

Cuban Embargo Pressure

Britain has quite properly refused to bow to United States pressure aimed at further restrictions on British trade with Cuba.

This trade is not war materials and Britain has never conceded that a shipping boycott against any country is justified except in times of war.

Moreover, as the London Times argues, a boycott would, if anything, strengthen Premier Castro's position in Cuba and destroy any remaining doubts he may have about submitting to Russian domination.

Some pressure is being exerted on Canada as well with regard to imposing a Cuban embargo.

But here the arguments are even less convincing than in Britain's case. It was announced over the weekend that merchant ships bound for Cuba are now inspected by customs officers as a matter of routine before being permitted to clear Canadian ports.

This action illustrates the extra care Ottawa is taking to see that this country is not used as a back door for U.S.-made goods whose export to Cuba is banned by the U.S. government.

In addition to banning the shipment of U.S.-made goods through Canada, the Canadian Government maintains its own rigid embargo on export of strategic materials to Cuba.

That, surely, ought to be enough. It is not a question of "filthy lucre", as some American politicians are maintaining. Cuba is no longer a profitable market—its trade with us fell to \$6,300,000 compared to about \$18,300,000 for the same period last year.

It's a matter of conforming to international custom. Much as we may deplore Castro's pro-Communist activities, Cuba is a sovereign state and we're not at war with Cuba.

There is no reason why we should be pushed into a position of acting as if we were.

British Liberal Comment

It is interesting to note that in Britain, as a result of the Labor Party's hostile attitude toward the European Common Market, the Liberals have launched a new offensive to displace Labor as the official opposition party.

Mr. Grimond, the Liberal leader, has criticism for Prime Minister Macmillan also on this issue, which he claims has been undertaken "not in a spirit of opportunity but as a last resort by a government at the end of its tether, desperate for any distraction from the troubles piling on it."

But it is against Labor leadership that he directs his most scathing comments.

"What is the clarion call of the British Socialists?" says Mr. Grimond. "A series of questions. They are the only generals in history who have ever attempted to ride into battle sitting insecurely astride a fence. But now they have got off the fence, rather limply, on the wrong side. Is one of the great political decisions in history to be reduced to a question of five per cent more or less on the tariff on canned peaches? It is as if at the Reformation someone had said they were unable to make up their minds until they knew what price the monasteries were likely to fetch."

Since this statement appeared the anti-marketers carried the Labor Party conference overwhelmingly last week, despite the fact that a third of the Labor MPs have supported Britain's entry into Europe.

Mr. Galskett got the support of the conference by concentrating 70 criticisms on the terms so far negotiated and inviting Mr. Macmillan to submit these for the nation's verdict at a general election.

Meanwhile, plans are being made for the crucial debate on the Common Market at the Conservative Party conference at Llandudno in a week or so. The Prime Minister is planning to make this the one great theme of his speech at the end of the conference.

On his success in mobilizing his party behind the government's program a great deal will depend.

New Brunswick's Example

We note that the water pollution problem has been given serious study in New Brunswick, and that a new government regulation has been issued imposing strict control over the dumping of materials into, or onto, the shores of all the rivers, lakes, and streams of the province.

According to Dr. John S. Bates, chairman of the N.B. Water Authority, this represents a major advance in the battle to control pollution of provincial waters.

According to the Moncton Transcript, municipalities will be cushioned from additional expense under the regulation, as there is already available generous financial aid from both federal and provincial governments for the construction of sewage-treatment plants, and little excuse now remains for communities to avoid at least primary treatment of such waste.

It is by progressive action such as this, it says, that New Brunswick can ensure that its natural assets in both beauty and resources are protected, for the pleasure and enrichment of the majority who would appreciate them, from the selfish minority elements who consider the rivers, streams and lakes to be garbage receptacles.

It is to be hoped that in this Province, where there is danger of a similar problem developing, the remedial measures discussed some time ago will be followed by concrete action, with the full support of all concerned. It shouldn't be a matter of controversy at all, but of realization of the openness of the old adage in this case, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It comes a lot cheaper, too, as every community realizes that is faced with a bad pollution problem.

An Appalling Toll

Since this is Fire Prevention Week, it is worth recalling that last year in Canada fires cost over \$127,000,000 in property loss and over 550 lives, of which more than 200 were children. A truly staggering penalty to pay for carelessness in the exercise of elementary rules of fire prevention which we have all read dozens of times, and should know by heart.

Our 82,432 fires in 1961 are only part of the story. In the last 10 years, fire hit 15,000 manufacturing plants, 70,000 offices and warehouses, 48,000 farms, 3,400 schools and colleges, 2,300 churches, 2,000 hospitals and 550,000 homes—\$1,000 million worth in all. Again, the evidence points to the fact that in most of these cases, human carelessness was responsible.

It is hoped that the campaign this week will result in better community planning against fire hazards, and greater awareness of the personal responsibility involved, all through the year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In Milwaukee three men found a new way of betting on horses. One of them would watch the races at Hot Springs, Ark., and, using a two-way radio, set the results to his partners in Milwaukee ahead of the bookies. The bets placed always won. The trio, arrested on gambling charges, were acquitted last week. Betting on a sure thing, the judge ruled, did not violate the anti-gambling laws.

The British press, commendably, is showing no disposition to discredit the United States over the Mississippi racial issue. The keynote was struck by the London Daily Telegraph when it said: "All this fuss arises not because there are things wrong in America but because someone is trying to put them right—and succeeding too, albeit with painful slowness and many setbacks."

YEN YUAN AGO (October 9, 1952) Councillor P.J. McCormack, chairman of the Public Works Committee of the City Council spoke briefly at the opening meeting of Fire Prevention Week and stressed the danger of fires, and the fact that most fires are preventable.

Dr. J.A. Clark left today for Ottawa. He will participate in an international poloing match at Carp, near Ottawa, going on to Toronto to spend the following weekend with his daughter, Miss Elma Clark, Medical Technologist, Communist Laboratories. Dr. Clark will then attend the meetings of Canadian Baptist World Mission Board at Toronto before returning to Ottawa.

SMOKE SUPPORTERS CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (CP) A campaign has been launched here against a plan to turn the city into a "smokeless zone." Prime movers are long-fire lungs. If the anti-smoke law is passed, wood fires will be banned. Among supporters of the campaign is best-selling English weekly.

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