. Pearson for the award had him alone in mind. And, in view of his distinguished service to the cause of peace, there is no reason in the world why he should "refuse the crown". Humility is a fine trait in a statesman, but there is such a thing as carrying it too far.

It may be, of course, that Mr. Pearson's self-effacing gesture was intended as a boost to his candidacy for the leadership of the Liberal Party. Certainly, he will suffer no harm when his nominator stands up on the platform and refers to him as "the man who won $40,000 and offered to share it with several hundred of his friends and neighbours". Incidentally, however Mr. Pearson may fare in the leadership contest, he deserves high marks for making himself "available" ahead of Convention time, while other aspirants are behaving as though there were some special virtue in keeping the people guessing. Delegates should know already who the official candidates are going to be, so that they might be in a position to inquire into their respective qualifications preparatory to intelligent voting on the floor of the convention.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Here's something new: A union leader in the United States has called on labour to accept "a one year wage freeze" as a means of combatting inflation. He deserves mention by name. He is Richard J. Gray, head of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. Building Trades Department with a membership of more than 3 millions.

* * *

Motorists in these parts are likely at times to come across a cow, a horse, and even an occasional pig. But they never have to contend with whales. They do in Australia, however. A report from Melbourne says that in a recent storm 100 black whales, some up to 200 feet in length, were driven ashore. A few landed on a stretch of road after being thrown over a 3-foot wall.

* * *

A good cake can work wonders, as Pvt. James Bongiovanni of the United States Army discovered to his great pleasure. While on k.p. duty he baked a cake which somehow found its way to the colonel's table. The cake pleased the colonel so highly that Pvt. Bongiovanni was released from k.p., promoted to master-sergeant and appointed chief cook in the outfit all in a matter of minutes.

* * *

Some critics of the Diefenbaker Government are trying to make out that he is "anti-American" in matters of trade. That, of course, is nonsense. Finance Minister Fleming explained the Government's view clearly in an address to the Investment Bankers' Association in Hollywood, Fla. "The present Canadian Government", he said, "is not anti-United States. It welcomes the flow of U.S. investment money to Canada so long as Canadian investors are given an opportunity to acquire a stake in the ownership of Canadian subsidiaries of American corporations." If the former Liberal Government had taken a similar stand and adhered to it, it is probable that Canadian-American trade relations would now be in a more satisfactory state.

NOT ALLOWED, THAT'S ALL!

UNITED KINGDOM OPINION

Southwards and Westwards

By "Onlooker"
Thomson Newspapers, London, England, Bureau

Southwards and Westwards have been the directions the British have been casting their eyes during the past week. It has been southwards just a couple of hundred miles, to Paris, where Prime Minister Macmillan flew for a couple of days and found a lot of people wanting to hang him. But, as "The Sctosman" drily commented, "their desire to hang Mr. Macmillan should not be taken seriously."

The Prime Minister went over to mend the rift caused by the British decision (and America's) to send arms to Tunisia which caused the French to protest that these arms might well be used against French troops in North Africa.

Also to placate were some of France's feelings regarding the way, with their bilateral agreements, that Britain and America seem to be moving towards making France a "Junior partner" in future discussions. Macmillan and his Foreign Minister, Selwyn Lloyd, have been arguing themselves blue in the face pointing out that no such "junior partner" idea crossed their minds, and that they had no desire to disrupt France's internal arrangements in Tunisia, Algeria, and in the rest of French North Africa. The rift healed, but not totally.

WESTWARDS TO NIXON

Westwards the British looked towards Eisenhower's sickbed, with sympathy and despondency. "Ike" has climbed into place second only to Roosevelt as a popular and well-liked President among the British, but now they are faced with some re-oreintation in view of the possibility of Nixon taking over.

The last the British via their Press heard of Nixon was when he was defending himself from the charges made during the last election in the States, and most envisage him as a scheming little man who is making an industry out of preparing himself for president. The Press over here have been bringing the pen-pictures up to date, but the British still like—and prefer—Ike.

It is only now that you begin to realize that Christmas is coming over here as you look around the shops. At last shop-keepers have been, it seems, paying heed to a growing growl of protest from folk who think that so far as tradesmen are concerned, Christmas starts a bit too early on the commercial side.

A dozen Christmases hence, though, one can predict that there might well not be displays of Christmas goods. A few files will be all that will be on show. The token idea is growing fast over here. It started with book tokens before the war. Now it has extended to tokens spendable in one or more departments of a store, record tokens (a big boom in these has already been reported) tokens for theatre seats, and the latest to get into the act is the wine token idea.

This, I suspect, may take a little longer to get established. It is true that wine drinking is going up over here, especially among younger folk. They can get a bottle of imported French wine —a really drinkable bottle — for about $1.15. Scotch costs $5.00 to $6.00, so does gin and other spirits.

But so far the British are not discerning as a race about wines —except when they go to France, when wine is so cheap that they can act as if they know all about it anyhow.

WANT AD

Another sign of the forthcoming festivities—a paper over here has just carried a want ad for a cat. And the cat had to bring its own skin.

This is not so crazy as it sounds. The cat was a pantomime cat. Rehearsals are going ahead for this very British and slightly crazy type of Christmas show here, and come the middle of this month (December) pantomimes will be open all over the country.

The idea behind these shows is quite simple. You take a nursery rhyme, usually, for a title. You put a showgirl into tights and call her a principal boy. You make the principal girl a girl. You have a woman who is really a man and called a dame. You have popular songs, topical gags about income-tax. This year, you can bet, there might well be a sputnik or a space ship in one or other of the shows.

Pantos, incidentally, are designed for kids. But most kids take a parent or uncle along with them. Grown-ups are useful to explain some of the jokes.

AWAITING A LADY

In the meantime, what about the "legitimate" theatre over here as 1957 draws to a close?

I can best describe some theatre men in London now by likening them to thirsty shipwrecked mariners watching the horizon for a ship—a ship called "My Fair Lady".

"My Fair Lady" is, of course, the famous Broadway musical that is due here next May. And next May can not come soon enough for the impresarios. They hope that the advent of "My Fair Lady" will revive interest in the American-style musical over here —the only type of musical, it seems, that can occupy London's large 2,000 seat halls with any success.

The "conquest" started, of course, back in 1947, when "Oklahoma" and "Annie Get Your Gun" hit—and I mean hit — a drab and war-scarred London. But in the past four or five years productions have not been a patch on the "Annie" standards, and people have been getting more selective. Latest casualty: "Darn Yankees", which went into the huge Coliseum Theatre here in the Spring and has just come off—after losing $60,000. Other losers from America during the past 18 months have been "Fanny," "Plain and Fancy," and "The Pajama Game."

UNER-ESTIMATING?

Perhaps the trouble is that many theatre men under-estimate their audiences. Ranks, the big film combine over here, have just been shaken by the success of their film—put "in the can" straight from a couple of stage performances — of the Bolshoi Ballet, which visited Britain recently.

The film has played to packed houses in London's West End, and now it is going to the 3700-seater Davis Theatre, in the outskirts of London, for a three-times daily show. It is an encouraging sign. . . .

Errors In Place Names

National Geographic Society

Many a place name in good standing around the world is actually a misnomer.

The Black Hills of South Dakota are not hills but mountains — the highest east of their parent range, the Rockies, says the National Geographic Society. Between Uruguay and Argentina flows the Rio (river) de la Plata. It's not a river but a wide estuary opening into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Sargasso Sea is a vast eddy covering much of the mid-Atlantic east of the Carolinas. It gets its name from the yellow-brown sargassum seaweed that floats with the lazily moving clockwise current.

The words "Niagara River" appear on United States maps with the official blessing of appropriate government agencies. Yet this honeymoon - famed stream (a link between Lakes Erie and Ontario) is by definition a strait. According to the dictionary, a strait is "a comparatively narrow passageway connecting two large bodies of water."

ROMANTIC BUT DUBIOUS

An old romantic phrase, the Seven Seas, is still used as an all - encompassing term for the World's great expanses of water. Geographers long called these the North and South Atlantic Oceans, the North and South Pacific, and the Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic Oceans.

With modern exploration of the far south, however, the Antarctic Ocean has lost its identity in the extended reaches of Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. That leaves Six Seas. Moreover, a sea is not an ocean. There are many more than seven seas, including some land - locked ones, which should properly be called lakes.

Another perennial puzzle is the matter of the three Easts—Near, Middle, and Far. Named in relation to Europe, and always vague as to boundaries, the three regions are still variously defined.

The British, for instance, put the Balkan states in the Near East, while Americans consider them part of Europe. Libya, in north Central Africa, was part of the British Middle East Command in World War II. Asiatic Russia, though located just north of the three regional Easts, is included in none.

Mistaken ideas and ancient accidents account for certain odd and illogical place names. The Amazon River, it is said, was named for the female warriors of Greek mythology because early explorers thought the long-haired skirt-wearing fighting men of the region were women.

Nome, Alaska, is so called, according to legend, because someone misread the word "Name?" scrawled beside an unnamed cape on a pioneer chart.

Many cities and towns took descriptive names that are no longer pertinent. Bull shoals, once cattle crossing, is now the site of a huge hydroelectric dam on the Arkansas-Missouri border.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Sir,—The Blood Donor Clinic held in Crapaud Hall on the evening of Dec. 3rd, was a bit disappointing. The Red Cross was equipped and geared to handle 150 donors in the time schedule for this centre, and only 99 offered themselves. It is necessary for the Red Cross to provide personnel and equipment to do this important job, and when our people do not come forward in sufficient numbers to keep the unit going full time, it is costing the Red Cross good money. It was pleasing to note that at Rustico the objective was 150 donors, and 173 came forward in the given time. This is an indication of what can be done if the people are willing to help. The importance of this work cannot be over-emphasised; everyone is aware of the fact that the blood the Red Cross is making such efforts to obtain is being used everyday to save the lives of our loved ones, neighbors, and fellow-citizens, and it is difficult to understand why those who are blessed with good health ignore this privilege to help their less fortunate fellows.

A rough survey was made of this district, and at least 300 donors should have been available. One of our citizens made his 25th donation at this clinic, and another his 15th.

I feel it is a rather deplorable situation when the Red Cross goes to the trouble of coming to us and setting up beds and arranging all their equipment for this work, and then have only ninety some out of a possible 175 turn up. It must be a bit discouraging to our Red Cross people. I think our people should ponder this situation a bit, and the next time the clinic sets up near or about this district, let us more than fill the quota.

I am Sir, etc.
BRENT WOOD
Crapaud.

Self Treatment Often Dangerous

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

When something is wrong with your car, you take it to a competent mechanic. When your house is burning, you call the fireman. In both instances, you want trained experts to remedy the trouble.

FATAL PRACTICE

But when something goes wrong with your health, far too many of you resort to self-treatment. Often this can be a fatal practice.

Currently the most obvious evidence of this is in the widespread use of tranquilizers.

The Journal of the American Medical Association flatly warns:

"The indiscriminate use of such drugs is against the public interest."

Last year the New York City Health Department reported 76 cases of poisoning, including two fatalities, associated with undisclosed tranquilizing drugs.

MINOR DISCOMFORTS

Nightmares, headaches, muscle cramps, dizziness, shortness of breath and chilling sensations are among the minor discomforts produced by some tranquilizers injudiciously used.

More serious effects include jaundice, liver damage and mental depression accompanied by suicidal tendencies.

There has even been one reported case of a bleeding peptic ulcer due to a specific tranquilizer.

I don't want you to think all tranquilizers will produce these symptoms. They won't. But in many cases, some minor ailment you might have can be aggravated by one or another of these tranquilizing drugs used indiscriminately. Your doctor is the only one who can say whether a certain drug is safe for you to use.

CAN BE BENEFICIAL

There's another reason for not taking tranquilizers indiscriminately.

Many persons can take a tranquilizer, now and then, with very beneficial effects, but others eventually become dissatisfied with only one. They soon may be taking more than the prescribed dosage. In some cases, doctors have found, the patients become dependent upon a tranquilizer and have difficulty getting along without it.

BECOME ADDICTS

Other medical reports show that some persons become addicts. Some even experience rather drastic withdrawal symptoms when the drug is withheld from them.

Prescribing medicine for your welfare, you can readily see, is a job for an expert. So consult your doctor before, during and after you use tranquilizers.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A.B.: I have epilepsy and take sodium dilantin daily. Could this cause me to become a drug addict.

Answer: There is no likelihood of your becoming a drug addict from this preparation, if properly used. It would be advisable for you to continue taking the drug, but only as long as your physician prescribes it.

The Age Old Story

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

The Poet's Corner

WINTER

This is the giant we call the north wind
That fights us and bites us and bends our heads low,
His howl of derision boding death and destruction
For the poor tattered beggar, the hungry, the old.

This is the monster with keen cutting chisel
That carves the stark outline of huge twisting trees
Against the bleak hillside— their white arms uplifted
In prayerful petition for succor and peace.

Can it be the same giant that, this still shining morning,
Has draped all our horses with platinum lace
And inlaid the windows with diamonds and silver
And spread this carpet of crystal down at the gate?

Dorothy Fossati
In The Montreal Star

OUR YESTERDAYS
(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(Dec. 7, 1932)

On Thursday about fifty former students of Mount A. University met in the Town Hall, Summerside, and organized a Mount Allison Alumni Society. The officers elected are President, Mrs. C.D. McCallum; vice-presidents, Mrs. S. Rhodes, Mrs. G.M. Muttart; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. James Wells.

The S. S. Gaspesia docked shortly before midnight and brought flour, cement and way freight, a total amount of about eight car loads. The steamer was about a week overdue having struck bad weather near Gaspe. The ship will load about 3,000 bags of potatoes for Montreal completing her last trip of the season.

TEN YEARS AGO
(Dec. 7, 1947)

Premier Jones said last evening that all rumors of a ceiling being placed on potatoes by the Dominion Government were without foundation. The Premier said he had taken the trouble to wire Finance Minister Abbott at Ottawa about the matter and had received the reply that there was no intention to impose ceilings at primary producer levels.

The Irving Oil Company at

NOTES BY THE WAY

They're equipping tractors with cigarette lighters., radios, windshields and umbrellas to shade the driver, but without real fins they're still tractors.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald

Something else never accurately explained is how a squirrel knows that a thin branch will hold his weight when he jumps from a large limb. Instinct, we suppose.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

Some character in Argentina claims a world's record for spending thirty-six hours on a tightrope. The average family man spends all his life on one and never gets a medal — or a net underneath him.—Winnipeg Tribune

Montague has completed another new building at their oil plant. This, together with the first building comprising the office and garage, will complete construction of buildings on the site. It is understood that the erection of the five 20,000-gallon tanks will be undertaken in the near future.

It's all very well to dismiss as useless this business of getting to the moon, but think what a lot of parking space there is there.—Brantford Expositor

The British like dogs, but their concern has never equaled that of the Japanese "Dog Shotgun" Tsunayoshi. This 17th century eccentric brought all animals, birds and even fishes within the protection of the state, but his primary concern was with dogs. Canine killing became a capital offense, while kicking them was punished with deportation to a distant isle. Within a few months so many dog "murderers" had been executed that in Tokyo there were 30 barrels full of their heads. —Manchester Guardian

A would-be guest wrote to the Walt Whitman hotel in Camden, N.J., asking if dogs were permitted at the hotel and received this reply from the manager: "I've been in the hotel business over 30 years. Never yet have I called the police to eject a disorderly dog during the small hours of the night. Never yet has a dog set the bed clothes afire from smoking a cigarette. I've never found a towel or blanket in a dog's suitcase, nor whisky rings on the bureau top from a dog's bottle. Sure the dog is welcome. "PS. If he'll vouch for you, come along, too." —Brockville Recorder

MAXIMS

That action is best which procures the greatest happiness for the greatest numbers; and that worst, which, in like manner, occasions misery.

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