

noose. Yet in the last three years cabinets have commuted 23 consecutive death sentences to life imprisonment and there have been only five executions in all since 1960. Thus, in effect, Canadian governments have totally abolished capital punishment for both classes of murders by merely exercising a Crown prerogative.

Parliament has now three courses to choose from. It can maintain the present system of capital and non-capital murder. It can vote to end capital punishment entirely. Or it can vote to reimpose it for all murders, doing away with the division into capital and non-capital categories. The last course is the least likely. But even a decision to retain the present division could bring the cabinet face to face with a conscience-searching dilemma. The prerogative of mercy would remain with it but it would be politically and morally difficult for it either to commute sentences in future or to go back to hanging in capital cases.

All the more reason why a decision in this matter should not be made hastily because of the exigencies of political manoeuvring. The vote, when it comes, will be an historic occasion touching on the moral values held by every member of the House and upon the conscience of the nation. In the circumstances, for the party leaders to ignore the right of Canadians to know where they stand would be a shameful dereliction of duty.

Bypassing Moncton

Under the new manpower program launched by the federal government, the employment functions of the regional offices of the National Employment Service are being transferred to the soon-to-be established Department of Manpower. Advertisements have been published seeking highly qualified senior management personnel for five regional offices at Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. This would appear to indicate that the NES regional office at Moncton is to be abandoned.

This draws a protest from the Moncton Transcript which we find quite understandable in the circumstances. By no stretch of the imagination can Halifax be considered a central location for the Atlantic region. Unlike Moncton, it is "at the end of the line" so to speak. From Moncton NES officers can readily travel to Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and all parts of New Brunswick. A glance at the map should convince one of the real advantages which the geographical location of Moncton provides. It is not by chance that top executives of national and international firms have chosen it as the site for their Atlantic regional operations.

More disconcerting to contemplate, says our Moncton contemporary, is the fact that the top echelon of the NES would no longer be exposed to the bilingual nature of the Atlantic region. At present the office is located in the province where most Acadians reside. This would no longer hold true if the contemplated move is effected. "It seems incredible," says The Transcript, "that Hon. Jean Marchand, a man known to have strong views on the role that French Canada should play in the national scheme of things, should be a party to and bear responsibility for what would be a very real slight to the Acadians of Atlantic Canada."

Some 50 families in Moncton would have to be uprooted under this policy. Worse, they would be moving to a city and surrounding area which is reputed to have an exceedingly high cost of living. Housing is in short supply and rents are high. In addition to the hardships such a move would create for the families involved, it would prevent Moncton having an extra 40 to 50 job opportunities which the new program has opened.

It is not the first time that the rival claims of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia centres have clashed. Perhaps the best solution would be to move the new regional office to Prince Edward Island!

EDITORIAL NOTES

Monkeys are employed on the Malay Peninsula to gather coconuts. "They are paid," says a National Geographic news bulletin, "in soda pop." Which just goes to show how the advantages of civilization are spreading.

The Ontario Safety League quotes a passage from the Bible to show that our modern traffic jams were foreseen centuries ago. The quote: "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightning."



CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PROBLEM

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Sees Big Future In Peace River Area

Will your grandchildren be born and raised in a thriving new city on the Peace River? Will the Seventies see the sixth degree of latitude - now the northern boundary of the western provinces - develop from wilderness into our most modern industrial cities, nuclear-age versions of Oshawa and Oakville?

This is the picture which I draw from a chance postscript thrown out by Hon. Alvin Hamilton in a speech at Whitehorse. Alvin Hamilton is widely appreciated in Parliament Hill for his free-wheeling and almost uncanny imagination. This is not a factory of day-dreams; it is a process of logic seeking the way out of today's mazes, using yesterday's history and an E. G. Wellesley projection of scientific discoveries as guidelines.

Resources stressing, also in Whitehorse, stressing the urgent need for such an outlet, and suggesting various routes to the sea. A Peace River complex, Alvin believes, will ultimately support 75 to 100 million people in prosperity and comfort. Second comes the James Bay region, fed by the clay belt across Timmins. This could support 15 to 20 million well-paid workers. Third is the Atlantic region, with its ready advantages of fine ports and an existing pool of highly qualified workers. Fourth is northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which has everything except easy access to markets. These four areas could be site of Canada's future boom towns.

FORSEES GROWTH

It was Alvin Hamilton who created "The Vision of Northern Development", which so caught the imagination of proud but frustrated Canadian voters in 1958. So today it is Alvin who looks at the 24th-parallel in what Ontario proudly calls "The Golden Horseshoe" and says that the time has come for Canadian development to flower elsewhere.

For Beatle Devotees

In these days when governments expect to be a target of protesting youth, it could not have surprised Prime Minister Harold Wilson to be handed a petition by teenagers when he stepped off his train in Liverpool recently. But the subject of the appeal may have struck him as unusual.

HEART BEAT ALTITUDE

S. N. writes: Does living in a high altitude slow down the heart or make it beat faster? REPLY: The heart beats faster initially but as soon as the individual becomes acclimated (in about six weeks) it returns to the normal rate.

Our Yesterdays

From The Guardian Files
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (March 30, 1941)
The Mediterranean fleet, finally getting an Italian force within range of its big guns, sank five Fascist warships in its greatest naval triumph of the war, but came to blows anew with Britain's former ally, France, it was announced in London.

The Home-Coming

New York Times
You can't predict the day, but you know that by mid-March the morning is not far away when the back pasture or the side lawn will be lively with robins. Not the few hungry, winter-worn robins that emerge from the thickets between February storms, but sleek migrants that arrive by the dozen, by the score.

Eliminate Hazards

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
Physicians are as interested in accident prevention as in the treatment of the injured. The older the medico the more he stresses prevention because the sight of the mangled, mutilated, and bruised body is sickening. A little caution goes a long way in avoiding lifelong disfigurement, paralysis, and other disability. In many instances, the accident also eliminated the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of the victim.

Our Yesterdays

From The Guardian Files
TEN YEARS AGO (March 30, 1956)
The City Police Force was strengthened by an additional constable on morning of March 29, when Parker Henry MacAskill, Granville Street, Charlottetown, was sworn in by Magistrate Gilbert Gaudet.

Piano Is Out?

Bangor Daily News
Dr. George E. Rogers, headmaster of a private school at Monson, Mass., is unhappy. He says the school has only one boy among its 25 students who can play piano. An amateur piano player himself, he wonders what ever happened to the piano lessons that used to keep boys indoors when they wanted to be out playing baseball.

Need For Reappraisal

By Arch MacKenzie
Canadian Press Staff, Washington
WASHINGTON (CP)—The rival East and West power blocs are badly eroded by wear and tear and the old cold-war cliches no longer seem applicable. Long-overdue adjustments are stirring in both camps, observers say here.

Eliminate Hazards

Vehicle mishaps get all the play because they are more common. But accidents in and about the home run a close second followed by those in public places, at work, and on the farm. Children and adults are always falling, drowning, or getting burned, poisoned, stabbed, or shot. Less publicized accidents involve fireworks, motorcycles and bikes, lawn mowers, skate boards, escalators, and wringers. Suicide also enters the picture.

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Lost And Gone Forever

Toronto Globe and Mail
That was a touching little going-away party they gave in Ottawa last week for former national Liberal Organizer Keith Davey. All the backroom boys from coast to coast flown in for the festivities. All the frontroom boys in their best bibs and tuckers. The Prime Minister making a speech. As Senator Davey himself said, "This dinner tonight has tone."

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Christian Science Monitor
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Pierre Berton's Ingenious New Laborsaving Devices

This essay by the noted Pierre Berton makes the good old days - and ways - seem even better! The dial-less telephone of granddad's day takes on new practical dimensions. Instant-change celluloid collars replaced with a push and a click make soft collar shirts outdated, old-fashioned. Don't miss this most entertaining spoof on modern day laborsaving devices. Get your copy of April Reader's Digest on newsstands everywhere.

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