

Politicians Still Hash Over Speech PM Did Not Make

By KEN KELLY
OTTAWA (CP)—Liberals and Conservatives, never more concerned with the rights of debate in Parliament since the 1956 pipeline debate, are still hashing over the speech that wasn't made.

And, judging from the amount of conversation devoted to the matter on both sides of the political fence, the public will be hearing further about it in the months to come.

All centres on the Dec. 19 incident in which Prime Minister Diefenbaker attempted to make some remarks in the Commons in the wake of a roaring address by Opposition Leader Pearson.

In the Conservative view, Mr. Diefenbaker was bowled down by Mr. Pearson's partisans. In the Liberal view, inexperienced opposition MPs were caught in a clever trap in which Mr. Diefenbaker made it appear as though he were prevented from speaking.

The Liberals are taking steps to prepare their followers to counter Conservative allegations over the incident. Chief advocate of the Liberal side is J. W. Pickersgill (L—Bonaville-Twillington) who has written the Liberal side of the case for distribution among Liberals.

Mr. Pickersgill is the author

of the "clever trap" theory, basing it on his interpretation of the Hansard report of the debate. He argues Mr. Diefenbaker "was twice given the opportunity to speak" and he refused to accept it.

Mr. Pickersgill points to the Hansard report reference to Mr. Diefenbaker's attempt to gain the floor immediately after Mr. Pearson concluded his speech.

When Hazel Angus (L—Assiniboia) interrupted Mr. Diefenbaker to state "even the prime minister cannot break the rules," the Hansard records Mr. Diefenbaker as stating: "Did you mention 'breaking the rules'? No, I will not carry on."

The rules were involved because the Commons had been scheduled to turn to other business at that hour. But Mr. Pickersgill contends the Commons had given Mr. Diefenbaker unanimous consent to bend them slightly to make his remarks because the prime minister was scheduled to leave for Nassau the following day.

The second opportunity, says Mr. Pickersgill, occurred a few minutes later when Mr. Pearson invited Mr. Diefenbaker to complete the remarks he had tried earlier to get on the record.

Mr. Pickersgill again goes to the Hansard record of Mr. Diefenbaker's reply:

"Mr. Speaker, in view of the sudden change of front and change of conscience that offer is no longer accepted."

Then, says Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Diefenbaker "walked out of the House in real or pretended indignation and was not present . . . when he would have had the right to speak if he had wanted to."

HAD TWO CHANCES
"In other words, the Hansard record shows that far from denying the prime minister the right to speak he was twice given the opportunity and he refused to accept it." Nor did he avail himself of an opportunity to speak the next day before his departure, delayed by then because of other circumstances.

The incident, Mr. Pickersgill summarizes, supports those "who have had experience of Mr. Diefenbaker's parliamentary tactics and who suspect his whole performance on Wednesday, Dec. 19, was really a clever trap in which a number of inexperienced members of Parliament were caught."

The Guardian, Charlottesville, Tues. Jan. 8, 1963. 9

KINGSBORO
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Rose, East Baltic, left to spend Christmas and New Year's with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Colin Dixon, Watertown, Conn.

Roy Bruce, North River and Arnold Bruce, Mt. Mellick, attended the funeral of Ernest Stewart at Kingsboro United Baptist Church.

James Robertson, Kingsboro, is a patient in the Souris Hospital where he recently underwent surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan MacDowell and daughter Ann, Glen Valley, were Sunday visitors to Bothwell, the guests of Mrs. S. J. MacVane.

Mrs. Garfield Stewart, East Baltic, is a patient in the Souris Hospital where she has been undergoing treatment.

Mrs. William Robertson, Kingsboro, left recently to spend some time with members of her family in Toronto, Ont.

Lloyd Kennedy, Charlottetown, attended the funeral of

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SIX-YEAR-OLD SERGEANT

Sgt. Rob Electro of the RCAF's base at Clinton, Ont., gets no pay, no meals and no weekend passes. The electronic robot was built six years ago for demonstrating radio control in a guided missiles school. It became outdated, however, and was placed in

QC Honorary Appointments May Shrink In Future Years

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Storage last year. Now, it's been reinstalled as a highly popular public relations gimmick at RCAF shows across Canada. Above, it prepares to salute Group Capt. J.G. Mathieson, Clinton's commanding officer. (CP Wirephoto)

of the 133 men were given the honorary appointment of Queen's Counsel during 1962, but there are indications that the figure may shrink in future years.

A survey by The Canadian Press shows that Ontario, with 95 new QCs, accounted for about two-thirds of the year's appointments. Quebec had 40, Manitoba 10, Nova Scotia five and Saskatchewan three.

None of the other five provinces awarded the honor during the year. British Columbia has made no appointments since 1950, Newfoundland none since 1959. Alberta names a list of 15 to 20 QCs only in odd years.

Across most of Canada, the title of Queen's Counsel is awarded to lawyers—barristers or solicitors—who have been in the legal profession for at least 10 years and show special merit.

However, in Ontario several lawyers—Queen's Counsel themselves—have suggested that the title be restricted to barristers, or courtroom lawyers, rather than the profession generally, which includes solicitors who handle no courtroom work.

BALTIC

Miss Mary Rogers, teacher of Baltic School has been confined to her home through illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cousins, Baltic, were motorists to Charlottetown on Saturday.

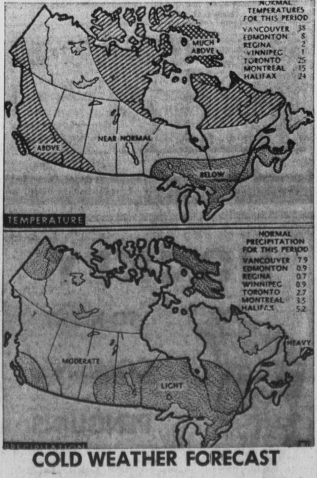
Mrs. Lester Woodside has returned to her home in Malpeque after spending some time with relatives in Moncton, N.B.

Miss Cecilia Hunter, Baltic, was a recent visitor to Summerside.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pendergast of Charlottetown were motorists to Kensington on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Somers and two sons Philip and Ronald of Indian River have taken up residence at their home in Clermont. Mr. Somers recently sold his farm property at Indian River to Mr. Francis Galant of Summerside.

C.V.



COLD WEATHER FORECAST

The United States weather bureau's 30-day forecast calls for below normal temperatures in Southern Ontario, Quebec and most of the Maritime provinces during January. Above-normal temperatures are in store for northern Quebec and B.C., according to the outlook based on long-range pre-

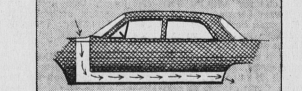
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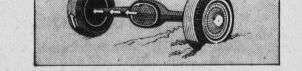
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