

The Farce Goes On

When the Pearson government campaigned for a fresh mandate from the people last year, its most emphatic pledge was the one fixing the target date for the introduction of a universal medical care insurance plan. July 1, 1967 was to see the launching of this great humanitarian scheme, and the provinces which protested that they could not avail themselves of its provisions in time were told that they would either have to come in or stay out. The date could not be changed to suit their convenience, for the people's interests came first. The government had girded up its loins on this issue. There would be no turning back or dallying by the wayside.

Last Thursday in the Commons, a Liberal amendment to delay medicare by one year squeaked through by eight votes. The highly-contested deferment to July 1, 1968 was approved by a standing vote of 50 to 42, with eight Creditists abstaining. About 165 MPs missed the crucial vote altogether. Where were they? Who knows? Who cares? What is important is that they weren't in their proper places.

When the government's intention of breaking its pledge was first announced, it was on the ground that this was necessary as an anti-inflation measure. Welfare Minister MacEachen almost resigned in protest, it is said. But he didn't, and on Thursday he sponsored the amendment sealing the betrayal. He sat silent while Finance Minister Sharp said that top priority was now being given to a minimum of \$105 a month for the aged, and for education, that this would involve a tax increase and that the country couldn't afford another costly program such as medicare now.

Of course, all this was just as true when the pledge was given in November, 1965, as it is today; but with brazen impudence the minister announced that "we are now firmly determined that we will go ahead" with medicare the mid-1968 date, and that "we will accommodate all other programs to that date."

Why should he, or any other member of the government, expect the public to give credence to a promise no more binding than the one which had just been broken? Similar excuses for welching on it could be trotted out at any time. It's as phoney now as a plugged nickel, and everybody knows it. But a minority government was permitted to "squeak through" on this issue—by a vote as phoney as the pledge itself—and the House has settled down to an academic discussion of the bill's provisions. The absentee members will come trailing back, as full of rhetoric as ever, and all will be as it was before.

What a commentary on the state to which the parliament of this country has come!

Kosygin In Paris

Soviet Premier Kosygin and French President de Gaulle are basking in the sunshine of each other's smiles this week, the occasion being the Soviet leader's visit to Paris, where he arrived Thursday morning for a nine-day state affair. At a glittering state dinner at the Elysee Palace the French President declared in his toast that "the Soviet Union and the French Republic are resolved to realize and to organize, in all fields, the cooperation of the two countries." In his reply, Kosygin said French Soviet relations are much closer than two years ago. He said he agreed with much that de Gaulle said, but made no reference to closer ties with Western Europe.

These current cordialities are a follow-up to President de Gaulle's

mission to Moscow last June. But they are said to stem, actually, from 20 months of unflagging enthusiasm the Kremlin has shown for the General's grand design of "Europe to the Urals." The pattern aims to restore the East-West relations which existed in Europe before the cold war began.

President de Gaulle's plan was ludicrously premature in 1944 when he first conceived it. But today the search for an opening to the East—the main thrust of de Gaulle diplomacy—has become a pacemaker for Western policy in general. The Russians like this because it involves reducing American influence in Europe.

And as noted by a Washington commentator, the French-Soviet friendship is less frightening to the West today than it was. Now it is secondary to the great Russian-Chinese split. Indeed, in the new situation, Gaullist France begins to look more and more like a bridge between the United States and the Soviets. It could even promote more understanding between Moscow and Washington than the French General intends.

Wagner Exonerated

Something of a precedent was set by Justice Philippe Pothier of the Quebec Superior Court in ordering, recently, the Montreal Bar Association to suspend all proceedings against Claude Wagner, former Quebec Justice Minister. But it was no more unprecedented than the event out of which it arose. The council of the Montreal bar had reprimanded Mr. Wagner and fined him \$100 for remarks he had made in a speech while he was minister.

Mr. Wagner had criticized the handling of a court case in a small town. The case had been conducted partly in the judge's chambers, and the judge had imposed a \$25 fine, \$39 costs and a 3-month suspension on a hit-and-run driver who had been involved in an accident in which one person was killed and another seriously injured. Three weeks later the same driver was in an accident that took the lives of the parents of seven children. Mr. Wagner, in his criticism, had asked: "How do you expect justice to be respected when members of our order act in this way?"

It was precisely the sort of question, comments the Toronto Globe and Mail, "that Justice Ministers ought to be asking; and for the Montreal bar to attempt to impose its professional controls on a public figure who was doing no more than his duty was most outrageous." It goes on to say:

"In slapping the bar's wrist, Mr. Justice Pothier not only made a good judgment but for the right reasons. It was Mr. Wagner's right and duty as Justice Minister, he said, to seek out, report and even denounce cases in which he felt justice was badly administered. He had spoken not as an individual, not as a lawyer, but as the Justice Minister. Not the least of the benefits of Mr. Justice's Pothier's judgement is its rejection of the Montreal bar's impertinent effort to establish itself, instead of the electorate, as the judge of ministerial actions, a precedent that could have hampered every future Justice Minister."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Collecting taxes is always a costly business, but not, according to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, nearly as costly as it once was. The department boasts that it now costs only 48 cents to collect \$100 in federal income tax compared with \$1.59 when the income tax was first levied in 1913.

It is estimated that during the 11-day strike of machinists which tied up Air Canada operations, the airline lost \$3,300,000 in revenues. Some 4,000 other employees were deprived of their right to steady employment. And among the general public thousands of people were seriously inconvenienced, including not only those who had made reservations to travel, but men in business who could not get shipments to customers.

Eighty-one Canadian companies, with a total gift of \$11 million, provided the major portion of incorporated aid to Canadian higher education in 1965, according to the National Industrial Conference Board, Montreal. These donations were in answer to university and college appeals for more than \$30 million from non-government sources, including alumni and other individuals. This year's appeals are expected to reach almost \$40 million.



THE SWEEPSTAKES RACKET

Big Profits Made By Irish Corporation

E.N.S. in the Winnipeg Free Press

Three times each year, millions of people in 146 countries succumb to the lure of the Irish hospital sweepstakes. A ticket costs only \$3, the possible prize money is \$140,000. And in any case, so many people who would never dream of getting involved in any more conventional form of gambling, comfortably reassure themselves, it's all for charity.

Is it? An article in the November issue of Fortune explains that the Irish sweepstakes are indeed a good thing—for the owners. For the corporation that runs the sweepstakes—the Hospitals' Trust Ltd.—is a private company run for profit.

The profits that the corporation has made for itself, that is, not for the Irish hospitals in 36 years since the lottery was organized are awesome. Since its books are not subject to public audit, precise figures are unobtainable. But an estimate (probably conservative) sets the company's gross from the lottery at \$1.5 billion.

Some of this has indeed gone to help Irish hospitals but, again the exact amount is in dispute. Company executives claim the hospitals have received some \$200 million; the Irish government sets the figure at around \$140 million. Whichever it is, the hospitals' yield amounts to a small percentage.

The sweepstakes owners have done rather better. The three founders of the sweepstakes—the Irish Republican Army espionage chief, a bookie, and a foot-loose Welshman whose employers on three continents ranged from Chrysler in Chicago to the British army—became extremely wealthy men. The investments they, and the handful of original stockholders, have made with lottery profits have built industrial enterprises of considerable significance in the Irish economy.

These giant private profits are made possible by the extremely generous legislation under which the lottery operates. Thanks largely to the political influence of the former IRA spy chief, the Hospitals' Trust, although an entirely privately sponsored operation, was set up in style by act of Parliament.

In any one draw, half the net proceeds is always set aside for prizes. But, under the law, the corporation is entitled to use up to 23 per cent for "expenses" (this compares with 1.7 per cent

permitted for expenses by the official Puerto Rican lottery). In addition, the company can take seven per cent for promotion and 2 1/2 per cent as a management fee. A further unspecified amount goes to "commissions, prizes or other remuneration given in relation to the sale of tickets."

It is the necessity for this last provision that is most interesting to potential ticket buyers in other countries. For although the sweeps are entirely legal in Ireland, they are illegal everywhere else. And since the all-important marketing end of the operation is illicit, it has to be operated with stealth and secrecy, and therefore involves, in ordinary language, a large number of pay-offs.

In the U.S. alone, an estimated \$30 million is wagered each year on the sweepstakes. The best efforts of the FBI, the justice department, the customs bureau, the post office department, and local police have failed to make an appreciable dent in the Hospitals' Trust's superlative smuggling apparatus. Necessarily, however, the ever-present danger of arrest for the sweeps' thousands of foreign agents involves very substantial expenditures "in relation to the sale of tickets," as the legislators so aptly puts it.

Nature Of Sleep

By Dr. Theodore H. Van Dellen

There are many theories why we sleep but it is just as hard to find reasons why we stay awake. Most authorities agree that certain centers in the brain regulate sleep but there is no unanimity of opinion as to where they are located. Others believe we have a wakefulness center and that sleep results when it becomes inactive. In other words it is normal to be awake or asleep?

Sleeplessness bothers the sick more than the well and may be a serious matter among those already handicapped by disease. There are many varieties of true insomnia and the most common occurs among those who have difficulty in going to sleep. Their brain is stimulated as a result of "nerves" or through undue excitement, sorrow, pain, coughing, shortness of breath, or allied forms of discomfort.

Other insomniacs cannot sleep long enough to be completely rested. This type of sleeplessness may be associated with inflammation of the brain or disturbances in circulation. Another group sleeps fitfully because the brain is said to be restless due to excessive fatigue or improper sleeping conditions such as noise, too much light, a poor bed or lack of ventilation in the room.

Many individuals who regard themselves as poor sleepers do not realize they are obtaining enough sleep. These people have heard that eight hours are essential for adults, failing to realize that the amount required is on an individual basis. Many men and women have remained healthy and lived a long life on less than six hours every night. Furthermore, the fitful sleeper may complain of being awake all night but tests show the sleeping period was less than 30 minutes.

Sleep has received too much emphasis leading to abuses, including the annual consumption of tons of sleeping pills. Quacks also have entered the picture with fancy devices, gadgets, rituals, and diets to relieve nervousness and promote sleep. The truth of the matter is, there is no simple ritual or harmless substance that works with everyone.

EXCITEMENT AND STROKE

M. O. writes: Could great excitement bring on a stroke?

REPLY: Yes. To the best of our knowledge, in apoplexy the blood pressure goes up and a hardened vessel in the brain ruptures.

SPINAL PAIN

Mrs. C. O. writes: Is radiculitis the same as arthritis of the spine?

REPLY: In radiculitis, pain radiates from the spine as a result of pressure upon a nerve. Pressure may result from arthritis of the spine or from postural defects.

EAST HEART LOAD

Mrs. P. K. writes: Why does the doctor want my husband to go on a reducing diet after recovering from a heart attack?

REPLY: Because he is too heavy. Every extra pound of fat increases the work load of the heart.

DISPLACED JAW DISK

O. L. writes: What causes my jaw to pop and lock when I yawn?

REPLY: Dislocation of or injury to the joint in that area, caused by a blow or fall, a faulty bite, crooked teeth, or arthritis.

TODAY'S HEALTH HINT—

Plan in advance escape routes in case of fire.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore H. Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois.)

O'KELLY BURIED

DUBLIN (AP) — Sean T. O'Kelly, president of the Irish Republic from 1945 to 1959, was buried Saturday in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery. He died Wednesday at the age of 84.

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Johnson's New Aid Theory

By Arch MacKenzie Canadian Press Staff, Washington

WASHINGTON (CP) — Self help and birth control are the two main components in President Johnson's new theory of foreign aid.

India has become the first test, with the president preparing to answer a fresh famine-relief call with some caution after his own investigation of the situation. Earlier this year, with considerable fanfare, the president welcomed Prime Minister Gandhi of India to the U.S., pledging abundant aid.

India subsequently under American pressure has devalued the rupee, put more emphasis on food production and less on basic industry, watered down doctrinaire Socialist practices and tried to get private enterprise interested. The results have been less than satisfactory for either country. Mrs. Gandhi has harvested political criticism at home. The failure to attract private industry—in the vital fertilizer industry for example—in-

dicates American exponents of more laissez-faire will have to think again.

SEEK AGREEMENT

There have been reports of hostile political reaction to the American delay in meeting India's request last July for another 2,000,000 tons of wheat.

The president apparently plans to approve about one-quarter of that shortly and then take up a new long-term aid agreement with India. This is expected to show serious concern about more progress in curbing the Indian birth rate.

Commenting on the likely shape of the last third of this century, a agriculture official Lester Brown said recently it may be the "most difficult period man has yet experienced."

Putting a man on the moon is simple in comparison with eradicating hunger in a world faced with an exploding population, he said.

Pigeon English

Christian Science Monitor

The British Government wanted to pigeonhole the whole matter. When the appropriate official was asked in Commons what his ministry was doing to prevent pigeons from nesting in members' room in Parliament, he replied: "This is not my pigeon. . . . If hon. members take birds to their rooms upstairs I cannot be responsible for the consequences."

But he was not to be let off so lightly. The member pointed out that birds nesting in the roof could endanger the fabric of the building. And subsequent investigation revealed that the birds had indeed set up housekeeping on the roof rather than in the complaining member's office as he had at first assumed. Pigeon feathers, it turned out, had been drawn into his room through the ventilation system.

Several years ago in reply to an indeleble question, by a non-Trade Minister, a government official said: "Exterminate birds in this country? There'd be no surer way of bringing down the government."

We can understand the present government's reluctance to fan the flames of pigeon politics. When bird lovers are willing to go to jail for feeding the pigeons, as a San Francisco woman recently reported she did, no wonder ministers of state coolly.

Slow Death Of Conscience

Toronto Daily Star

There's an appalling sickness in our community when crowds of citizens can stand and watch two face owners terrorized by a bunch of thugs for two hours without even having the common decency to call police to their aid.

Amirigo Veltri and Michael Gisoni, proprietors of a Kingston Rd. cafe, were held prisoner with a broken bottle thrust in their faces while teenagers wrecked their premises, stole cigarettes and drank pop mixed with liquor.

Outside 20 or more kids watched curiously through the window and customers who walked into the cafe, observed the situation, and hastily left. No one, in all that time, was concerned enough even to report to police what was happening.

Unlike other instances of citizen indifference to violence and brutality, there was not even the excuse of personal danger involved. No one had to wade in and risk a beating by helping the two men. All anyone had to do was make a telephone call.

The callous attitude of "I don't want to get involved" seems to be spreading through today's society. A young girl is chased and knifed repeatedly on a New York street and people watch. Following nothing until she dies. Police in Toronto are repeatedly mauling making arrests while presumably respectable citizens stand around and leer.

There is no way to legislate an ordinary sense of humanity and concern in people. But a society which stands by indifferently watching Mr. Veltri and Mr. Gisoni endure what they did had better examine its conscience before it descends to barbarism.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE UNDER

CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN INCORPORATION ACT

PURSUANT TO and by virtue of a special warrant for sale of real estate issued by Kenneth M. Martin, Judge of the City Court of the City of Charlottetown, under his hand and seal dated the 15th day of November A.D. 1966 against the lands hereinafter described against which judgment had been given in the amount of \$1,332.18 for unpaid assessment against the same in the name of R. D. MacKinnon directing me to sell at public auction to the highest bidder such portion of the said lands as I may deem sufficient to pay such assessment and all expenses.

I DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on Thursday the 19th day of January A.D. 1967 at the hour of Twelve O'clock noon in front of the Provincial Building (adjacent to the Court House) in Charlottetown in Queens County, in Prince Edward Island I will set up and sell to the highest bidder the whole of such lands, having been assessed as 2 Brighton Road and being now described by metes and bounds as follows: ALL that tract, piece and parcel of land situated, lying and being in the Common of Charlottetown and being part of Common Lot Twenty-three bounded and described as follows, that is to say: COMMENCING at a post set on the North side of Euston Street in the Eastern side or edge of Spring Park Brook at the North side of a Bridge known as Black Sam's Bridge; thence running Eastwardly along the North side of Euston Street until it strikes the Western boundary of land conveyed by the Grantors to Frederick L. MacMillan and Others by deed bearing date the 12th day of April 1946; thence Northwardly along the Western boundary of the said land so conveyed to Frederick L. MacMillan and Others by a land formerly owned by Ernest E. Parkman and thence running Westwardly along the South boundary of the said lands formerly owned by Ernest E. Parkman to the Eastern edge of Spring Park Brook and thence Southwardly along the various courses of Spring Park Brook to the point at the place of commencement subject to the easement and right-of-way contained in a deed from John L. MacKinnon of Charlottetown aforesaid to the City of Charlottetown bearing date the 6th day of July 1915 and registered in Liber 67 Folio 882. Being the third of three lots of land described in a deed from Alexander H. MacKinnon and Wife and Mildred Borden to Richard Douglas MacKinnon dated the 17th day of January A.D. 1955 and registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds for Queens County on the 25th day of January A.D. 1955 in Liber 136 Folio 259.

DATED the 15th day of November A.D. 1966. EDWARD DOWNE, Sheriff of Queens County.

Lament For Spruce Gum

Ottawa Journal

It may be over-simplification to assert contemporary cross currents are due to the decline of spruce gum. Time was, half a century ago, when a lad laid in the winter's supply, come November.

A century ago the commercial spruce gum industry was important. Professional gum pickers went into the woods and harvested the crop. It was soaked, cut, and wrapped and sold in drug stores, four sticks for a nickel.

A farm boy, however, was not interested in the commercial product. He knew certain spruce trees in the woodland that were a dependable source. Foresighted youths went into the woods in spring and made cuts just below a branch. From these cuts the gum would ooze during the summer, and in the late autumn one could harvest sizeable chunks of the amber-colored product.

One does not claim that he did not need a long stick or two of the red paper covered gum from the candy counter in the general store. But when finances were tight, resources went for jaw-breakers, hard-sugar candies or Gibralters. Spruce gum did not require coin of the realm.

A moderate-sized wood helped pass the hours in school when a lad was waiting his turn to come to the front of the room to recite the capitals of the provinces.

Ukrainian Anniversary

Oshawa Times

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. The occasion is one which has possibly been overlooked in the pre-occupation of this country with the Centennial of Confederation and with the French-English discussions. Yet the Ukrainians have made a substantial contribution to Canadian development and to Canadian culture as Oshawa is well aware.

Undoubtedly the most outstanding and long lasting contribution of the Ukrainian pioneers is the bringing under cultivation of millions of acres of virgin soil in Western Canada and the bringing of civilization and prosperity to these vast and previously unsettled regions. Yet the Ukrainians have also entered with influence and constructive purpose into other areas of activity.

To the good of all Canadians the discrimination and prejudice that once dogged them in the