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Hopeful Signs

As indicated in a Washington news despatch, the fate of millions may well be affected by confidential talks of two men at the White House next month. This refers, of course, to the projected 10-day visit of Soviet Premier Khrushchev to the United States in September, during which he will spend two or three days as a guest of President Eisenhower. The President, in return, will make a shorter trip through Russia before next December, visiting Moscow for the first time since he reviewed a World War Two victory parade with the late Premier Stalin.

These events may indeed prove to be of far-reaching importance. Although it seems doubtful that any solution to the burning issues between East and West would result, they can at least be expected to increase understanding and goodwill on both sides. While they are in progress, the Berlin crisis would be kept well under control. And there is hope that a first hand look at the United States might correct some of the misconceptions Mr. Khrushchev has about American life and about U,S, determination to stand firm against Soviet threats.

The futility of dealing with anyone but the top man in the Soviet hierarchy has been demonstrated many times in recent months. This fact, apparently, is now recognized at Washington, as it has been for some time by the British Prime Minister. Coincident with President Eisenhower's invitation to Mr. Khrushchev he has appointed a prominent Boston lawyer to undertake new studies of international disarmament possibilities. It will be recalled, also, that he made a special gesture of goodwill towards the Russians by paying an unexpected visit to the Soviet fair in New York. Last week, at the U.S. exhibit in Moscow, Vice President Nixon practically committed the President to invite Mr. Khrushchev to the United States. A further impetus to the same end was given by a group of nine American Governors who returned from a tour of Russia. Calling on the President, they urged an exchange of visits between him and Mr. Khrushchev. Meanwhile from Geneva it was reported that the U.S. had been sounding out Allied governments on their reaction, with apparently encouraging results.

Considering the tense situation which prevailed last November over the Berlin situation, these friendly approaches are highly encouraging. As the British Prime Minister has said: "We were talking then about ultimatums. Today we're talking in terms of personal visits." All will hope that these visits may prove to be the first step toward a long truce in the cold war.

Teacher Shortage

One fact brought out very clearly at the recent Commonwealth Education Conference at Oxford, Eng., is that in all countries of the Commonwealth there is a pressing shortage of teachers. Very large numbers are needed—many of them most urgently—over the next four or five years. 500 teachers are required immediately for training institutions, well over 1,000 a year for secondary schools and 200 a year for technical colleges. Universities also need staff, often in highly specialized subjects.

No conference recommendation could change this picture overnight, but it has clarified and defined the needs of the various Commonwealth countries so that the available resources may be directed to "key posts". It was felt that the interests of teachers serving abroad should be safeguarded in such respects as housing, children's education, re-employment and secondment rights, superannuation and resettlement on return; also that everything possible should be done to promote a climate of opinion in teaching circles in which periods of service in other Commonwealth countries are recognized as an asset in subsequent employment.

Some delegations made definite offers of assistance. The United Kingdom will make every effort to increase the figure of 2,500 teachers who go to the Commonwealth each year, and is prepared to give a special allowance for key posts and pay family and children's allowances. Canada offered special consideration for requests for teams to assist teacher training institutions and specialists to train teachers in subjects such as mathematics and the sciences. Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan also promised to assist.

The acute shortage of highly qualified teachers points up, of course, the need for training of teachers on an unprecedented scale. But it was felt that the long-term aspects of this problem must be solved by the countries themselves.

Days Getting Shorter

The reason why the 24-hour day is gradually lengthening, a fact which has been puzzling scientists for the past 200 years, is still a mystery according to two American scientists studying the problem. Each year the day lengthens at an average rate of about one hundred-thousandth of a second per day, say Professors Walter H. Munk and Gordon J.F. MacDonald, of the University of California. Thus a day is now two-hundredths of a second longer than it was 2,000 years ago.

In simpler terms, a clock set at the time of Christ's birth would now be about two hours fast. This is because of the gradual slowing down of the earth's rotation, the scientists say, but they have not yet found the cause.

Changes in the length of the day do not, however, pursue a regular rhythm. There are fluctuations from year to year or even from month to month. This it is thought, is due to the fact that the earth is not a stable body but is compsed of a hard outer crust and a soft interior which rotate at different speeds.

The first scientist to notice the lengthening of the day was Edmund Halley, English astronomer of the 18th century. Halley found that the dates calculated by astronomers for eclipses of the pre-Christian era did not agree with dates indicated on early Babylonian tablets and Greek papyri.

Scientists later investigating the problem decided that this slowing ocean tides. Data gathered by Prodown was due to loss of energy in fessors Munk and MacDonald, however, have shown that the energy of the tides is not enough to account for the phenomenon. They intend to continue their researches for the cause.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Winston Churchill has helped christen his tenth grandchild, a baby boy who is said to look just like him, "except for the cigar."

• • •

On this date 1914, orders went forth from Ottawa for the raising of the First Canadian Contingent for overseas service in the First World War.

• • •

The 5th of August was once observed in England as a holiday, in the same manner as the 5th of November, and for a cause of the same nature. On that day, in the year 1600, King James, then ruling Scotland alone, narrowly escaped death at the hands of two conspirators of his own people—the Earl of Gowrie, and his brother Alexander Ruthven.

• • •

Whichever party wins the provincial general election here on September 1, we hope it will do so by the skin of its teeth rather than with another topheavy majority. Even from a narrowly partisan standpoint, too large a majority is bad for the party in power. It is worse for the country at large. There is no substitute for a strong Opposition.

• • •

The Canadian Underwriters Association has announced a new plan to reduce automobile insurance rates for drivers least likely to become involved in accidents. Under the new arrangement, effective Sept. 1, a driver will be entitled to an additional 20 percent discount if he can show: first, that he has been driving five years without an accident; second, that he does not drive his car more than 10,000 miles a year; third, that he does not use his car for business or for driving to and from work; and fourth, that there is no male driver under 25 in the household and not more than two drivers of the vehicle.

ON THE WARPATH

OTTAWA REPORT

Federal Loans Criticised

(Patrick Nicholson is on vacation. His guest columnist today is DR. W. H. McMILLAN, Liberal M. P. for Welland).

If you or I were overdrawn at the bank, the bank manager would soon refuse us further credit if we suddenly started to spend much more than we earned. This was exactly the position of our government last year and we, the people, like the banker, as I predicted would happen, simply refused to advance the government money by buying long term bonds as fast as the government was spending it.

Late last summer we had $6.4 billion worth of 3 per cent Victory Bonds coming due between then and 1966. The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance made a patriotic appeal on television and persuaded many Canadians to trade their Victory Bonds for those of either of two short term bonds coming due in 1961 and 1965 or of two long term bonds maturing in 17 and 25 years.

In spite of great inducements only a little over half of the bonds were converted to the long term ones and nearly half into the short term issues. These latter will embarrass the government in many cases more than if the conversion loan had never been undertaken.

COST $70 MILLION

The conversion loan cost over $70 million in bonuses, commissions, advertising, etc., plus a future cost of millions in extra interest.

The Minister of Finance said provinces and municipalities would be able to borrow money to better advantage, but I and others argued that the conversion loan would cost our provinces and municipalities more to finance every new project such as new roads, sidewalks, sewers, schools, hospitals, etc. We have only to look at our municipal tax bills this year and next to realize that it has cost very considerably more.

It seemed unusual to most of us that a bonus should be paid for trading a bond paying 3 per cent for one paying 4½ per cent. In my mind this helped to focus our minds on what was taking place elsewhere in our monetary management.

The former government had paid off nearly $2 billion in net debt since the war, but last year the present government was plunging into debt at a rate of over $1 billion a year, including the depletion of the Unemployment Insurance Account. This amounts to $3 million a day of $125,000 an hour in overspending. Investors took a dim view of this situation.

SHORT TERM BORROWINGS

To meet the problem, the government was forced to borrow short term money from 90 days up to a year or so, at rising interest rates. These new short term loans or bonds were sold mostly in large denominations up to $1 million. Their interest rate seemed reasonable enough but they were sold so much below face value, for short term issues, that a big corporation or person paying 50 per cent income tax would have the same net return on the bonds sold in February as they would from a 6½ per cent would amount to over 8 per cent. The government is thus paying more than farmers or corner-store grocers pay the bank for loans. Because of the short-term loans the government must keep coming back for more hundreds of millions of dollars, and investors have found from experience that it pays to wait for better and better plums.

This has all contributed to a lack of confidence. Our interest rates are high, and our bonds are selling on world markets almost at the bottom of the scale in the Free World.

ALLERGIC TO SURPLUS

Our people also know that the Conservative party seems to be allergic to a surplus, as they have only had two as high as $1,- million since Confederation, and that the sum total of these surpluses would not be sufficient to pay the interest on the estimated deficit for this one year alone.

This year the incresed interest on our federal debt alone will be $106 million o nearly $25.00 per head of each family of four. Next year this amount is bound to increase greatly.

It is imperative that our government return to sanity in its fiscal policy and stop competing in the market with our municipalities for money. If they do, the government will create confidence, whie will in turn help bond prices, thereby tending to provide all with cheaper money and lower federal, provincial and municipal taxes.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of question of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Sir,—This is a request for information of a vessel built in your Province—the brig "Prince Edward", in 1853, 174 tons—by R. Craswell, Innanside. She sailed from your City, January 1859, arriving in Auckland, New Zealand, May 12, 1859. A friend of mine in Auckland wants some information about the building of this vessel.

The captain of the ship was Capt. Edward Nolan. His certificate is 70375 in the register he owned in 1869. My friend would like to have a duplicate of this paper.

He was in command of (or an officer of) a vessel, "Majestic", which caught fire off the coast of Newfoundland. The father of Capt. Nolan's wife was Thomas Collins, a pilot of a man-of-war in your City.

I have written various places in P.E. Island but have received no reply. Perhaps some of your readers could supply the information.

I am, Sir, etc.,
BRUCE M. SCOTT
178 James Street,
New Glasgow, N.S.

Good American Diplomacy

By Arthur Gavshon
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The first impression of President Eisenhower's arrangement with Nikita Khrushchev to swap visits suggested Monday night it might go down as a masterstroke of American post-war diplomacy.

It appeared to climax one of the most delicate exercises in international politics since the cold war began.

President Eisenhower initiated and concluded the visits-deal with Khrushchev in about a month.

CHALKS UP GAINS

In so doing, on the strictly American-Russian level, he chalked up these gains which could transform the world scene:

1. He has given Khrushchev the chance to distinguish himself in a way Stalin never did, as the first Soviet ruler to eneter the White House. At 65, Khrushchev is a man in a hurry who is believed anxious to leave his mark on the pages of history.

2. The president has set the stage for direct talks with the man who lords it over communism's millions. These exchanges would be uncomplicated by the presence of sensitive outsiders.

3. He has made it possible for Americans and Russians to get better acquainted with the sources of each other's industrial, scientific and popular power. Greater mutual respect might follow.

On the wider international level, these gains were also seen:

4. Eisenhower has ensured that the Berlin powder-keg, with its perilous possibilities of a nuclear explosion, will remain defused for some time. This will allow East - West negotiators to think again.

5. The president will have a chance of spelling out vital American and Allied interests in such tension areas as the Middle East and the Far East. This does not mean he will negotiate any deals for he has power to speak only for the United States.

OVERSHADOWS SQUABBLES

The Eisenhower - Khrushchev agreement overshadows the squabblings of the European Allies over the general issue of East-West relations.

Rival assessments of Moscow's aims have led France and West Germany, for instance, bitterly to resist Britain's pet project for an early East-West summit meeting.

Eisenhower has set out to please both the British on the one side and the French and West Germans on the other through his display of leadership.

The exchange of visits sets back, but does not kill, Britain's plan for top-level talks. Indeed, Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd has confided to associates here lately that he's sure a summit will follow the Khrushchev-Eisenhower visits, probably taking place in November or December.

At the same time by agreeing to visit Macmillan, de Gaulle and Adenauer before Khrushchev's arrival, Eisenhower hopes to reassure them that their interests will not be prejudiced in any way.

Should Doctors Tell?

This, for generations, had raised one of the greatest questions in medical ethics. It has always been a fundamental principle of medicine that the knowledge a doctor receives from a patient in the course of his practice is a secret between them, unless this knowledge is disclosed with the patient's consent.

But duty is never simply defined. What should a doctor do if he learns that the condition of his patient is such that he could of do injury to himself and to others? Is the doctor to remain passive in his silence, no matter what tragedies may result? Does the doctor's duty to his patient transcend his duty to society?

The problem has always been a real one. But it has taken on new urgency in the era of the automobile. Driving a car is not only a convenience or a pleasure for the driver; driving a car becomes a social responsibility.

MUST BE CAPABLE

The driver has to be capable of fulfilling that responsibility. If his physical or mental condition is such that he is no longer able to drive safely, should his doctor remain silent while his patient continues to drive?

This is a medical problem in the deepest sense. For the ability to drive a car safely requires a sound condition of health. The senses of driver must be alert enough for his needs. What is no less important, a driver must have the mental capacity to make the innumerable judgments that driving demands, especially as traffic becomes heavier and the problems of driving become more exacting. If there are those who are physically unfit to drive, there are also those so lacking in emotional balance that their judgment cannot possibly be relied upon.

EXAMINATIONS

When persons apply for licences to drive, they may be medically examined. They may be examined again when reaching a certain advanced agge. But impairment in the ability to drive may appear in anyone at any time. Even those in the best of health do not always remain so; not infrequently (under the mysteries of health) they are found among the chronically ill. Only the doctor is in a position to learn when any of his patients has developed a condition which makes him no longer fit for the wheel of a car.

The British Medical Association has faced this pressing modern problem. Though the Association has always jealously guarded the principle of professional secrecy, it has concluded that the larger duty must not be neglected. At the annual meeting of the British Medical Association this month, Dr. C. E. Dawson, speaking for the council, made this pronouncement:

"It is in the interests of the patient, as well as of the community, that a doctor should reserve his right, if he really conscientiously thinks so, to take some step to take a dangerous driver off the road."

NOT EASY

This recommendation from the council was adopted by the Association. It was not an easy decision to make. But it was felt that the decision was not one between the rights of the patient and those of society; it was, rather, one in the best interest of both. The patient cannot hope to benefit by being allowed to drive when he has become unfit to do so. The very life of the patient (as well as the lives of others) is at stake.

There remains, of course, the delicate problem of opinion. It might be held that the right to drive should not depend upon the judgment of a single doctor. The suggestion has been made that such cases might be directed to a board of independent medical referees for final decision.

But whatever the final adjustment or procedure may be, it is an historic fact that the British Medical Association, at an annual meeting, has come to the conclusion that the medical profession must assume a larger share of responsibility for getting dangerous drivers off the roads.

MAXIMS

Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three—all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have.

MSGR. CABANA SEES POPE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — The Pope Monday received in special audience Msgr. Georges Cabana, Archbishop of Sherbrooke, and Msgr. Joseph Albert Martin, Bishop of Nicolet. The audiences were held at the papal summer residence here in the Alban Hills south of Rome.

May Require Hearing Test

By Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.

ARE YOUR friends avoiding you? Do they seem to be whispering about you—or even ignoring you?

If so, the trouble might be much more serious than the "BO" or bad breath problems we read and hear so much about these days. It could be that you have hearing difficulties.

OBVIOUS REASONS

We doctors know that people often tend to avoid a person who has trouble with his hearing. Actually the reasons are obvious. People simply get tired of constant requests to repeat something and of irrelevant answers.

Eventually, even members of the person's family might try to avoid any conversation with him.

Yet the person himself probably will be unaware of the real reasons for this apparent anti-social behavior.

FIRST REACTION

With gradual hearing loss, your first reaction would be that others just aren't talking loudly enough. Maybe you will think they are merely mumbling when actually they may be speaking in ordinary tones.

If you have noticed such a problem lately, think back and try to answer these questions:

Has anyone complained that you want the television set or radio turned on louder than anyone else in the room?

SLURRING WORDS

Have you noticed that most persons seem to be slurring their words?

Do you habitually turn one side of your head toward the person who is speaking?

Do you fail to notice any big improvement when listening to hi-fi?

Do you continually ask people to repeat words or phrases? Are you bothered by a ringing in your earfs or by any other head noises.

AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Do you have trouble hearing at the movies or at church or other public gatherings?

Do you find it difficult at times to locate the source of a sound?

If you have to answer "Yes" to more than a couple of these questions, I suggest you see your doctor about a hearing test.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

A Mother: My daughter, 27, was born with congenital syphilis. She has been married for five years and has no children. Her doctor advises an exploratory operation to determine if she can have children.

Do you think this advisable and will it do any good?

Answer: When a couple is unable to have children, a careful study of both the husband and wife is necessary to determine the cause.

In the case of the wife, numerous tests are done, including inflation of the tubes and perhaps X-rays. In cases where the only demonstrable cause is a blockage of the tubes, surgical correction may be undertaken.

The congenital syphilis, if treated early and intensively, may have no bearing on this situation.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The future of the white man in Africa has been called unsure. If anyone knows a continent where white man or black is secure we'd like to hear of it.—Ottawa Journal.

A great many people give little thought to house thefts: They have never been the victim and see very little chance that they ever will be. Yet every now and then just such people as they are do suffer both loss and a great deal of inconvenience because of thefts. For instance Canada's annual theft loss is more than $1,500,000, a large portion of it represented by home burglaries. — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

In Frankfurt the first German self-service shoe shop has been opened. At the door each customer is handed a shoehorn and may then wander at will among the shelves on which, arranged according to size, are exhibited the establishment's entire selection. Of each pair, however, only the shoe for the right foot is on display, while the one for the left my be obtained from the shop's personnel when the decision to buy is imminent.—West German Bulletin.

The Poets Corner

PANSY AIR

The wind is sweet with pansy blow,
Geranium - rinsed, for all to know
How May comes twined in summer's hair
To crown with love the pansy air,
Old beeches stir, buds needle thin
Stretching their wrinkled elephant skin,
While slanting, lilac-scented rain
Gives to a flinch a deeper stain.
And orchards stroked with violet
Are prinked with trees that pirouette.
Oh, May comes twined in summer's hair
To crown with love the pansy air.

—Dorothy Lamb
in the Christian Science Monitor

NATO TREATY SIGNED

BONN (AP) — A seven-power treaty on stationing of North Atlantic forces in West Germany was signed here today. Four thick documents, which have taken 3½ years to negotiate, set down in detail every condition governing the stay in West Germany of NATO troops.

The pact was signed by officials of West Germany, United gstates, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada—the countries whose troops are in Germany.

"A swim seems to bring out the uninhibited virile side of men; immediately they come out from the water, dripping and extremely unattractive, they engage in tough games of cricket or football or catch as catch can. They chase their screaming girl friends with handfuls of wet seaweed or a crab. Dogs, too, seem to change their personalities at the seaside. I think they probably lap sea water and go slightly mad".—Mrs. B. Mason on the BBC.

A London outfitter, Mr. Cecil Gee, reports a significant change in the men's neckwear business. A few years ago, he dreaded selling ties to women because the men for whom they were intended usually brought them back. "But," he adds, "women's taste in ties has so improved that we new have to change only one in fifty." Perhaps. More likely British husbands, like Canadians, are just becoming better trained.—Toronto • Globe and Mail.

OUR YESTERDAYS

(From the Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
(August 5, 1934)

Rev. Patrick McMahon, D.D., who returned last week from Rome, has been appointed Rector of St. Dunstan's Basilica, succeeding Monsignor Maurice MacDonald, now of Tracadie. Prior to going to Rome, Dr. McMahon was for seven years on the staff of St. Dunstan's Basilica, and was secretary to the Bishop.

Pete Kelly, playing steady golf, carded a 76, four strokes over par to take the lead in the first round of the Provincial Golf Championship. A.V. Saunders, the defending champion, was second with an 81. The final 18 holes will be played at Summerside on Saturday.

TEN YEARS AGO
(August 5, 1949)

Lieutenant Governor Bernard and Mrs. Bernard have as their guests Dr. Fred Christopher and Mrs. Christopher of Boston. Dr. Christopher, who was formerly from Tignish, has visited here regularly each summer for the past forty years, and has never missed an Old Home Week on any occasion.

Rev. W.T. Mercer, promoter of Temperance Education for the Province leaves Tuesday morning for Saskatoon to attend the school of Narcotic Education to be held there from ugust 15 to 26. The course trains those who attend to present pupils and general public the scientific facts regarding Narcotics.

Verbalizing The Language

Christian Science Monitor

While frivolizing our way through the amusement columns of a paper that sometimes comes our way, we came upon a sentence that made us realize we are behind the times in turning other parts of speech into verbs. It read:

"Michael Rennie, in the role of a debonair man-about-town, gifts Barbara Rush with a necklace . . ."

Previously we had thought this verbalizing (sic) movement was confined to such Madison Avenuisms as "formalize" and "finalize" (which have led us to wonder where "capsize" came from); and such show-business talk as "Jack Benny guested on the Dinah Shore show," or "Perry Como hosts the Ames Brothers."

Well, anyway, we were puzzled at the verb "gifts." Why didn't Mr. Rennie just "give" her the necklace? Was it because he wanted to make sure that she "receipted" it rather than merely received it?

Curious, we watched the play. But nothing out of the ordinary happened. Miss Rush did not at any point furniture her room. Debonair as he was, Mr. Rennie did not investment in any stocks, subscription to any expensive magazines, or even donor to any international charities. The two of them didn't even speech to each other or conversation back and forth; they just talked.

We suppose that ever since the Great Vowel Shift, linguists have been worrying about the changing of nouns into verbs—which, after all, is the way we got a great many of our best verbs. So it's probably foolish to fret about continuing the process. But making a noun into a verb when there's already a parallel verb in existence—that's too much for us. We just gift up!

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