

Ironic Conclusion

Prime Minister Pearson's proposal for a Commonwealth declaration of racial equality is reported to have made a big hit at the Commonwealth conference on Monday. It won the approval of the African delegates and drew from the Manchester Guardian a signal tribute of commendation.

The proposal emphasized that the Commonwealth "has a particular role to play in the search for solutions to the inter-racial problems which are threatening the orderly development of mankind in general and of many particular areas in the world today." It called upon the prime ministers to affirm their belief that "for all Commonwealth governments, it should be an objective of policy to build in each country a structure of society which confers equal opportunity and non-discrimination for all its people irrespective of race, color or creed."

Meanwhile, at Geneva on the same day, a conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization came to an abrupt halt over an issue involving racial inequality in a non-Commonwealth country. The break-up came when African and Communist states insisted on bringing to a vote their resolution calling for the expulsion of Portugal. African delegations shouted and stamped their feet as delegates of 40 countries—including Canada, Britain and the United States—walked out.

This was the first time that Western countries, including the Latin American republics, had walked out of an international conference in protest against an African resolution. The 50 countries that remained in the conference cast 43 votes in favor of the resolution with seven abstentions.

Doubtless there were valid reasons for the walkout; but unfortunately it is likely to provide more Communist propaganda among African states that can be offset by all the speeches in favor of racial equality at the Commonwealth conference in London. It just goes to show what an appallingly difficult problem is involved in this age-old issue, and how much remains to be done before a solution can be hoped for.

Questions On Cyprus

Asked in the House of Commons this week about a possible evacuation of the 1,122-man Canadian contingent in Cyprus, Defense Minister Hellyer said his department is fully aware of its responsibilities to maintain the contingent and is keeping in mind the interests of Canadian troops. He declined a direct reply to NDP Leader Douglas seeking assurance there would be no Canadian withdrawal from the island without the agreement of the United Nations. Yet he emphasized that the Government "does not intend to take any action which would lower the potential power of the United Nations in Cyprus."

These ambiguous answers don't satisfy the Opposition, nor were they calculated to give much enlightenment to the Canadian public generally. But Mr. Hellyer here is in a difficult position, as we are inclined to agree with a commentator who argues that he is right in refusing to be drawn on a subject of this kind. The anxious questioning to which he is being subjected is understandable, but his reluctance in giving specific answers is based on sound reasons.

The Cyprus situation is in a state bordering on crisis. There is no doubt a good deal of information

coming into the defense department which it would be improper to disclose publicly, either because Canada is only one contributor to the international force there, or because publication would have an adverse effect on negotiations involving the peace of the whole area. Under such circumstances, with the threat of spreading war in the eastern Mediterranean, the minister alone can be the judge of whether a particular reply would, or would not, breach the public interest.

External Affairs Minister Martin drew pointed attention to this fact before the committee on external affairs when he said that in the parliaments of the other countries contributing forces to the United Nations, "the day-by-day conduct of the force has not been a subject for the governments concerned to constantly defend or explain."

This does not relieve a minister of the obligation of being as forthright as possible with the House. But it is one of the few cases in which discretion must be conceded to lie with the minister himself. It is obvious that the Opposition also bears a responsibility, in exercising reasonable restraint in the questions it puts to the Government.

Merits Priority

The growing public concern over the problem of mental illness is strikingly reflected in the proceedings of the Royal Commission on Health Services. The commission received more briefs on this topic than on any other, apart from the organization and financing of medical services generally, and it has given it a key position in its report.

The report proposes, among other things, that the federal Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act be amended to designate wards of mental hospitals in which patients are receiving active or convalescent care as "facilities" under the act. The effect would be to place provincial mental hospitals eligible for federal grants on the same basis as general hospitals.

As has been pointed out many times, one reason for the unsatisfactory state of mental health care in Canada is lack of funds. Despite the prevalence of mental disease, very much less is spent on its treatment than on the treatment of physical illness. A system of federal grants to mental hospitals such as the commission urges would do a great deal to correct this situation and improve the standard of care.

Nor is there reason why further time should be lost in introducing this reform. It would not require a constitutional amendment or elaborate consultations with the provinces. It has been suggested that the Government could bring down the necessary legislation at the present session of Parliament. Why not? We can't imagine any party opposing a measure of this kind, or raising any objection to it being given priority on the agenda.

Junk By The Highway

Nova Scotia has taken action to ensure against turning areas in the vicinity of highways into junk yards and scrapheaps. Since July 1, anyone in the province who wishes to keep old cars, used machinery or scrap metal within 1,500 feet of the centre line of a provincial highway must first get a license from the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities.

Under the new act the board must be satisfied that "the premises upon which such bodies of automobiles or other materials are placed, stored or kept will not be unsightly or offensive to any part of the travelling public."

This move has drawn an expression of warm approval from the Montreal Gazette. Nothing, it says truly, is so depressing as the sight of whole fields full of ruin and decay. Such junkyards have their place. But their place is out of sight. It may be hoped that a law will be passed in every province to put these rusty graveyards where they cannot be seen.

EDITORIAL NOTE

"A few years from now," predicts the London Free Press, "when all the bills have been paid, there will almost certainly be a Royal Commission on the Costs and Results of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism—and so on, ad infinitum."



SHADES OF JOHN FOSTER DULLES

CRISIS FOR KRUSHCHEV

Fateful Meeting Scheduled For Warsaw

Soviet Premier Khrushchev is faced with one of the biggest crises of his career. It is not the great schism with China—although that is directly connected with the danger now threatening him. It is the situation in Eastern and Central Europe, where Moscow's once monolithic control of the local Communist parties is being eroded faster and faster, with poor Mr. Khrushchev seeming increasingly impotent to stop the process.

The East German uprising of 1953 and the events of 1956 in Poland and Hungary were a serious challenge to Moscow. But then the Kremlin was able, in the last resort, to use force to impose its will.

Threatened with insubordination from the national Communist parties today, Mr. Khrushchev knows that he cannot use force and guns to do this. He has to get away with it. The month is far too deeply splintered for it ever to be put together again—even with armed force.

Poland and Romania are the countries to watch. Both have managed to assert their independence of Moscow, while still professing their loyalty to communism and yet avoiding identification with the Chinese interpretation of party dogma.

Both are apparently determined to resist Mr. Khrushchev's pressure to get them to toe the line and concur in an early expulsiion of China from the world Communist movement.

But Mr. Khrushchev has now put the cat among the pigeons by ordering the Red Army to act too crudely. On June 15, Wladyslaw Gomulka addressed a meeting of the Communist Party and told it, in effect, that Poland would agree to Moscow's will only after careful preparation.

On the very same day, the Public Forum column in this column is open to the discussion of news items of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse any views expressed. All letters published are subject to the usual editorial selection. The Guardian is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding editorial submissions.

INLETS AND OUTLETS: Since there has been so great hue and cry in this province for more liquor outlets, and the requests have been mounting. Yet there are many of the thirsty ones who are not satisfied. The problem of satisfying liquor has plagued the human race since the dawn of history; and the indications are that it will be no until history folds up.

Voluntarism has been the cause of the evil. It is beyond the power of man to control his fleshly appetites. Only the Grace of God can do that. It is a sad fact that there are a victim of strong drink. I plead with you to seek God's aid to help you to break the habit. Before it will be too late.

There are many passages in the Bible that condemn drunkenness, but I will only make one request of you who may be inclined toward the common liquor. Take the Bible and turn to 1st Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 11, and skip to verse 10. Remembering that if there were fewer "inlets," there would be less need of more "outlets," and vice versa.

W.D. JOHNSTON, Editor.

Vitiligo Poses A Challenge

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellig SOME people lose skin pigment in irregular islands. The individual does not look forward to the summer months because of the condition. White patches on the hands become whiter as it more noticeable. This is an ill-looked upon condition, and it is a challenge to the dermatologist.

Vitiligo presents a challenge to dermatologist. The patches are round, irregular, flat and vary in size. Only one or two may be present or disappear at will. The patches are on the body surface. The hairs over the affected skin may lose color.

Vitiligo should not be confused with albinism. In these cases the pigment is lacking but pigment is forming cells in the eyes. In vitiligo, successful treatment depends upon whether the patches are stimulated with hormones or methoxsalen drugs.

The patches are usually or painted over the lesions. This makes the skin overly sensitive to ultraviolet light. The patches may be stimulated provided the individual is exposed to ultraviolet light. The dosage of sunlight about 45 minutes after the medicine is used.

Burning must be avoided and the product should never be used more than the superficial skin. The patches are usually or painted over the lesions. This makes the skin overly sensitive to ultraviolet light. The patches may be stimulated provided the individual is exposed to ultraviolet light.

ALBINO AND AGE: S.M. writes: Is it true that old age is caused by calcium leaving the body? REPLY: No, but many oldsters suffer from a deficiency of calcium because of too little in their diet. As a result, the body needs the mineral for the bones and a variety of symptoms occur, including backache and bowing of extremities.

UNLIKELY: A.P. writes: Could heavy drinking on the part of the father cause a baby to be mentally retarded? REPLY: Probably, considering the many causes of mental retardation and the number of children with this condition. If the parents are not heavy drinkers, the child is unlikely to be mentally retarded.

PUNCTURE AFTER STROKE: C.M. writes: Why is a spinal puncture given after a stroke? This is not a routine procedure in strokes. But it is done now and then to determine whether a hemorrhage is responsible for symptoms.

E.K. writes: I have heard rumors that the paths following her husband's death were extremely severe. Is this so? This is a sensitive area and the surgeon orders medication to relieve pain.

Weapons For Fanatics? Milwaukee Journal: Plans of weapons for their own defense. "If you are ever going to buy a gun, buy it now!" declares the article. This is a group of individuals who are also selling surplus arms at cost to NRA members. The purpose is to help improve the marksmanship of civilians as a part of the country's national defense program.

OLYMPIC SATELITE: TOKYO (AP)—Postal Minister Shinzo Koike said Tuesday the United States has agreed to Japan's request for launching a Syncom satellite to enable telecasts of the October Tokyo Olympics to North America and South America.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Anxious to have his fortune told, the young man decided to go to the local Swami. As he sat down, he noticed that the Swami's crystal ball had two holes. "What's the matter with the holes?" he inquired curiously. "Well, on Wednesday night the norm 1 skin arounding the white spots tans whereas the unpigmented areas remain colorless."

A company that manufactures fishing lure advertisements several as having "sex appeal" for the fish. It talks about the "swinging grass skirts" and the "crazy cranks that drive fish mad". They are very nearly driving us mad with its talk. —Peterborough Examiner.

Erhard Takes Tougher Line

The odd thing about West German politics is the most violent opposition to Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's policies come from within his own party. The 67-year-old chancellor is displaying unusual muscle in his latest foreign policy dispute with Konrad Adenauer, 80-year-old chairman of the Christian Democratic Union and former chancellor.

In this intra-party battle, Adenauer has linked his job with President von Guille's executive of curly Franz-Josef Strauss, 48-year-old former deputy, and a broader European issue with the steam up and the brakes on.

Leaders of Germany's Gaullism, they want immediate steps toward a political union with President de Gaulle's France while Erhard and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder, 55, seek a broader European union, eventually including Britain.

Erhard carried the fight to the weekend, stating flatly that the "right time to decide the course of German policy—without its and but."

Now the whole thing is to be discussed at a regular meeting next Monday, where Schröder at least will have a chance to defend himself. VOTE GETTER: The hard fact appears to be the intra-party struggle between Schröder because of his encouragement of diplomatic talks and trade with Communist Eastern Europe as well as his antagonism to unilateral Franco-German union.

It isn't clear whether Schröder's position has been seriously undermined and there certainly seemed a new firmness in Erhard's words in Munich when he said: "Some people say we need Erhard to win the next elections. We must not press him too hard. They make a grave error. I do not make policy to win elections, but for Germany and the whole German people."

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