

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink

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From Bad To Worse

Last week that cautious diplomat, UN Secretary-General U Thant, felt obliged to appeal to the American people for backing of settlement talks in Viet Nam.

"I have always maintained the view," he said, "that the prospects for a peaceful settlement of this problem will be more and more remote as time goes on and as the aggravation develops."

He then inserted a comparison between Viet Nam and his native Burma, which in 17 years of independence has fought its Communist underground "without asking for any outside military assistance."

"If only the Burmese government had decided at some stage to seek outside military assistance to suppress the internal insurrections and revolts," said Thant, "then I am sure that Burma would have experienced one of two alternatives: either the country would be divided into two parts or the whole country would have become Communist long ago."

This little parable of Burma and Viet Nam is likely to be questioned by American diplomats, but to the non-aligned nations, and even to Washington's allies, it has provided food for thought.

Washington has now issued a white paper warning that "a totally new brand" of Communist aggression has been loosed in Viet Nam, and that the United States and Viet Nam forces will fight back with whatever means are necessary.

A Dire Example

West Germany is in the news again, this time because of its road accidents which claimed more casualties last year than in any other European country, and also because it has introduced a new traffic law which has put many motorists in a state of near-panic.

German police have been cautious in commenting on the effectiveness of the new law, which went into force on December 26. The new preliminary figures available so far indicate a decrease in fatal accidents involving drunken drivers—a scattered increase in hit-and-run accidents.

Taxi drivers, it is reported, have registered an upsurge in fares, and an enterprising salesman who has national rights to sell police-licensed blood-alcohol test tubes to everybody wanting to find out if he has had one glass too many, is doing a rushing business.

The critical level of intoxication is attained if the alcohol concentration in the blood is 1.5 parts per thousand. Proposals to lower this to 1.2 and even eventually to 0.8 will soon be before the German parliament.

"Most motorists now take it easy on hard drinks, even on beer," commented a waiter at an autobahn motel. "They are scared stiff ever since 14 of our patrons lost their licenses inside a few hours last week when police checked them after they stepped out of here."

It looks like a drinking driver's nightmare. The other side of the picture is the 1964 death total of 16,300 on West German highways—more than double Britain's estimated total of road fatalities.

Something had to give, it seems. So it has been the rights of free citizens to drink and drive. And it could be a foretaste of what the future holds for other countries with mounting traffic accident problems.

The Vetted Title

Writing in the Ottawa Journal, Peter C. Newman says that when they first decided to publish their preliminary study of French-English tensions the members of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism wanted to give it the title "Canada in Crisis."

"The decision to soft pedal the contents of the report," says Newman, "was presumably prompted by the Prime Minister's reluctance to alarm the citizenry. At the same time, it was perfectly in keeping with the fact that we must be the only nation on earth which faced with the most important revolution in its history, can afford the luxury of appointing a Royal Commission to investigate the insurgents."

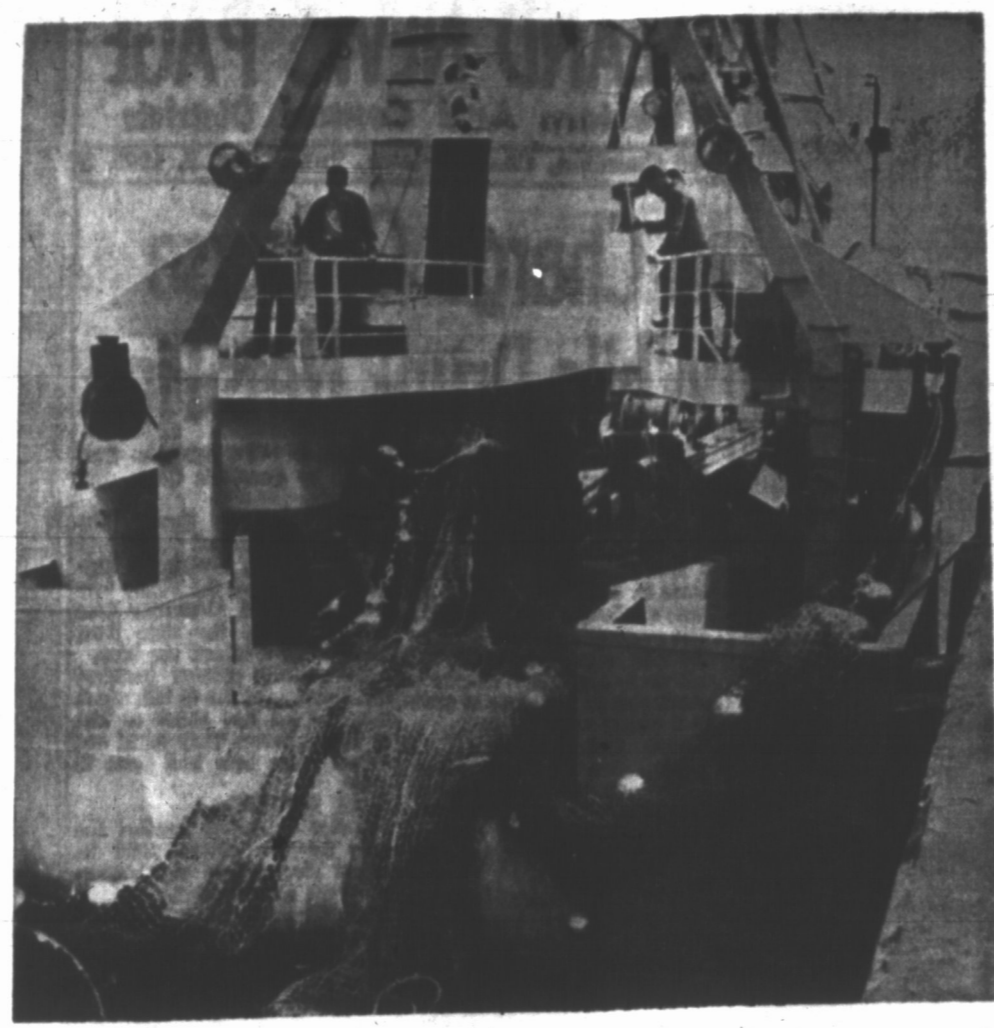
"After 17 months of reconnoitering the dynamics of rebellion, the B and B Commissioners have come up with a document that contains not a single suggestion on how the pressure might be relieved and the equilibrium restored. For the future, we're promised still fatter reports, even more grandiose studies and an avalanche of hearings and consultations."

The 10 distinguished Canadians who make up the Commission, adds the Ottawa writer, may actually believe that this country can talk itself into the 21st century, but this is not the mood of their report, which stressed that the crisis had reached a point "where there is a danger that the will of people to go on may fail."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The United States population is still growing and will reach 265,575,000 by 1986, according to a U.S. census bureau estimate. The present population is about 193,000,000.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission is having trouble in its administration because a great number of people apparently have two social insurance numbers. Applications for the numbers are being received at the rate of 5,000 per day and many of the applicants, the records show, already have them.



DRAGGER CREW, GEORGETOWN

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Our Over-Costly Diplomatic Front

Are the striped-pants boys really necessary? Our Department of External Affairs employed 2,543 men and women last year, serving in Ottawa and staffing our embassies in 62 foreign countries.

Our embassies and other diplomatic missions overseas are manned by 399 foreign service officers of External Affairs and technical and operations staff, plus trade commissioners and service attaches bringing our foreign diplomatic listing up to a total of 338.

A FALSE FRONT

There is a widely held and certainly not baseless impression that much of this representational minutiae consists of civil servants living under-worked and high off the hog in a silly attempt to keep up with the Senor Joneses of the world, enjoying in their host country the undemocratic privileges of tax-free purchasing of cars, liquor, cigarettes etc and diplomatic immunity from the law—the latter very useful in enabling the diplomat, abroad as in Canada, to ignore such irritants as traffic speed limits and parking regulations.

Our "Public Accounts" highlight an example of this diplomatic role of political image-making of Cameroon, a young republic of Cameroon, who our Canadian Front last year cost the taxpayers \$164,026. This included an ambassador paid \$12,300 salary and provided with an official furnished residence and \$16,206 tax-free representation allowance, to enable him to exhibit a standard of living and a generous hospitality worthy of Canada's dignity but no doubt far above his normal at home.

NO MAMMOTH TRADE

Cameroon is a country of 4,507,000 inhabitants, sandwiched between Nigeria and the Congo in equatorial Africa. We have no military pact with Cameroon; its inhabitants do not immigrate into Canada, nor have I heard of Canadians migrating there. In 1963 Cameroon sold Canada goods worth \$147,029, chiefly cocoa butter, and bought from us goods worth \$23,702, chiefly unspecified non-knitted outerwear and "non-electric equipment for cooking."

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they also service some small neighboring states. Significantly, neither Cameroon nor those other countries maintain any diplomatic representation in Canada.

The Death Penalty

Mr. Favreau's views on capital punishment, as he expressed them in Montreal earlier this week, are his own. He emphasized that he was in no way committing the government.

Plane Tickets for MPs

Whom did Air Canada (TCA) stewardesses get to see often last winter than Mr. Bob Thompson, the leader of the western wing of the Social Credit Party?

Culture Hath Charms

A Scottish statesman said that if he could write the songs of his country he did not care who wrote his laws. If a song is more influential than a law, it may also be more influential than national rivalry, ideological divisions, and racial differences.

The Public Expects More

Only a very large dose of self-control will keep Parliament from becoming an ancient Roman amphitheatre in the remaining portion of the old session that begins today.

Simple Remedies

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen. Not all diseases are treated with pills, capsules, or an operation. Diet, rest, heat, and exercise are examples of remedies that are simple and accessible.

Lacing his shoes, opening and closing a book, eating with a fork, writing, and working in the garden fill the bill. The involved are strengthened by keeping time; coordination improves. It is not difficult to tap with the hand or fingers while resting the arm on the table or to keep time with the feet while sitting on a chair.

Dancing was a common remedy among primitive peoples. It is difficult to be tense and rhythmic at the same time. Dancing has more to offer than ordinary physical activity.

The Stabilizer

This is an age when freedom is valued as a nation's most precious possession. But just as important is the stability of the free society.

In Other Words It's Jargon

Today every trade and calling has become a profession. This would not be so bad, if each group of professionals did not feel that it must use language that no outsider can understand.

Our Yesterdays

THEY - FIVE YEARS AGO (March 2, 1960) The German freighter Troja, 2,300 tons, which sailed from Aruba, Dutch West Indies, was intercepted by a British cruiser and was burning near that port today.

The Avengers

The Avengers are men and women who, although geographically dispersed, are joined by the common bond of vengeance upon those responsible for the atrocities and slaughters perpetrated upon the Jews.

THE EVENING PATRIOT

WITH WEEKEND 10c Magazine and Coloured Comics

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mr. Gayboy: "Now Biddle, why did you tell your mistress what time I came home last night, when I asked you not to?"

Professor (in freshman Science class) — "Who is the greatest inventor the world has ever known?" Freshman — "An Irishman by the name of Pat Pending." — Vancouver Province.

The retired American diplomat must have many fascinating mementos of his career, including various geological samples which have been through his windows throughout the world. — Calgary Herald.

A report from Staunton, Virginia, says that the county sheriff is going to crack down on flying saucer believers who go out with guns to hunt "little green men." He wants to know: "If there really are creatures around from outer space, who's got the right to mow them down?"

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