

New Liberal Program

Provincial Liberal Leader Alex Campbell presented a stimulating party platform in his opening campaign address last evening; one aimed, as he said, at improving the lagging economic and social conditions of our province, and bringing us into closer step with the other Atlantic provinces and with the on-ward march of Canadians generally.

The program includes full cooperation in Ottawa's Canada Assistance and Medicare plans; rehabilitation centres for victims of alcoholism; free school books and lowering of the voting age to 18; establishment of a pilot program of provincial kindergartens at Charlottetown and Summerside; appointment of a fulltime Minister of Labor and fulltime Director of Farm Labor; establishment of a low cost housing program for farmers and fishermen as well as for urban communities; expansion of farm credit and mortgage loans; legislation to guarantee spare parts and adequate service for farm machinery; encouragement of new and existing fish processing plants; industrial development and electric power programs; abolition of the present school tax; expansion of tourist development; more equitable wage rates and other good things.

Nothing was said about extra taxation to finance these activities, which would seem a "must" under present circumstances. But apparently Mr. Campbell believes that much more assistance can be obtained from Ottawa with the right kind of government in power here. The present administration, he charged, has shown ineptitude in failing to develop a constructive program that would qualify for the millions of federal dollars that are available under various projects.

Perhaps we could get better treatment from Ottawa if we had spokesmen more in line with its policies politically. But we venture to doubt it. The only concrete illustration Mr. Campbell had to offer in this connection was couched in terms that we thought were singularly unfortunate. "We Liberals," he said, "have managed through firm but friendly negotiation to have work commenced on the Island approach to the Causeway this fall, and recently we were successful in convincing the federal government to suspend the ferry rate increase and give Islanders an opportunity of expressing their objections to such a raise."

Mountains have labored and brought forth mice before, but seldom of such minimal proportions. If that is all that "friendly negotiations" on the political level can achieve for us at Ottawa, we hardly think it will add up to many Liberal votes.

Nova Scotia Report

One issue on which both political parties in this province are in accord is the importance of economic planning. They may differ in their policy views on the subject, but certainly not on the need for giving it major consideration. Both parties, we suggest, would do well to give careful study to a recently issued report of Nova Scotia's voluntary economic planning board, in which blunt language is used in describing the problems to be surmounted.

Industry and government, it is emphasized, have equally important roles to play in this regard. Industry must upgrade the education and training of its workers—particularly at the management level. Government must spend more on education, health, transport, research, development of natural resources and industrial promotion, as recommended by the Economic Council of Canada. Local companies are urged to pool their efforts to offset the high cost of consultant services and to work toward improved product design.

The report notes that Nova Scotians are making less use of Industrial Development Bank funds than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. The province is so far behind, it says, that if local industrialists managed by 1968 to attain the rate of productivity seen in other parts of the country four years ago, they would be doing well indeed.

Too much reliance, it warns, cannot be placed on Ottawa's Area Development Agency, whose designated area benefit program militates in favor of areas close to Canada's industrial heartland and is not really designed to promote development as such anywhere. Seven areas, or 20 per cent of the total have attracted 50 per cent (\$300 million) of the investment and 45 per cent (9,000) of the new jobs. These areas are all in the Ontario industrial belt from Windsor to Cornwall or in the Northern Ontario-Quebec mining belt.

In fact, the planning board suspects that ADA "sees itself as primarily a welfare agency in disguise." Its program is not designed to promote economic development as such—indeed its stated objective—to generate long-term employment in designated areas—is contrary to the objectives of the new federal manpower mobility program which is designed to facilitate the movement of unemployed workers out of depressed areas.

The report envisages a three-year plan for development of the province's secondary manufacturing sector, with strong emphasis on the importance of more initiative on the local level. Local industrialists are warned that they are only 74 per cent as effective as manufacturers in the rest of the country, and that unless this situation is improved, there is little hope of bringing the province's economy in line with the rest of Canada.

The Erik Heine Case

The case of Erik Heine, an Estonian-born Canadian who is suing a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for falsely labelling him a Soviet agent, was again raised in the Commons the other day by Mr. Diefenbaker, who accused the CIA of "assassinating the reputation of a good Canadian" and demanded the "strongest possible protest to Washington" about his unjustifiable treatment. Equally strong language, we note, is being used in reputable American newspapers in commenting on this case, insofar as it concerns the claim of the central intelligence agency's right to commit slander with immunity.

For that, in brief, is what it appears to amount to. According to the Milwaukee Journal, the plaintiff has sued for \$110,000 damages, but the agency forbade its man to give a deposition and has demanded that the judge throw out the whole case summarily, leaving the plaintiff without recourse.

"The CIA's shocking case," says the Milwaukee paper, "is that the accusation was uttered on official orders, therefore it was uttered in effect by the government itself and the government can't be sued! Further, that a trial would endanger national security by forcing the CIA to lift a corner of its veil of secrecy. The implications of this theory, if our courts should swallow it, would be horrendous. The CIA would have a license to blacken reputations at will for its own reasons, which would be nobody's business but its own, with no accountability even to the courts."

What are the surface problems in contrast to the hidden or basic ones that disturb and confuse the average person? May I submit what appears to me as basic problems with which each candidate would do well to be concerned?

Here they are: (1) The rising cost of food items and what can now be done about it. (2) The rising tax rate, and the out-of-proportion cost of the new consolidated schools. (3) The comparison of salaries paid Island teachers with those in other provinces. (4) Whether or not we should appoint an official committee to study and report on whether or not there should be a union of the Maritime provinces for an effective dealing with each other and with Ottawa. (5) What may be done with the bush-covered farms in terms of more income for a small operator. (6) If we are to bring new industries into our villages ought they to operate on the principle of "equal pay for equal work", and not discriminate between men and women workers as now obtains? (7) How to put ARDA to work. Only the candidate who intelligently deals with these issues can earn the right to my vote.

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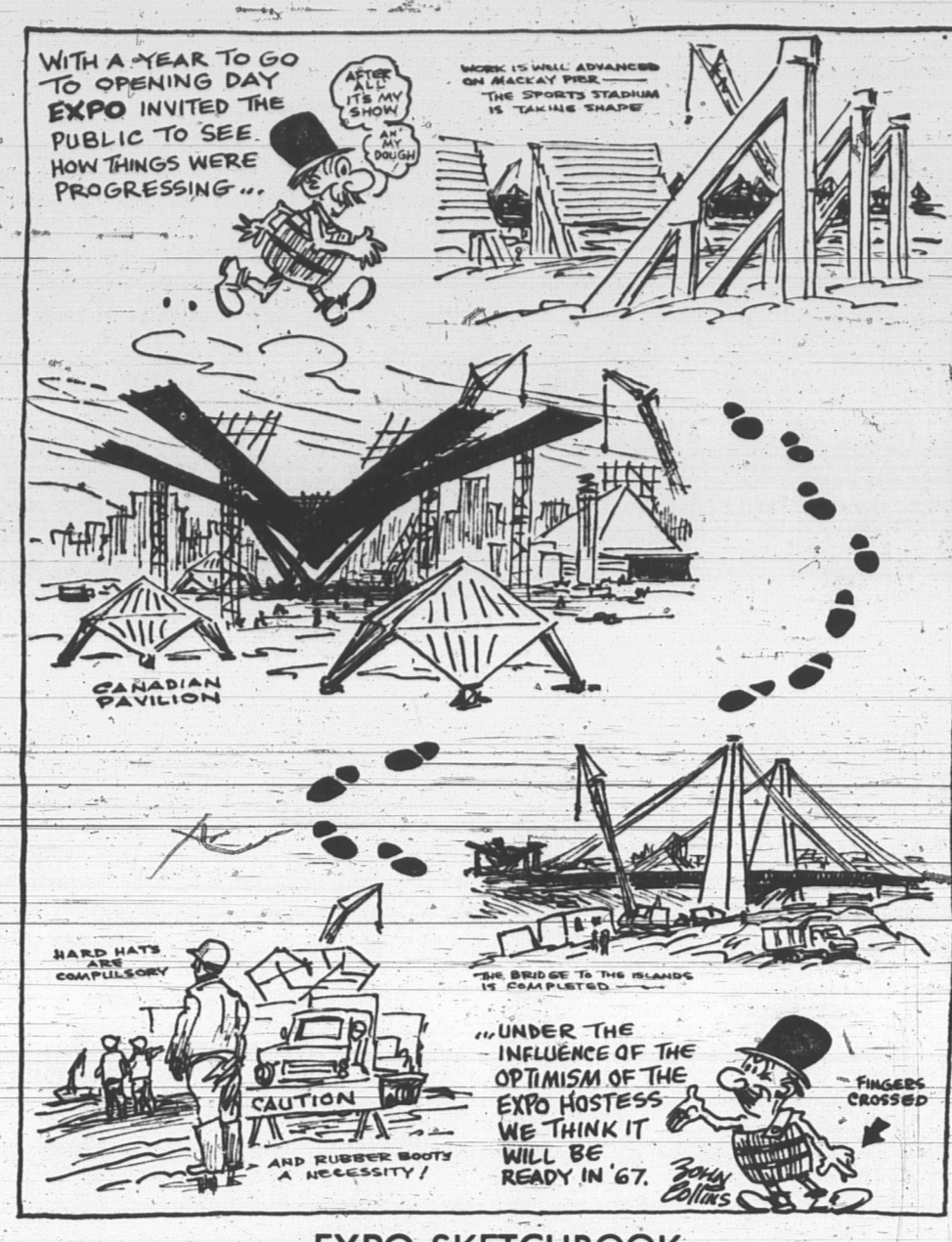
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EXPO SKETCHBOOK

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

House In Fourth Year Of Drug Study

The House of Commons special committee on drugs will launch its fourth year of study with public hearings early in June, its chairman, Dr. Harry Harley, Liberal MP from Oakville, tells me. The agenda this year will concern the cost of drugs, which he describes as though not the most important subject yet before it.

As a result of the thalidomide tragedy, the committee was originally established in 1962 under the chairmanship of R. M. T. "Bobby" McDonald, of Hamilton. It was charged with the examination of the whole role of the new chemicals in our daily life. Are drugs adequately checked, both scientifically and clinically, before they are permitted to be sold to sufferers? Are our land, air and water—and particularly foodstuffs derived therefrom—poisoned by ignorant and dangerous use of pesticides and insecticides? The committee's work in its first session was cut short by the defeat of the Diefenbaker government.

ABLE NEW CHAIRMAN In the Fall of 1963, the committee was reconstituted, and Dr. Harley appointed chairman—a role which he has continuously filled with remarkable conscientiousness and ability ever since. It held 18 meetings, hearing much evidence about pesticides, and finally made valuable recommendations for government action in that dangerously under-regulated field.

In 1964 the committee was again set up, with instructions from Parliament that it examine the broad field of the safety of drugs. Between April and December it held 25 meetings, and submitted a report containing many valuable recommendations aimed at ensuring the optimum standards in the drugs. It also recommended the strengthening of the government's Food and Drug Directorate, and closer control and supervision of the drug industry to bring the fly-by-night operators up to the high standards of the big international companies or else to close them down.

The 1964 meetings were highlighted by the illuminating pronouncement by one of the heads of the Food and Drug Directorate that he personally would always buy a brand-name drug, to ensure that he obtains the quality and efficacy guaranteed by the reputation of a well known manufacturer. His comparison between brand-name drugs and the sometimes cheaper so-called equivalents leads logically into this year's work of the drug committee, which will be to explore the criticism that drugs are costly.

Dr. Harley tells me that he will steer his committee to examine all factors making up the retail price of drugs. These include, he says, the federal sales tax of 11 per cent levied at the manufacturer's level, which may well add 22 per cent to the

retail price. Then there is the pharmacist's dispensing fee and mark-up, the manufacturers' advertising costs, and the effect of patents. Evidence will be heard from federal officials, doctors, drug manufacturers, pharmacists, consumers' associations and labour unions.

An early intention was to replace Dr. Harley as chairman by Vancouver lawyer Ron Bedford, a Liberal backbencher who in 1964 attended only 2 of the committee's 25 meetings. Such appointment would presumably have been on political grounds, to give a young MP the chance to win his spurs in an important job. But this would have overlooked the essential factors that this professional committee should have, a medical doctor as chairman and that the continuing nature of its enquiries calls for experienced continuity in its management. So after back-stage negotiation, it was arranged that Dr. Harley should not be displaced. This recognizes his good services, and certainly strengthens the committee.

Charting Latin America

National Geographic Society

A day at the office for some American specialists means climbing 18,000-foot snow peaks, hacking through jungle, and paddling a dugout canoe down unexplored rivers. They may be confronted by malarial mosquitoes, snakes, jaguars, and headhunters.

These men are neither daredevils nor fortune hunters, but the 500 members of the Inter-American Geodetic Survey. Their task: Mapping for the first time the entire continent of South America.

IAGS, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, still has half the job to complete. The territory under survey comprises eight million square miles of mountains, jungle, swamp, and desert. The surveying project is the biggest ever attempted in history.

MISSING MOUNTAINS The Inter-American Geodetic Survey, a subordinate command of the United States Armed Forces Southern Command, represents the joint efforts of 17 Latin American nations and the United States.

IAGS was established in 1946 after World War II revealed the distressing lack of accurate maps. Such maps were indispensable for Latin America's vast natural resources were to be developed properly.

IAGS cartographers soon "discovered" a 125-mile-long mountain range in Panama that had never before been shown on any map. Rivers were sometimes 40 miles out of place.

Before a reliable map of an area can be drawn, geodetic surveyors crisscross the terrain, putting in a basic control system. Small bronze disks are painstakingly established and imbedded in cement or stone to indicate exact latitude, longitude, and elevation. Like numbered dots on a child's drawing puzzle, these disks form the framework around which maps are eventually drawn.

Some time ago, a group of hardy mountaineers accompanied with some fans, they were going to make the first ascent of a rugged mountain in Central America. When they reached the summit, however, they found to their dismay a small disk imbedded in the rock. An IAGS engineer had quietly scaled the peak two years earlier, planted the disk, made his observations, and climbed down again without bothering to tell the local papers.

MAPS AND SCHOOLS IAGS does more than just plant the thousands of bronze markers needed for mapping. The survey operates 70 tidal gauges, 27,000 gravity stations, and 1,128 magnetic stations to determine sea-level data, gravity anomalies, and magnetic declination. The resulting information helps compute more exactly the size and shape of the earth.

Pilots who fly the 43 helicopters and light planes used by IAGS have photographed more than 2,200,000 square miles.

BEAT THESE BARGAINS TOKYO (AP)—A department store here, advertising 10,000 animals at bargain prices. Among them are a baby Indian elephant at \$3,300 and a Malay python at \$277 with free delivery anywhere in Japan.

PUBLIC FORUM

ELECTION ISSUES

Mr.—Who is determining the issues that underlie the need and call for the oncoming election? The candidates or the people who will cast the ballots? What are the surface problems in contrast to the hidden or basic ones that disturb and confuse the average person? May I submit what appears to me as basic problems with which each candidate would do well to be concerned?

Here they are: (1) The rising cost of food items and what can now be done about it. (2) The rising tax rate, and the out-of-proportion cost of the new consolidated schools. (3) The comparison of salaries paid Island teachers with those in other provinces. (4) Whether or not we should appoint an official committee to study and report on whether or not there should be a union of the Maritime provinces for an effective dealing with each other and with Ottawa. (5) What may be done with the bush-covered farms in terms of more income for a small operator. (6) If we are to bring new industries into our villages ought they to operate on the principle of "equal pay for equal work", and not discriminate between men and women workers as now obtains? (7) How to put ARDA to work. Only the candidate who intelligently deals with these issues can earn the right to my vote.

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