

Commons Committee Dismisses Retired Commodore's Charges

By DAVE MCINTOSH
OTTAWA (CP) — The Commons defence committee in effect Tuesday dismissed charges of negligence brought against the navy by retired Commodore James Plomer.

Commodore Plomer offered to testify again after the committee had heard the rebuttal of Vice-Admiral Herbert Rayner, chief of naval staff.

But the committee declined to hear Commodore Plomer further. Committee members said privately that they had in effect dismissed Commodore Plomer's charges of negligence in the operation of the fleet and of bad morale.

Admiral Rayner said he had recommended a year ago that Commodore Plomer, then deputy naval commander, be released from the navy. Former defence minister Douglas Harkness then had "directed" that

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a year ago proved the navy's operational readiness in an emergency. In the Atlantic Fleet, only two per cent of refuel time was caused by unscheduled repairs such as storm damage or breakdown.

Mid-spoken Admiral Rayner, who won the Distinguished Service Cross and has as a destroyer commander in the Second World War, conceded that some of Commodore Plomer's charges had an "element of truth."

"The navy is not perfect," he said. "Mistakes are made. There are conditions that require remedy. There is frustration."

"In a peacetime service," he said, "it is sometimes difficult for individuals to maintain a real sense of purpose."

"But I know I speak for the whole of the navy when I say that if the navy were called on tomorrow, or today, to serve Canada in an emergency, it would be ready. Of this I am absolutely confident, absolutely certain."

Admiral Rayner said there have been ship breakdowns because of design deficiencies or inadequate or faulty maintenance and gave the committee a list of them in the last three years.

But he said the Cuban crisis

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P.E.I. CONTRACTORS HEAR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The benefits of public contract tendering and the carrying out of construction projects by private construction companies rather than by government departments were outlined at a meeting in Charlottetown yesterday by the president of the Canadian Construction Association, T. A. Somerville, Toronto. Shown above are left to right, Mr.

Research Money Beggars For Pesticides Probe

By KEN KELLY
OTTAWA (CP) — Research funds are "going begging" for studies of the residues left in soils and vegetation by insect and pest-killing chemicals, the Commons food and drugs committee was told Tuesday.

"There is research money available from the chemical industry that is going begging because this is an area that the universities and colleges just aren't going into," said Dr. Henry Hurlig, a senior officer of the federal agriculture department's research branch.

Dr. Hurlig said the federal government has tried to encourage the provinces to take an interest in residues which may build up to a danger level. Federal grants for testing programs were available but so far only Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba had taken advantage of them.

Dr. Hurlig and a group of agriculture department officials testified in the Commons committee continuing the hazards of food contamination from insecticides and pesticides and of the safety and costs of drugs.

In reply to a suggestion from Ron Basford (L — Vancouver Burrard) that the dangers of misuse of insecticides outweigh benefits from them, Dr. Robert Glen, chief of the department's research branch, said it is difficult to legislate against misuse.

USER'S RESPONSIBILITY
Correct usage was placed on container labels but it was the user's responsibility to carry out the instructions. He did not think the risks of misuse so great as to warrant outright prohibition.

Mr. Basford suggested a public health of pesticides and insecticides including their toxic effects, antidotes, uses and possible side effects.

W. S. McLeod, supervisor of the department's pesticide unit, said such an index has been prepared but large sums of money and a big staff would be required to publish, distribute and maintain it.

Dr. Hurlig said agricultural extension specialists have been asking for such a published index. The United States maintained one at great expense.

Gerald W. Baldwin (PC — Peace River) suggested that the

PM Suggests Birthday Gift To Aid Needy

OTTAWA (CP) — Prime Minister Pearson suggested Tuesday night Canadians might mark their 100th birthday in 1967 with a voluntary program of aid for the needy in other lands.

He suggested "missions of mercy abroad — aid for education, a Canadian corps of volunteers for service to peoples less fortunate than we are."

Mr. Pearson made the suggestion during a dinner speech at the first meeting of the National Centennial Conference — a 60-member advisory group formed to help government planners of the 1967 celebrations.

Pontecorvo Said Behind Breakthrough

GENEVA (AP) — Turcoman scientist Bruno Pontecorvo, who is believed to have helped the Russians produce their first atom bomb, was named Tuesday as one of the men behind a new nuclear physics breakthrough at the European Centre for Nuclear Research laboratories here.

A spokesman for Cern said the breakthrough may mean the discovery of a family of weak atomic particles. He said the experiment was carried out after research work by the Italian-born Pontecorvo in the Soviet Union and American physicist M. Schwartz.

Pontecorvo was working at the British nuclear research centre at Harwell when he defected to the Soviet Union in 1950 after an Italian vacation.

He previously worked in Canada and the United States.

The Cern spokesman said the latest experiment has taken several years to execute. He added that he was confident the final results, expected in about two months, will prove the discovery of a new family of atomic particles, known as "W" particles. The "W" stands for weak.

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