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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

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Liberals Follow Suit

They say a lot of oldtimers are still muttering in their beards "Shaw Centre" when the new provincial building complex is mentioned, notwithstanding the government ukase that has gone out, obliterating the Tory-associated name from the memory of man.

In the circumstances, perhaps it would be better to let stand the name the Pearson government has bestowed on the great dam on the South Saskatchewan river near Outlook, Sask., which has already given rise to a political storm involving all three major parties.

The dispute springs from the government's decision to name the dam officially the Gardiner dam, in honor of the late James G. Gardiner, long-time Liberal minister of agriculture at Ottawa and before that twice premier of Saskatchewan.

At the same time, the cooperation of the government of Saskatchewan—at that time headed by T. C. Douglas—was necessary, both in supplying some provincial funds and in agreeing to have the province operate the dam after it was built.

Why didn't they just call it the South Saskatchewan dam and be done with it? A good question, this, for Mr. Campbell to ask Mr. Pearson in a gently chiding manner, when he gets the opportunity.

Those Trading Stamps

The present inquiry into food prices has brought out some interesting facts about trading stamps. The vice-president of merchandising for the largest food chain in Canada told the parliamentary committee that trading stamps had cost his company more than \$1,500,000 in each of the last five years, and that they had been forced on his company because competitors offered them.

But the evidence didn't all run in this direction. A spokesman for yet another large food chain testified that his organization does not use trading stamps. This store's profits after taxes were higher than the

other two (2.34 per cent against 2.07 per cent and 1.9 per cent), but a list of comparative prices of this company and the other two (plus one more) showed that it sold a quarter or more of its merchandise at lower prices than its competitors.

So it would appear that food stores do not, after all, have to give trading stamps to attract business. And if a chain does not, its profits are higher, its prices cheaper. This adds force to the arguments of Frank Howard, NDP member for Skeena, who has before the Commons a bill which would make it an offence for stores to issue trading stamps and similar coupons.

A similar agitation, we note, is under way in several American centres. The Federal Trade Commission has been asked to look into the matter. Certainly the subject is important enough to warrant the closest scrutiny by legislative authorities, on both sides of the line.

Factory-made Homes

The need to provide more housing in the lower price range is general across Canada. Perhaps the real solution lies in an inquiry the Ontario Housing Corporation has undertaken, with a view to getting manufacturers of building materials together to find ways of producing prefabricated homes and factory-made components.

As the Hamilton Spectator observes in this connection, it has become extremely difficult for people of modest means to make an ambition of owning their own home as they did until a few years ago. The price of a lot today very often exceeds what would have been the price of the lot and the home on it 15 years ago.

Here again the difficulty is to bring down costs. The mind turns at once to mass production which is the surest way of doing it. At the same time this produces some dreary mental images—rows and rows of houses all alike, inside and out, planted on lots all the same size—like a glimpse of "1984".

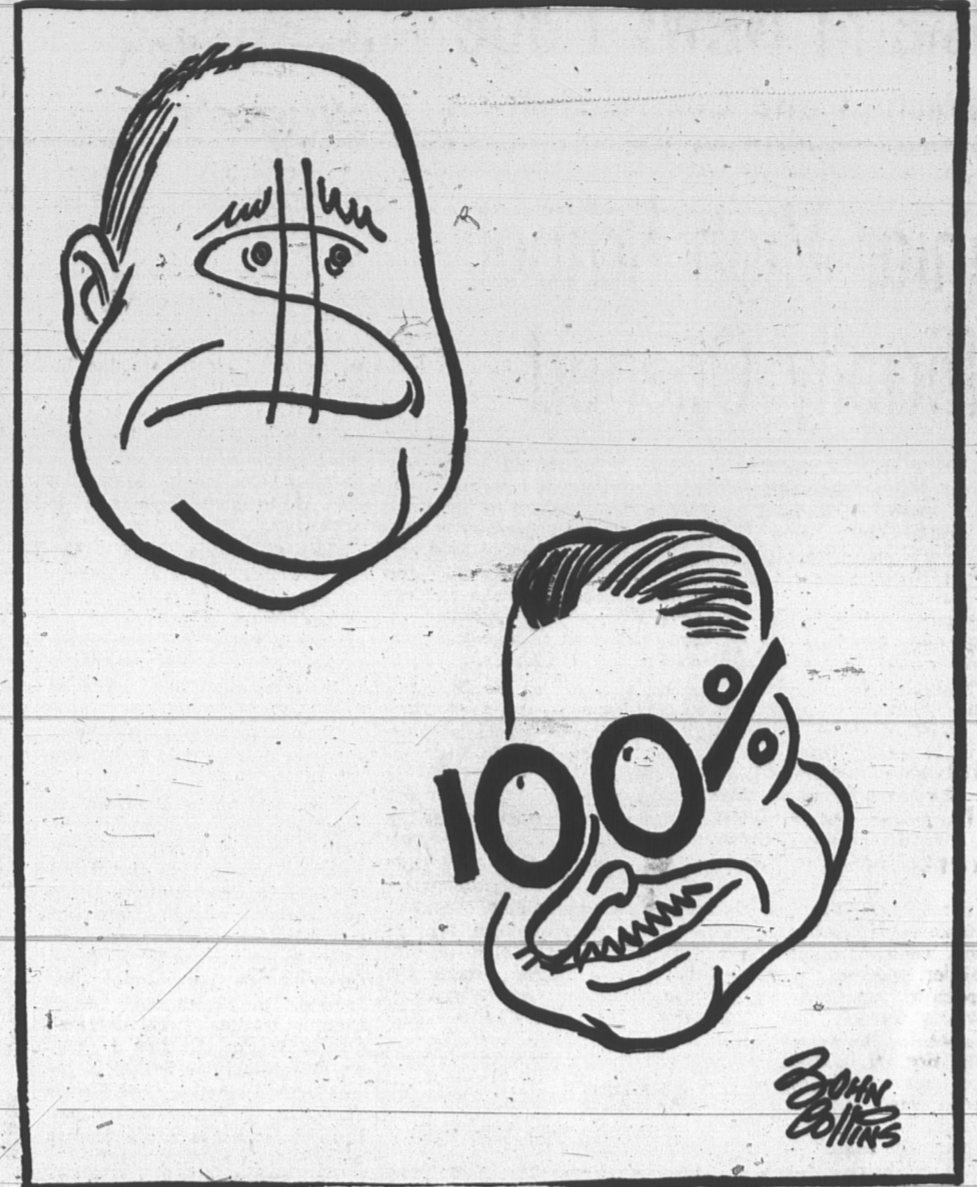
It is this image that the Ontario Housing Corporation is seeking to avoid. It intends to invite manufacturers of glass, steel, concrete, wood, aluminum, plastics and other building materials to meet and put forward their ideas. Can it be done? Can an endless stream of houses be produced, all of them more or less individualistic and yet made to a price? They would not, of course, all have to be different. It is repetition that produces monotony, and the solution might lie in concentrating on a fixed number of models in each area—merely enough to provide the needed variety.

The Ontario experiment, if it gets well launched, will be followed with interest across the country. Indeed it is surprising, in this day and age, that it wasn't undertaken long ago.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The European Free Trade Association reports that since 1959, trade has doubled. In the same period, among its eight member countries trade among its Nordic members has leaped 150 per cent. The organization's next objective is to remove all protective tariffs on manufactured goods traded inside the area. This is slated for Jan. 1. It will establish a free trade area of some 90 million persons.

Water and air aren't the only things that are being polluted nowadays. A writer in an American magazine deplores the pollution of language by pompous television announcers and educators. He complains that education has become "the education process." Instead of driving, schools at first taught "driver education" and more recently replaced even that redundancy with "programs for teaching driver education skills." Adding substance to this complaint, the New York Times reports a school principal who, in objecting to long-haired students, said they were "disruptive of the learning situation."



MR. SHARP MEET MR. JOHNSON

OTTAWA REPORT by Patrick Nicholson

Acute Crisis Threatened In Medical Services

While Parliament was debating the introduction of medicare, a deputation from the Canadian Medical Association very appropriately called upon Health Minister Allan MacEachen. Its purpose was to urge the minister to modify his plans for the deferral of medicare until July 1968, and to make it available forthwith for the 30 per cent of Canadians with inadequate incomes.

GP's; it also emphasizes the large number of Canadians who cannot afford to see a doctor as often as they should. WILL DETERIORATE The experience in other countries shows that universal medicare increases the demands for doctors' services. With Canada's present medical staff, today's problem in general practice would become a crisis under medicare.

planning to introduce medicare thus should have had the foresight to inaugurate its plans with a 15-year lead-time; to do otherwise was to place the patient's cart before the doctor's horse.

Dogs Prefer Postmen

We see that postmen out in Vancouver are getting set to give dogs a hard time. Because postmen are favorite targets for dogs—some 579 Vancouver letter carriers were bitten last year—postal authorities are going to equip each carrier with a spray gun loaded with an animal repellent derived from the pepper plant. The theory, we suppose, is that the unfortunate recipients will be kept so busy sneezing they will not be able to put the bite on the postmen.

Are We So Impoverished?

It's nonsensical that the more prosperous this country becomes the less it can afford for services to citizens. Yet that seems to be the way the postal service goes. The latest proposal to make it poorer comes from the royal commission on post office department working conditions. One of its recommendations is to stop Saturday home deliveries.

Our Yesterdays

Private business establishments employing more than 50 persons and building contractors employing more than 10 must pay a cost-of-living bonus to every employee with the rank of foreman or lower after Feb. 15, announced Labor Minister McLarty.

Gobbins Night Out

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Halloween is a big night for the small fry. Adult drivers should slow down and drive with extra caution. Many tots are so excited they run across the streets without looking to the right and left.

The destructive vandalism of generations ago is passe. Teenagers will do their contemporaries a favor by acting like sober adults for a few hours. Keep pets, especially dogs, in the house and leave the porch light burning for the safety of all concerned.

If there is a tyke in your household who is looking forward to "trick or treating" make it as safe as possible for him. Light-colored costumes and those decorated with reflector tape are more easily seen by motorists.

Halloween costumes can be flameproofed by dipping the garments into three quarts of warm water, seven ounces of borax, and three ounces of boric acid. Flimsy materials, baggy sleeves, and billowy skirts are fire hazards.

Diabetes types There are many types of active diabetes. The juvenile type is controlled with insulin; the kind that develops later is controlled with anti-diabetic pills.

CELLS AND X-RAY Mrs. N. W. writes: Does X-ray for cancer affect the normal cells?

REPLY Malignant cells are more sensitive to the effects of X-ray than both normal and abnormal cells would be destroyed if the dose were large enough.

TENDERIZERS IN COOKING Mrs. F. writes: My husband thinks it is harmful to use meat tenderizers in cooking. Do you think so?

ANEMIA IN PREGNANCY Mrs. K. writes: Does pregnancy cause anemia?

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—Everyone has some degree of anxiety.

Currents Of Change

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington WASHINGTON (CP) — International conferences in Manila, Moscow, New Delhi and Europe testify to the currents of change in the established order of power.

China, more isolated than ever, is a primary cause. The Manila meeting of the United States and its six South Viet Nam allies represents recognition of those allies—whatever their earlier fears about American policy—that the U.S. is in the struggle to stay and that the Communist bid for military victory in the south has been frustrated.

At Moscow, the Soviet Union conferred with its Eastern European allies: Mongolia and Cuba. One main question was the future of China, although any Soviet hopes of unanimous condemnation of its maverick neighbor were not fulfilled.

The other main question was the U.S. initiative to improve relations despite the war in Viet Nam. In Europe, the U.S., Britain and West Germany are discussing their contributions to the detente. There are likely to be reductions in American and British troop commitments in West Germany under NATO—desirable for economic reasons—and cooling-off of West German aspirations for a larger nuclear role in NATO to fit its bigger-power status.

In New Delhi, the leaders of India, Yugoslavia and the United Arab Republic met without causing any of the international ripples the leading members of the non-aligned world once were able to create.

The neutralist world today is divided and without the influence it might have claimed once. India and the U.A.R. have internal problems; the crusading fervor has left Albania, Ghana, Indonesia and some other Afro-Asian areas.

In Vino Veritas

Wine that was bottled at the time of Waterloo was on sale in London last week when the famous firm of auctioneers, Christie's, held its first wine auction since the war. There was a bottle of Madeira of 1815 and two ancient bottles of Madeira whose exact year is not known.

Clarets of 1945 will delight many a wine drinker who may have ambivalent memories of that vintage if he was among those who drank it fresh from the vineyards while in uniform; both the wine and the drinker being then much younger and with much less body.

It used to be, and probably still is, the pleasure of children to build enormous sand castles at low tide on the beaches near St. Malo, on the coast of Brittany in France.

The children, eternal optimists girdle their castles with sand walls three feet high, jump inside the barrier and dare the flood tide to breach it.

Centuries ago the French began harnessing this tidal power, a gift of the gravitational pull of the moon. Mills were set up on tidal creeks. The incoming tide filled a basin was held in check by dikes and turned a mill wheel when it flowed out at ebb tide.

400-foot long holds the tidal flood. Built into the dam are 24 French design generator "bulbs" each 45 feet long and 18 feet in diameter and resembling miniature submarines.

The project, begun in 1960, has attracted Americans and Canadians hopeful that the same techniques can be used in the long planned, long stalled Passamaquoddy tidal power project in Canada's Bay of Fundy.

Proposed as early as 1920 by Franklin D. Roosevelt, found economically feasible by Interior Secretary Udall only three years ago, the proposal has attracted a mixture of cheers, jeers and inaction. A senate critic once called it "moonogdoggie on Quoddy Bay."

The French feel they have an economic boon in their own "moonogdoggie."

TOWERED HIGH The temple columns of Baalbeck, Lebanon, which took 200 years to build, are 7 1/2 feet thick and 60 feet tall.

CN travel bargains. Charlottetown to: Montreal \$14.50, Moncton \$ 3.30, Saint John \$ 5.20, Halifax \$ 5.60, Sydney \$ 9.40, Corner Brook \$16.50, Toronto \$21.00, Winnipeg \$36.00, Vancouver \$59.00. These are examples of CN's new Red Bargain Fares. Sleeping car prices including complimentary meals are equally attractive.