

Should Be Answered

Party caucuses are strictly private affairs. But sometimes rumors leak out, and this is what has happened in connection with a pre-election caucus of Conservative MPs at Ottawa, at which they reportedly received from Prime Minister Diefenbaker the promise that, if re-elected, he would increase the indemnity paid them.

Usually it is wise to ignore such hearsay statements; but in this case we think that if the report is untrue, it would be well for the Conservatives to scotch it before it gathers further momentum. For on the face of it the pledge would appear to be a most irregular one. The Ottawa Citizen, which takes note of the rumor editorially, says with some justice that it would amount to a special private inducement to the Prime Minister's followers to stick by him.

There may be full justification for increasing the indemnities of our House of Commons representatives, in view of rising living costs and the expenses they have to meet. But Mr. Diefenbaker had ample opportunity during the past four years to increase the rates. Not only did he fail to do so, but it is noteworthy that shortly before dissolution, a plea for higher rates made by Mr. Douglas Fisher, member for Port Arthur, failed to receive the support of a single member. A gesture from Mr. Diefenbaker at that time could have resulted in an affirmative vote.

Certainly if the salaries of MPs are to be raised, the increase should be at all times be publicly considered in Parliament. Preferably the vote should be made contingent upon its going into effect after a new Parliament has been called, thus giving the electors, as well as all candidates for office, due notice of the change. The Fisher resolution could have passed on this condition, but evidently the members—though many of them complained privately that existing rates left them in financial difficulties—were not prepared to shoulder the political responsibility of voting for it.

Included in the plan, also, is a two-year terminal course, basically vocational for those who find a book-oriented education difficult; and, finally, a special one-year occupation course for those unable to gain promotion from Grade 8. The program is a complex one, and places heavy responsibility on pupils, parents and school authorities to pick the most appropriate course for the child at the end of Grade 8. But it has been geared to the changing times, and if it proves its merits there is no doubt that it will form the groundwork for changes in curricula in other provinces as well. What the estimated cost will be we have not seen, but it is the long-term advantages that are important.

Hectic Days Ahead

In the old days, people could ignore the impact of general election campaigns if they chose to do so, but it's going to be harder this time. According to a Canadian Press report, millions of pamphlets, booklets and other material are being turned out at Ottawa; the poster piles are growing, and thousands of television, radio and newspaper appeals are in the making. An atmosphere of crisis is common to all four national party headquarters as they prepare for the big barrage on the public consciousness. Few of the country's estimated 9,800,000 electors will escape it unscathed.

Costs are a matter of as much secrecy among the party strategists as a federal budget, but unofficially the expenditure estimates are well over \$5,000,000 for the Conservatives, \$3,000,000 for the Liberals, with lesser but still substan-

tial amounts for the New Democrat and Social Credit parties.

The Liberals have already published 15 different campaign pamphlets and plan three more, with a production average of about one million copies each. As with all parties, these are shipped from national offices for distribution at the constituency level. The New Democrats are concentrating on four different booklets. The Social Credit party also has four, and more may follow. The bulk of the Conservative party press has yet to appear.

It will be the costliest and slickest campaign in Canadian history. Just how much of it will cancel out remains to be seen. No estimate has been made as to how much of this medicine the ordinary elector can take; whether it will grow on him like a drug and make him avid for more, or have the opposite effect. One thing sure, it will be a hectic period for all concerned.

In the circumstances, therefore, we propose a vote of thanks to Postmaster-General William Hamilton, for some timely remarks he made the other night at a service club rally. Mr. Hamilton had the temerity to say that there is "almost too much attention paid to the rights of citizenship at the present time and too little to the duties and obligations which must be undertaken if those rights are to be preserved."

He didn't mean undertaken by the government or parties seeking power; he meant by us voters. Beyond that, he said, there was "an obligation to vote intelligently through a knowledge of the candidates who present themselves and an awareness of the issues and their stands on these issues."

Words of wisdom, but likely to go unheard amid the swelling chorus of competing bids from the party calliopes.

Ontario School Reforms

Of interest to educationists across the country are the far-reaching reforms in the program of secondary education which will be made effective in Ontario next September, and on which the Ontario government is pinning great hopes in meeting the demands of skill and special training which modern industry and business are making.

A basic innovation of the new system is the introduction of five-year courses into the technical and commercial programs. It is claimed that these courses will be the equivalent of the five-year academic course, leading to the Grade 13 examination. Parallel with these courses are to be three four-year courses in the traditional divisions, now renamed Arts and Science, Business and Commerce, and Science, Technology and Trades. These will presumably be of lesser difficulty, and will put emphasis on the practical needs of a successful working life.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

President Kennedy says his administration feels no ill will toward the steel industry. The steel industry itself at the moment, comments an exchange, seems too numb to feel anything.

The Conservatives appear to be in trouble in Great Britain. They slipped to third place—behind the Liberals—in the recent Derby by-election, in which the Labor Party retained its seat by an increased majority. The resurgence of the Liberals, who had almost given up the ghost a few years ago, is the most interesting phase in British politics today.



OTTAWA EASTER EGGS

SPACE EXPENDITURES

U.S. Budget Shoots At The Moon

There is more astronomy in the American budget than the \$5.5 billion President Kennedy has asked Congress to spend for, as he puts it, "the mastery of space." The very statistics of revenue and expenditure, rounded off in the hundred millions, have a light-year dimension about them.

The mind reverts to the concept of \$93,000,000,000 the revenue Mr. Kennedy anticipates in 1963, because the figure is so far beyond ordinary compare. The resources and capacity of the United States never seem more awesome than when the budget is presented. Here is a country that proposes to spend \$48,300,000,000—more than half of all its expenditures—on military outlays.

It will still maintain the highest standard of living in the world, spend more than ever before on education, agriculture and a whole round of welfare benefits, and offer billions in foreign aid. The dollar has not cheapened enough to diminish the wonder of this achievement.

NOT INFINITE Yet the resources of the U.S. are not infinite—as Republican Congressmen will be crying. The New York Times pointed out the other day that the grand total cost of the first moon excursion (three persons, round trip, all expenses paid) "would reproduce from 75 to 120 universities about the size of Harvard with some change left over."

It would do more, the Times continues: "It would build several million dwelling units; it would replace hundreds of worn-out school buildings; it would construct hundreds of hospitals; it would pay for research that might wipe out some stubborn diseases, including cancer."

These are things the American people are willing to forego in their effort to preserve peace and freedom. They are paying more than lip service to these ideals.

A LOT OF MONEY We sometimes think in Canada that our Government takes in and spends a lot of money. Of

course it does and in proportion to population, probably as much as the United States. But in absolute terms we look pretty small beside the American fiscal colossus.

The U.S. deficit for the current year is expected to be some \$7,000,000,000. That sum alone is more than one billion dollars greater than all the revenue which Finance Minister Fleming estimated the Government would take in during the same period. The U.S. pays far more interest on its national debt than we spend for all purposes.

Women's Rights

was characteristic of the leisurely mustering of majority opinion through which the commission has in the past had a telling impact upon the lives of millions of women.

Notable examples have been the international conventions on the political rights of women (1952) and on the nationality of married women (1956), originated in the commission and steered through the General Assembly. The latter document freed women in the ratifying nations to elect the nationality of their choice, as distinct from their husbands' allegiances.

REDUCED TO TEN The former has been largely instrumental in reducing to ten the number of countries in which women still lack the right to vote or be elected to office.

Practically all of the newly independent nations of the past several years have automatically enfranchised their women citizens, in the aftermath of the prolonged effort that produced the convention. Last year, Paraguay—as the last holdout in the Western Hemisphere—finally gave women equal electoral rights.

Chipless Fish

It's an ill whiff from the cook-stove that blows nobody any good potato shortage in Britain is threatening the national institution known as fish 'n' chips. This is not a Good Thing, any more than it seemed to the authors of

"1066 and All That" that the driving of the early Britons back into the hills of Wales where they became Welsh was a Good Thing.

In a land where the Constitution is "unwritten," as it is half-correctly said to be in Britain, it is impossible to know just how profoundly an underemphasis on either component of fish 'n' chips might affect the national establishment. It may be a Briton's rights are involved here, the sanctity of the Common Law, the very ethos of a people.

NO BILL OF RIGHTS In the United States you could look it up in the Bill of Rights as easily as in a dictionary. But class and caste, the kings versus barons, Lords versus Commons, not to mention the Orlington-by-election, complicates the British "system." The British don't "go by the book."

They stand by a sort of pragmatic application of improvised logic to problems of preserving the national virtue. And it is clear that chipless fish falls in the same category with Baconless Shakespeare, Gilbertless Sullivan, Williamless Mary or bubbleless squeak.

DESERVED CALAMITY Without wishing to press self-interest too far, a newspaper might also point out that chipless fish may have come as a deserved national calamity to a people who have experimented with pointless cornucopias of fish and chips. The substitution of wax cones for the traditional newspaper wrapping should have been seen as inviting worse things to come.

Now that the lesson has been learned, we hope chips will return to fish as swiftly as Browning's thoughts returned to England at this time of year, with all the tang of rhyme and the inevitability of reason.

Pap Smear Test May Eliminate One Cancer Type

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen DR GEORGE Papanicolaou (pap-ah-nik-oh-lah-oo) died last Feb. 20 but he will be long remembered for his work in cancer prevention. Thirty years ago he discovered a method of detecting cancer cells in the secretions from the female reproductive organs. It was nicknamed the Pap smear (test) and spearheaded one of the greatest battles man has fought against malignancies.

The American Cancer Society and the medical profession now believe the Pap smear may be helpful in eliminating fatal uterine cancer. This disease was the commonest cause of death from cancer in women 25 years ago. But the mortality rate has dropped 50 per cent since 1937 and it could go down to zero.

The test is a study of the cells that are shed normally from living tissues. A malignant tumor, for example, in the wall of the cervix or the body of the uterus sheds tumor cells into the pelvic secretions.

It is a simple and painless procedure for the physician to take a sample of the secretions during a routine checkup. This material is sent to the laboratory for a microscopic study and, within a day or two, the report is available.

The important aspect of the test is that the cells can reveal early cancer or even precancerous conditions, which are curable. The Pap test is positive long before the malignancy can be seen or felt. In other words, it is possible to make the diagnosis so early that uterine cancer could be virtually eliminated as a killer.

The American Cancer Society is encouraging women to go to a physician for an annual check-up. This will take considerable education because 40 per cent of the adult female population does not know the test exists. Others know but have done nothing about it.

April is cancer detection month but any month is a good time for a checkup. Have yours and persuade others to do so. It may save lives.

(Dr. Van Dellen will answer questions on medical topics if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.)

ECZEMA FROM MILK

S. H. writes: If a young child develops eczema when she drinks cow's milk, will she outgrow this sensitivity in time?

REPLY Many children outgrow this type of allergy but there is no guarantee that she will not develop hives, asthma, or hay fever in years to come. The allergic person tends to keep his sensitivities but the form of the reaction may change. I assume the child you inquire about no longer drinks cow's milk.

INHALING SMOKE

J. M. writes: Is it more harmful to inhale cigars or cigarettes?

REPLY Take your choice—one is as bad as the other. Most cigar smokers don't inhale and for this reason they cough less.

Today's Health Hint—Use your allotted time wisely.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(April 25, 1937)

The Miniature Rifle Club of No. 6 Signals held its annual dinner at the Armouries Thursday night. Major F. Conrad, officer commanding, presided. Presentations were made to Mr. W. Smith, armouries caretaker, Douglas Mayne, secretary of the club, and Wesley Dennis for the club's highest average score 91.1 for 32 shots. The Purdie-Furgison shield was presented to a team captained by Douglas Mayne.

The first dance of the season which was held in the new 5 and 10 department at Holman's Summerside store, was a great success, the dance was under the auspices of the Golf Club. The chaperones were Mrs. E. T. Tanton and Mrs. F. J. E. Wright. The Garden of the Gulf orchestra furnished the music.

TEN YEARS AGO

(April 28, 1952)

Word has been received by Senior Capt. Tilcombe, at Salvation Army Headquarters here that the International Staff Army Band, of London, England, will arrive in Montreal by air on May 8 from London, to begin a tour of Canada. The band will be flown immediately to Ottawa, where an official reception will be tendered the party, by Prime Minister St. Laurent.

John W. Mennie, assistant manager of F. W. Woolworth Co., Ltd. who has been transferred to the Moncton, N.B. store left today for that city. Prior to leaving, both he and Mrs. Mennie were entertained at several social functions, and beautiful gifts presented. Sincere regrets were expressed on their departure.

Authors!

Leading book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly and religious works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free booklet CP-36, Vantage Press, 120 W. 21 St., New York 11.

Speaking for Myself

Are Tories Here Over-Confident?

The best fun for me out of the Island visit of the Hon. Lester B. Pearson on Wednesday came almost as a by-product—the chance to chat with a few old and trusted friends in the press party travelling with the Liberal leader.

They gave me some slants on the campaign that differ a lot from those I've been able to see while staying at home and tending my knitting. Among other things, they showed me that the "as others see us" view of Island affairs is sharply different from what is seen by those of us who look at them from here.

The men with whom I talked, including several I consider among the ablest observers in Canada, all appeared to be enormously impressed by Mr. Pearson's Charlottetown meeting; to consider it highly successful and significant.

SOME RESTRAINT

Among Islanders, however, including several of Liberal leaning, I've heard the meeting described as "overblown" from "a little disappointing" to "highly effective," but, in general, such enthusiasm as I've met has been of a somewhat restrained variety.

In particular, I've been told by those who listened to the meeting over the radio that "the amount of applause was disappointing"—"there wasn't much election fervor"—and that "the things Mr. Pearson said were too generalized to win votes and strengthen party support."

Well, according to some of my friends in the press party, the answer to such reactions is that this is going to be a campaign, all across Canada, in which "there's going to be more thinking than cheering." On such a basis it could be argued that Charlottetown's reception to Mr. Pearson reflects the tone the whole campaign is expected to take, rather than being an indication of particular Island attitudes.

FADED APPEAL?

Some of my visiting friends went so far as to declare that the appeal of the "evangelist meeting approach" has gone out of politics for most Canadians.

Certainly, after attending last Wednesday's meeting, I can at least go along with my friends to the point of saying that the hearing given Mr. Pearson did appear to be exceptionally thoughtful—that it was a warm and appreciative meeting, even though it did

not go in much for roof-raising.

On the whole, though, no matter what my friends say, I must admit that I remain in the "show me" mood about their idea that this is going to be a campaign which will stir "more thinking than cheering."

HARD TO ASSESS

Ahead of that, however, I do see some point to the arguments of the visitors that the people of the Maritimes may be too far removed from what is going on in Ontario and Quebec to be in a good position to understand the way the whole campaign is going.

One observer I respect particularly had this to say: "The Maritimes have been depressed for so long that their political thinking tends to centre on matters such as special grants from Ottawa. There is less belief in the Maritimes than elsewhere in the proposition that it is a strengthening of the economy, far more than such grants, that is Canada's greatest need."

"When unhappiness with the government develops in Ontario and Quebec, it is upon different grounds than generally become expressed in the Maritimes. There is a great deal of such unhappiness now, and it is in Ontario and Quebec that the outcome of the election is going to be decided."

TOUGHER CONTEST

"It is the Ontario and Quebec people who were swept along by the 'revival meeting mood' in 1958—by the spirit of 'let's give the Conservatives a chance'—who are giving the fullest backing this year to an 'appeal to reason' campaign."

Again I'm reserving judgment on that point, while passing the comments along on a basis of "for what they are worth." If nothing more, though, the comments of the visiting observers did leave me with the impression that the Conservative party, in Canada as a whole, is facing a far tougher contest than is expected by any of its leaders on the Island.

Buxton Lewis

DRUG STORE OPEN THIS WEEKEND MacKENZIE'S PHARMACY GREAT GEORGE STREET Will be open Saturday afternoon and will be the only Drug Store open Saturday evening. "Open All Day Sunday and Sunday Evening". DIAL 4-4920 FREE DELIVERY

Memo from your Master Feeds Dealer: Feeding pigs well isn't expensive - it means more profit at market time. Hearty appetites now, mean healthy profits at marketing. That's why it does your heart... and your pocket... good to see pigs dig into Master Littlepig Pellets, Pig Perk Pellets and Pig Starlet Pellets.