

A Tourist At Heart?

Maybe Prime Minister Pearson wasn't thinking about an election when he decided to make a seven-day tour of Western Canada this month. His trip, he says, has "nothing to do with anything except a desire to know Canada better."

It is not unnatural, however, that his opponents should put another construction on his Western tour at this time. One of the reasons why they believe he may be planning a dissolution of Parliament before Sept. 27 is noted by an Ottawa commentator, and we pass it along for what it is worth.

There was a strong hint given last week by Social Credit Leader Thompson that he suspects political pressures behind the inadequacy of the RCMP investigations into the Rivard-Denis-Rouleau affair. It was implied in his statement that he would insist on a broader and more thorough investigation of the whole mess than the Dorion inquiry was empowered to make.

Since the same conditions have been spelled out more or less plainly by the New Democrats, and the Conservatives have been clamoring for a showdown on this matter, it is not unlikely that a vote on the issue could finally tip the scales. Nor is it an issue on which any government would care to gamble in an electoral battle.

But it's all supposition, of course. All that we are informed is that Mr. Pearson will shortly be heading for the great open spaces, with a virgin mind so far as sordid political motives are concerned, and where political fence-mending, if it goes on, will be purely coincidental.

He may even be coming down this way again before long, in the same relaxed mood, and with no design on us at all, at all, but to get to know us better!

It Ptered Out

After 29 meetings the UN Security Council has closed its Dominican Republic debate. It did so in such a mild tone that some diplomats wondered whether something had gone wrong. There was no formal resolution to vote on. No veto to be cast. Just a summary statement of the whole debate by the council president for the month, Platon D. Morozov of the Soviet Union, which referred to "violations of the council's call for strict cease-fire" without specifying by whom—and "acts of repression against the civilian population and other violations of human rights."

The council—including the British and American delegates—approved the summary. Thus what promised to be one of the stormiest issues of recent months was quietly laid on the shelf, the reason presumably, being that Moscow has problems enough with Cuba without taking on some more in the Caribbean.

Numerous diplomats had expressed concern that United States involvement in the Dominican revolution would lead to increased hostility between the two superpowers and

that this would come to an explosive head at the Security Council. We could have betted confidently on it ourselves. But when it came to a showdown, all was calm, if not bright. What started in vicious recriminations ended in an understanding of sorts. On this issue at least, Moscow and Washington decided to compromise their differences, and this affords ground for hope that other pressing challenges to world peace may be dealt with in the same manner.

Meanwhile, however, while the shooting in Santa Dominica has died down and the verbal battle has folded up at the UN, the country itself is in a bad way. Basic disagreements between the junta in power and the impoverished people are setting the price in disrupted services, hunger and unemployment. Badly needed supplies are not getting to rural areas, and the more prosperous farmers are preparing for violence from their necessitous neighbors and workers. Cannot the United Nations do something about that, or the mediating committee of the Organization of American States?

Far From Dead

"Fama mortis linguae latinae contra veritatem aucta est." Freely translated by Dr. Eric A. Havelock, Sterling Professor of the Classics Department at Yale University, this means that "reports of the death of the Latin language have been grossly exaggerated." The same, it seems, goes for Greek as well.

Dr. Havelock says that far from being on the downgrade, there is "a striking increase in interest in the classics across the country." He noted that the number of classics students in graduate schools had doubled in the last eight years. The same trend was running the same way on the undergraduate level.

"To be sure," he concedes, "the old situation will never return, and who would want it to? Classical languages were once the core of education, and were a protected subject. That wasn't good. They were protected from competition." Now all that has changed. Greek has disappeared from all but a few preparatory schools and Latin, when it is taught, has to compete with a burgeoning interest in modern languages.

The depression dealt a body blow to the classics, even in the colleges, Dr. Havelock added. There was no "living" to be found out of learning them. A lot of students quit the graduate schools. The result was that as older scholars retired there were no replacements. It was virtually a "lost generation." Since the war, however, there has been a marked change, a "very rapidly ascending curve of interest" that has resulted in a growing demand for teachers.

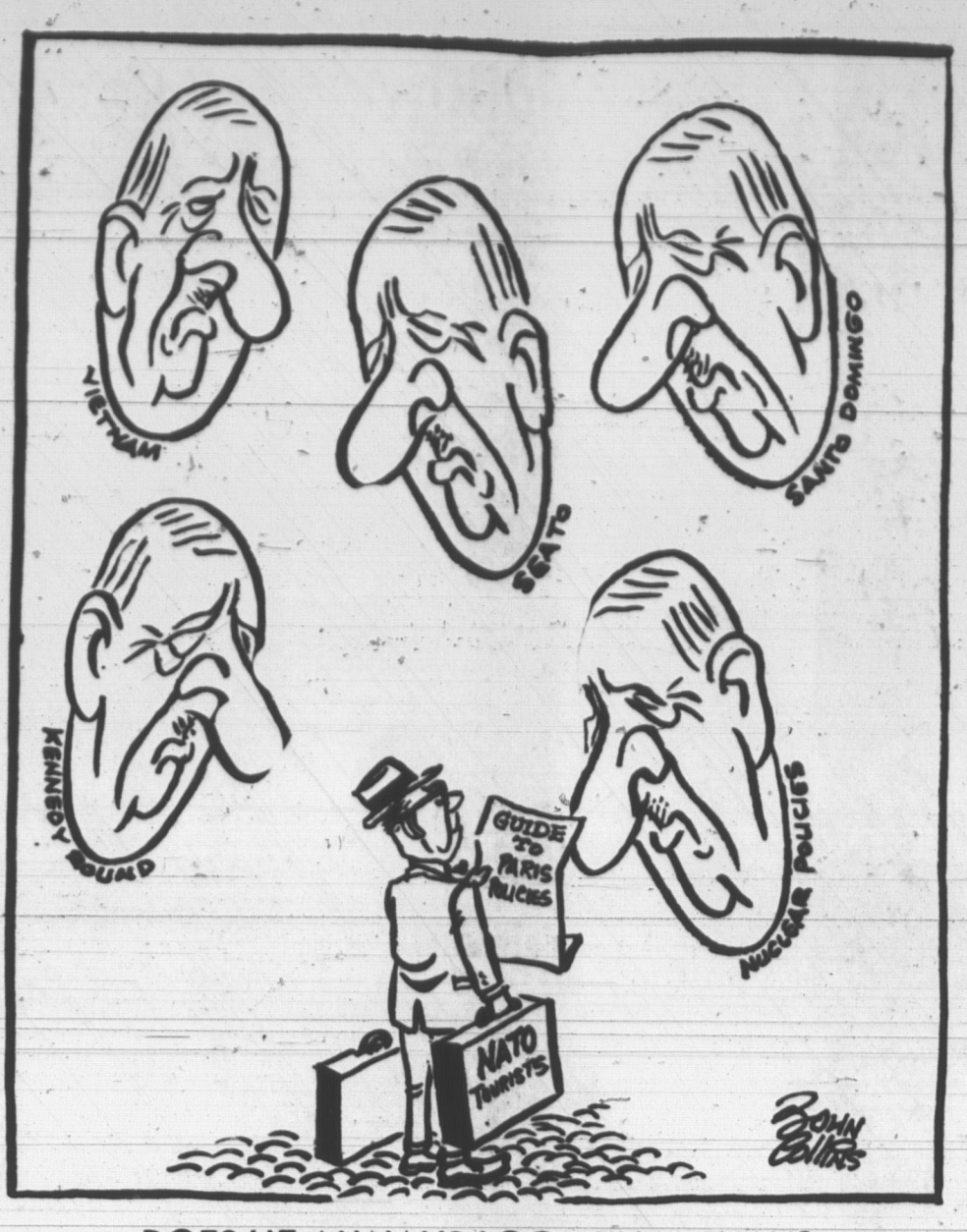
How does Dr. Havelock explain the new interest in the classics? "Maybe we are becoming more sophisticated in a linguistic sense," he says. "Language is a form of behavior, and the comparative study of languages depends on Latin and Greek for a base." He also cited "a conscious rebellion against the mechanization of our age and against mass culture" as well as the population explosion, which produces classicists as much as modernists.

Whatever the reasons, this revived interest in the classics is all to the good. A similar trend has been reported by some educationists in Canada, though we haven't seen it dealt with in this manner.

EDITORIAL NOTES

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson still clings to the hope that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' peace mission can do something to stop the fighting in Viet Nam. If it does, it will come as close to a miracle as anything that has happened in world diplomacy in recent years.

A film exchange has been set up between the Soviet Union and the United States. The United States will show the Soviet version of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," while Russia will show "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World." The occasion draws from the Christian Science Monitor this appropriate comment: "If America were but exchanging a mad world for a mad prince, it might even be considered a shrewd Yankee horse trade. But in fact the Russian Communists are exporting a great Western poet who, incidentally, has just been roundly condemned by the Chinese Communists, while the Americans are exporting yet another version of Hollywood mediocrity. In exchanging a caricature of culture for a work of art, America puts its best foot far to the rear."



DOES HE ALWAYS LOOK THAT WAY?

FACT OR FICTION

Strange Flying Objects Still Unexplained

Toronto Globe and Mail

The latest in a recent outbreak of reports of unidentified flying objects, commonly known as UFO's, have come from Toronto and also from Windsor where the local weather office was flooded with calls from persons who said they had seen fast-moving lights in the sky.

UFO sightings usually come in batches, as though one prompt others. Thus, scientific opinion suggests that the Toronto and Windsor reports were manifestations of the power of mass suggestion rather than evidence of extraterrestrial life.

A rash of UFO sightings began in January when Chilean and Argentine stations on Deception Island in the Antarctic reported that a lens-shaped object had hovered over the island for a few minutes, interrupting radio-transmissions.

SIGHTED OVER BRITAIN Some time later, a fiery object was sighted in the sky over Britain, and in France a football-shaped vehicle with four legs was reported to have landed in a field. Two weeks ago there were reports of strange flying objects over Portugal and the Azores, again accompanied by unaccountable radio interference.

Scientists give little credence to the belief, widely held by UFO enthusiasts, that these unidentified apparitions are, in fact, intelligently controlled vehicles from another planet. They contend that there are at least half a dozen rational explanations for every moving light in the sky.

Their position is upheld by a 15-year study of UFOs completed by the United States Air Force in 1962. The Air Force reported that its investigation of 7,369 UFOs from 1947 to 1962 indicated no evidence that UFOs reflect any technological advances beyond current scientific knowledge or represent visitations from another planet.

Nevertheless, 1.94 per cent of the sightings between 1956 and 1962 could not be explained. The

Lordly Debate

Christian Science Monitor

The House of Lords at Westminster has at last voted for the abolition of capital punishment. Twice before it has had the opportunity to do so, but on those occasions it voted for retention. The decision this time is what makes history. But we must admit to being more fascinated by some of the facets of the debate in the Lords as reflecting on the strengths, paradoxes and delights of British society.

Here was Baroness Spencer-Churchill—Sir Winston's widow, now a peeress in her own right on the recommendation of a Labor Prime Minister—voting for abolition. So too did the Lord Chief Justice of England.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents. All letters published are subject to editing and condensation where necessary. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding letters submitted.

CLOSEUP FORECAST

Sir—I think it is ridiculous to be spending all that money for spacecraft to take pictures of Mars. I know what closeup pictures will show when America is able to take them. They'll show a little green man with two heads and four arms holding up a big sign that says "Yankee, go home."

Strange Malady

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

Hysteria is one of the oldest words in the English language. The Greek word for uterus is hysteria. The ancients believed hysteria was caused by a frustrated uterus; varied and bizarre symptoms occurred because the organ became detached and wandered about the body, pressing upon this or that organ.

This ridiculous notion existed for centuries. In the 17th century, frenetic women were put to death. The uterus finally was divorced from hysteria, possibly because men began to develop the condition. It became an acceptable nervous ailment, but the worm is beginning to turn again and the malady is recognized now as a symptom rather than a specific disease. This is in keeping with the trend to classify emotional disorders according to manifestations not as individual diseases.

The syndrome usually starts early in life, occurs mainly to women, and leads to weird symptoms such as paralysis, numbness, blindness, deafness, or convulsion. The victim may have pain that is not relieved with analgesics, including morphine. The majority go through periods of amnesia or the inability to talk.

They are motivated by certain personality traits and show evidence of self-pity, self-concern, dependence, or immaturity and tend to exaggerate symptoms in an extroverted manner and in lively phraseology. In time it becomes obvious they are masters at attention getting, which our forefathers quashed with a bucket of cold water when the victim of cold hysteria is a sign of health and not of disease. The victim differs from normal persons in the mechanism by which symptoms are produced. The manifestations are a conversion process in which the person keeps a disturbing wish from realization through blindness, not moving an extremity, refusing to hear, or not remembering. By obtaining rewards and gaining special attention without accepting responsibility, they have their cake and eat it, too.

CLOSED BLINDS U. C. writes: To what extent do venetian blinds affect the nervous system when the owner doesn't permit them to be raised?

REPLY You must work for a tavern keeper or an undertaker. Closed blinds do not affect the nervous system unless you have claustrophobia or there is something to look at outside and you are upset because you can't see it.

DIET AND MENTAL STATE Mrs. T. writes: Could a faulty diet lead to mental depression?

REPLY Yes! In pellagra, for example, the diet lacks niacin and other vitamin B complex factors. As a result, the skin of the hands and feet darkens and the victim suffers from neuritis and emotional upsets.

UNCOMMON DIABETES T. R. E. writes: What is the condition similar to diabetes in which large amounts of fluid are lost and the person is extremely thirsty?

REPLY This is diabetes insipidus, which is due to a disturbance of the pituitary gland.

SLEEP AND LETTUCE D. G. writes: Will eating lettuce every day make me sleepy? (NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

"M" AS IN MIMI European directories often print a suggested guide for phonetic spelling. In Spain, for example, it is "C" as in Carmen, in France, "M" as in Mimi; and in Germany, "O" as in Oskar. Spelling phonetically is more complicated in India where the phone book suggests "A" as in Allahabad and "M" as in Mahaballpuram.

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada published a slim volume to cover northern Quebec, the coast of Labrador, and Baffin and Cornwallis Islands in the Canadian Arctic. Instructions are printed in Eskimo syllabics as well as English and French because 10 per cent of the customers are Eskimos.

The Canadian directory has no separate section for products and services such as Labrador Motors or Polar Cars. Elsewhere, most telephone books have compendious classified sections. In the United States alone more than 100 million copies of the Yellow Pages (the color was adopted in 1921) are printed annually. They list everything from abdominal supports to zippers.

The ultimate tribute to the usefulness of the classified directory was paid by a bank hand who set up operations in Kansas City. His first move was to let his fingers do the walking through the yellow pages to pick out the best banks to rob.

BUYS CHURCHILL FARM LONDON (Reuters)—A publicly-shy Londoner bought the stud farm of the late Sir Winston Churchill for £38,000 (\$14,000) Friday. The agent who bid successfully for the 88-acre property near a Lingfield, 25 miles south of London, said his client had not known Churchill.

Goldberg's UN Legacy

New York Herald Tribune

One of the most pressing issues which Arthur J. Goldberg is expected to tackle as soon as he takes over as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations is the long-standing dispute over finances.

The consensus among both the United States and other officials at the U.N. is that in coming weeks a great deal of attention will be focused on this problem and the diplomatic spotlight will be on the new Ambassador as he attempts to negotiate a settlement.

The situation is a very delicate one, since what is at stake is the prestige of the major powers. The problem which Mr. Goldberg inherits deals with the East-West dispute over the application of Article 19 of the Charter against the Soviet Union, France and several other Communist countries. These countries have refused to pay their assessments to the U.N.'s Congo and Middle East peace-keeping operations, and have been threatened with the withdrawal of their vote.

The UN deficit at present is nearly \$10 million, of which the Soviet Union alone owes more than \$60 million. A confrontation between the major powers was avoided last

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (August 2, 1940) Hamburg, the largest seaport on the continent of Europe and consequently Germany's greatest port, has been announced by the Air Ministry in London to be practically in ruins, as a result of repeated bombardment by the Royal Air Force.

Prime Minister Churchill has invited Lord Beaverbrook to be a member of the war cabinet. For the time being Lord Beaverbrook will continue to be Minister of Aircraft Production.

TEN YEARS AGO (August 2, 1955)

In a surprise midnight statement the South Korean government proclaimed it "will undertake to restore authority" over the Communist-occupied territory south of the 38th parallel.

destroyed the vulcanizing plant of Alex MacDougall at Montague. A fire of unknown origin de-

RACERS ARE HEROES

The sports heroes of Madura, an island near Java, are the winners of the annual bull-drawn chariot races.

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