

Still In The Dark

Appearing on the television show "Sunday"—of all places!—Finance Minister Sharp indicated that his minibudget was coming down shortly, all right, but was cagey about saying what it would contain. He did say, however, that fiscal policy, in times such as these, is not something that can be fixed months in advance and that flexibility was the important thing in meeting economic problems nowadays.

The question is now being asked, if inflation is not the bogey it was a few months ago, whether a minibudget, or baby budget, or whatever one likes to call it is necessary at all at this season. As the Globe and Mail says in this connection, there is beginning to be a consensus among economists that we are more in danger of a dip in economic activity than of further boom pressure.

There is also the question whether the guaranteed annual income program for old age pensioners will actually put many dollars into the economy during the period with which a minibudget would deal. The program will become effective in January, but actual payments, though retroactive, are not expected to be in the hands of pensioners until March.

If the economy is not at present in need of future restraints, and if the pensioner program is not going to pump new demand into it until next March, why could the minister not wait until the normal 1967 budget time to decide on tax increases?

He told Parliament yesterday it's to come down next Monday or Tuesday, but he left the House as much in the dark as he did his TV audience on that question.

A History Of Failure

An Associated Press commentator at the United Nations reminds us, pessimistically, that the history of sanctions in international affairs offers no comfort to those seeking to overthrow the Rhodesian rebel regime of Ian Smith by such mandatory economic penalties. They have never worked. Since the days before 1914—when war and reprisals were considered legal sanctions—there has been no evidence that any delinquent nation has been forced by punitive economic efforts to change its ways.

Heretofore, the United Nations never has voted mandatory sanctions against any country. The League of Nations invoked such penalties only once—that came in 1935 after Italy's invasion of Ethiopia. The sanctions did not include an oil embargo, and they failed to halt Italy's operations. The next year Italy announced the

annexation of Ethiopia and the league cancelled its sanctions.

Outside world organizations, numerous efforts have been made by alliances to take coercive measures short of war against those they considered wrongdoers. One example in recent times is the trade embargo against Cuba by the United States and some of its Latin American neighbors. This was aimed at the overthrow of the Communist regime of Fidel Castro. But he is still in power, even though the Cuban people undoubtedly have felt an economic pinch.

The United Nations has voted punitive measures in several cases, but they have been in the form of recommendations to the member nations and therefore do not qualify as sanctions under the generally accepted definition. What will happen now in the case of Rhodesia, is still anybody's guess. As noted in our columns yesterday, in the 13 months since Rhodesia rebelled against eventual Negro rule and declared itself independent from Britain, it has continued economic relations with both South Africa and Portuguese Mozambique and has been getting oil from them. There is no evidence that either South Africa or Portugal is prepared to accept any UN resolution calling for a change of policy in this respect.

As for Rhodesian Premier Smith, there is little comfort to be drawn from the report that he may be forced to resign because the majority of his cabinet consider he is "too soft" in his attitude toward the sanctions threat. Either way, the prospect of bringing his government to heel without resort to arms is not encouraging.

Let's Keep It Up

It is certainly encouraging to note, from an All Canada Insurance Federation Survey report, that automobile insurance rates on Prince Edward Island are down an average of 7.5 per cent throughout the province for next year. Rates in Quebec and British Columbia are also going down, but by smaller percentages. Rate increases, in some cases up to 28 per cent, are forecast for Ontario, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta.

Any evidence of an improvement in driving conditions is to be welcomed, and the fact that we lead all Canada in reduced car insurance rates for next year can be interpreted as directly resulting from such an improvement in this province during the past year. Actually, the survey shows the accident record across the country to be better this year, with fewer claims per automobile being made. The average cost of each accident, however, is rising. In areas where rates are going down, the statement says, the decline in frequency of claims has outpaced the increase in cost—which really makes our record more impressive, doesn't it?

But one thing we need at this pre-Christmas season is not complacency about our competency as drivers, but the exercise of more care than ever behind the wheel. Most companies, according to the ACIF, will be using a new classification system next year, providing greater benefits for those who drive three years or more without making a claim. That should be a spur to further precautions. But of course the real pay-off comes with the reduction of fatalities and injuries on the highway, and the enormous losses such accidents involve.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The story comes from Fairborn, Ohio, of a clerk at an air force base going to the bank Saturday to pick up \$600 in change. En route back to his job he was struck and knocked down by an automobile. He was not severely hurt, but the bag of money broke and scattered in all directions. Sympathetic police and citizens helped him pick it up. When he counted the cash he had \$603.50. That's honesty for you!

A learned University of Minnesota research team claims that women are better suited to noisy jobs than men. The reason for this phenomenon appears to be that the fair sex have stronger muscles in the middle of their ears, and, as a result, they are more capable of enduring low-frequency roars and rumbles. In addition, men have larger outer ears and are therefore better able to collect and transmit low-frequency sound. Which prompts the Hamilton Spectator to remark that maybe that's why so many men are now growing their hair long—they're trying to insulate their ears from loud noises.



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Personal Antipathy Sours Politics

The personal and political relations between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have degenerated into a most squalid, primitive and brutish-like battle. All courtesy, all formal protocol, all respectable understanding and mutual respect behind the ascerities of political exchanges are in eclipse. Instead we are regaled with the most embittered and vituperative slanging, of open angry hostility and hatred, which the oldest hands around Parliament can remember.

Our political and parliamentary system accepts that men fight and differ about political aims, but it requires all political contestants to conform to rules of conduct under which these differences should be fought out. One of the crucial rules of conduct is that all politicians should accept the honourable motives of opponents whose views they detest and that, underneath the daily political circle, they should preserve a decent human relationship.

The object of doing so is not sentimental; it is a recognition that the ideas which unite our politicians—a belief in civil liberty, order and the right to differ—are most fundamental than those which divide them. It is against this background of political conventions that what seems to be the personal quarrel between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition should be judged. Nobody has the right to instruct them to like each other, and there have been open signs for months (and many signs to the cognoscenti before that) that each is temperamentally antipathetic to the other. On the other hand, the tone of their quarrels suggests that their distaste for each other is getting out of bounds.

Their mutual respect seems to have reached vanishing point. This is worrying because, however toughened the skins of politicians become, some things said in public cannot in private be forgotten. It would be beneficial to our political life if the two men think a little before

continuing to personalize politics with quite such mutual distaste and scorn. One possible point of departure for them might be a little self-scrutiny; each might start by asking what it is in himself that so upsets the other.

Is it a sacred rule of our constitution that the public relations of leaders of opposing political parties should be mutually civil? CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Few Members of Parliament will be sorry to have their deliberations brought to an end by the recess. Few members of the public either. In the months since the general election, public disillusionment with politics and politicians has grown beyond the stage of healthy scepticism to a point that should give all, who care for their country's future, cause for concern. The real damage is to the fabric of public life itself. The public sees all this.

It sees too that neither political party seems capable of dealing with the problems when in office, even though each is all too ready to claim conscience when out of office. The public sees the parliamentary debate descend to futile bickering as governmental muddle, confusion and incompetence abound. The public is not alone in seeing all this. Those who are able to observe the process of government from the best possible viewpoint, the senior civil servants—who welcomed the change of government with undiminished relief—are now deeply disillusioned. The muddle, inefficiency and total lack of planning or foresight—let alone control of events—which the man in the street simply senses, is all too real to the men in the civil service.

All the foregoing are quotations from newspapers and periodicals in England—the Sunday Times, the Sunday Telegraph and the Spectator. Canadians increasingly disenchanted with the scene on Ottawa's Parliament Hill, may derive comfort from this disclosure that the Mother of Parliaments also

has its troubles, stemming from the personal antipathy between Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Opposition Leader Edward Heath. But the parallel with Ottawa is remarkable; the above quotations fit Ottawa like a glove.

FINANCE HOLDS DOOR LONDON (CP)—British banks and insurance companies stand out among employers as maintaining a color bar, says a report of the Inner London Education Authority, which operates a youth employment service.

Pre-Holiday Reflections

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen The impulse to keep in touch is deeply-rooted in us. Many rely upon the traditional Christmas card for this purpose. The custom brings happiness to the sender and to the receiver. In 1848, Henry Cole, an Englishman, sent the first cards. Cole had more friends than he could write to during the holiday season so he commissioned an artist to design a special greeting. He sent out 1,000 hand-colored copies and became so popular that he soon became Sir Henry Cole.

Many disabled persons get a real boost from a Christmas card sent by an old friend, war buddy, or classmate. In close news about mutual acquaintances or a picture of the family. Rehabilitation and occupational therapy departments in hospitals and institutions take used cards and make decorative objects such as baskets, bookmarks, napkin holders, and scrapbooks from the brightly colored pictures and paper.

Gift giving leads to a variety of deep-seated emotions. Some persons are embarrassed when presented with a gift; others are overcome with joy. Individuals who are unwilling to or cannot give presents may become depressed, especially on the day after Christmas. The emotionally immature person never has learned to give or take love. Those who did not get enough love in their childhood often are unable to give affection at a later date. They behave like babies who always have to be on the receiving end.

The kind intention of the giver often is forgotten and is appreciated less than the monetary value of the present. If you do not believe this, watch the exchange departments in stores on the day after Christmas.

Those who benefit most from Christmas are individuals who are grateful to God for being in a position to give. A gift should be given from the heart—with no strings attached and no quest for return. Never give to neutralize hostile impulses and feelings of envy.

BREAKDOWN RECOVERY S. H. writes: Does a victim of nervous breakdowns ever recover? I had one three years ago, and every time I think I have it licked, I fall back into the same old fears and symptoms.

REPLY Many do but the outcome is difficult to predict because there are too many outside influences that affect the personality.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If, as leading tailors predict, men's pants are to be cuffless, what is to happen to the man who earned a reputation for neatness by flicking his cigarette ashes into his trouser cuff? — Calgary Herald.

Wife (to boxer returning from fight) — "Ow did you get on, Bill?" Bill — "Fine — put 'em to sleep in the third round." Wife — "Good. Well, now you can try your 'and on the baby." — Vancouver Sun.

Auctioneer: "Sold! To the lady with her husband's hand over her mouth!" — Financial Post.

Most of us would like the glory of working for our fellow men, if it were not for the work involved. — Brandon Sun.

Some people seem to feel that living within their income is a fate worse than debt. — Hamilton Spectator.

You can always tell an important man by the way he gets on the elevator and pushes a button that's already been pushed to indicate that nothing really happens until he comes aboard. — Galt Reporter.

Staring moodily out of his office window, a business tycoon reflects: "Ten thousand men jump to my slightest whim, but I cannot persuade one teenage son to get a haircut." — Calgary Herald.

The 1967 car licence plates will be collector's items in 1967, which will be another centennial year. Youngsters will take them to the moon to show their cousins that grandpa could read — Ottawa Journal.

Wonderful modern technology designs airplanes which will get people to their destination 15 minutes sooner, while it takes them an hour longer to get to the airport. — Calgary Herald.

Advertisement for RCAF Association Summerside. Text: Watch for us. We're full of exciting things to do. RCAF Association Summerside. Wednesday 14 Dec 11 A.M.-7 P.M. The Canadian Armed Forces. Give it some thought.



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PUBLIC FORUM

WHITE CROSS GIFTS Sir.—Again this year at the P.E.I. Division of the CMHA is conducting its White Cross Christmas Gift Campaign for the benefit of patients at Riverside Hospital who have lost contact with friends and relatives. For some years now the number of patients lacking close relatives on the Island has been constantly increasing and therefore the volunteer services of the CMHA and the Christmas Gift Campaign are becoming ever more important. We have been very much pleased in past years by the benefits many patients have received through provision of gifts provided by this campaign. It is apparent that the knowledge that many citizens are interested in them and concerned for their welfare gives a much needed "lift" to the spirits of many of our patients. May I, through the medium of your columns, assure the people of the Province that the White Cross Christmas Gift Campaign is a most useful and appreciated activity, and that I heartily commend it to all who wish to do something to make this Christmas season a more enjoyable one for our patients who are without family or friends. I am, Sir, etc., R.G. FORSYTHE, MD Medical Superintendent, Riverside Hospital.

A FEARFUL PICTURE Sir.—I would very much like to express my thoughts in regard to the causeway for P.E.I., as I wonder if all angles of the

project have been considered; and if not, I hope it is still not too late for consideration. I suppose there are pros and cons to most everything, and in this case, by all means, the cons should have it. The optimist looks at it this way: we'll have many more tourists and we'll get rich quick! Even some of the farmers already have sold their land in order to accommodate the tourists. So far, we have plenty tourists, but to be overrun with anything is a different matter. Very soon, P.E.I. will no longer be the "Garden of the Gulf." With the causeway, there may be as many hoboes as good tourists who will perhaps order up board and lodging at the point of a gun! It might get so that P.E.I.'ers might see no other way than to move out. Speaking of farmers, we can't live without them, but for them we couldn't live. I don't expect to be here by the time it is finished (if started) as I've been living on borrowed time for 16 years, but, no doubt, there will always be people and I fear for them. This may sound pessimistic, but it is the way I see it. Last, but most important, the money it will take to destroy God's handiwork could be money to "build up" thousands of his starving people throughout the world. Consideration needed. I am, Sir, etc., MRS. ANNIE LOCKHART, Kensington, P.E.I.