

To Discuss New Plan

Today, at Ottawa, Health Minister LaMarsh and provincial welfare ministers will open a two-day conference to discuss details of what Monday's Speech from the Throne termed a Canada Assistance Plan to provide for federal sharing "in the cost of comprehensive programs under which people can be assisted on the basis of their need." The plan is intended as companion legislation to the contributory Canada Pension Plan approved last week by Parliament. Critics are saying it has been cooked up to offset criticism of the pension plan's glaring inequalities. In any case, it will constitute a new shared-cost program on which federal-provincial agreement will be needed before it is brought before Parliament.

At present there are four shared-cost welfare programs. The federal government pays 75 per cent and the provinces 25 per cent of costs for up to \$75 a month in assistance for blind persons. Both levels of government split the cost of old age assistance which provides up to \$75 a month to needy persons in the 65-69 age bracket, assistance to disabled persons and assistance to needy unemployed.

Except for the fourth program, a needy person's real needs are not considered. Assistance is provided on the basis of means tests which take no account of the size of families and local living costs. Presumably the intention of the Canada Assistance Plan is to provide federal aid in welfare areas not now covered by the above-mentioned programs, and welfare on the basis of need instead of means.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, Prime Minister Pearson said this would bring some 200,000 needy mothers and children under the plan's provisions, at a cost of about \$25 million annually. It also would provide for half the welfare costs of those on welfare assistance—another \$15 million to \$20 million a year.

While most of the provinces would doubtless welcome this extra relief in their welfare efforts, Premier Lesage has already intimated that Quebec would regard it as another "intrusion into fields under provincial jurisdiction." If this proved to be the case, his government would opt out as it has done in other cases, in return for "fiscal compensation."

This could mean protracted discussion, involving possibly a series of federal-provincial conferences before agreement is reached. It is doubtful, in the circumstances, whether the new plan will ever get before Parliament this session. But we may expect that it will be debated eloquently and at great length, nonetheless.

The British Budget

As expected, the new British budget has left little room for expansion along socialistic lines. It has been described as a belt-tightening effort, and if the Tories had been in power there would doubtless be a good deal of Labor Party criticism about the increase in taxes, the slowdown in welfare measures, and a program aimed more at encouraging productivity than consumption. But the Labor government was faced by hard economic facts, and had little choice in the matter.

Britain's economic problem boils down to the fact that it has a \$2.1 billion balance-of-payment deficit and a need to make its economy more competitive. In addition to dipping into reserves, the Treasury has had to get large loans from central banks of 11 nations and the International Monetary Fund. Part of the latest decline is believed to reflect efforts by the United States to correct its own balance-of-payments deficit. United States efforts to this end have brought

back some American dollars which had been privately invested in Britain.

Britain could take the drastic course of devaluing the pound sterling, thereby arbitrarily trimming her foreign debts. But a moderate devaluation would not solve her problem, and a major one could upset the whole international applicat. Her decision, therefore, became of crucial economic significance on both sides of the Atlantic.

Realizing this, Prime Minister Wilson took the unprecedented course, on his recent visit to Paris, of issuing assurance that the pound would not be devalued. He said it was not for him to anticipate what the Chancellor would say in his budget speech; but rumors were afloat of some "imminent action" being taken by the government in relation to the exchange rate of the pound, and he felt it necessary to refute them. "Let me make it quite clear," he said, "that those who initiate these rumors are wasting their time and those who take account of these rumors are wasting their money."

That was that. The tax boosts and economy measure in the budget on Tuesday followed as a matter of course. The sting had been taken out of its emergency provisions, and there was also a small measure of relief in the way of tax-free allowances, which will be doubly welcomed in view of the circumstances.

Prior to the budget speech, the government intimated that there was one other matter it had not forgotten. It announced a donation of £500,000 (\$1.4 million) to the Churchill Memorial Fund. The fund was launched in February to finance the exchange of students between Britain, the Commonwealth, and the United States. There was no room for penny-pinching here, as every Britisher would agree.

De Gaulle Decrees...

Now it's President de Gaulle who has become concerned about the status of the French language. He has sent down an order to French scientists which is summed up in the words "parlez Francais." The trouble, it seems, is that too many French scientists attending international conferences have fallen into the habit of speaking English. To President de Gaulle this is betrayal, and that's what he calls it.

De Gaulle claims that the clarity and remarkable qualities of French make it ideal for scientific discussion. And it is a beautiful language. But these days so many more people understand English and so many English terms are used in the advanced areas of science that scientists find it the language easiest to use.

De Gaulle doesn't care a hoot about that. French they should speak, at all times, if they are Frenchmen; and French they'd better speak if they wish to keep in his good graces.

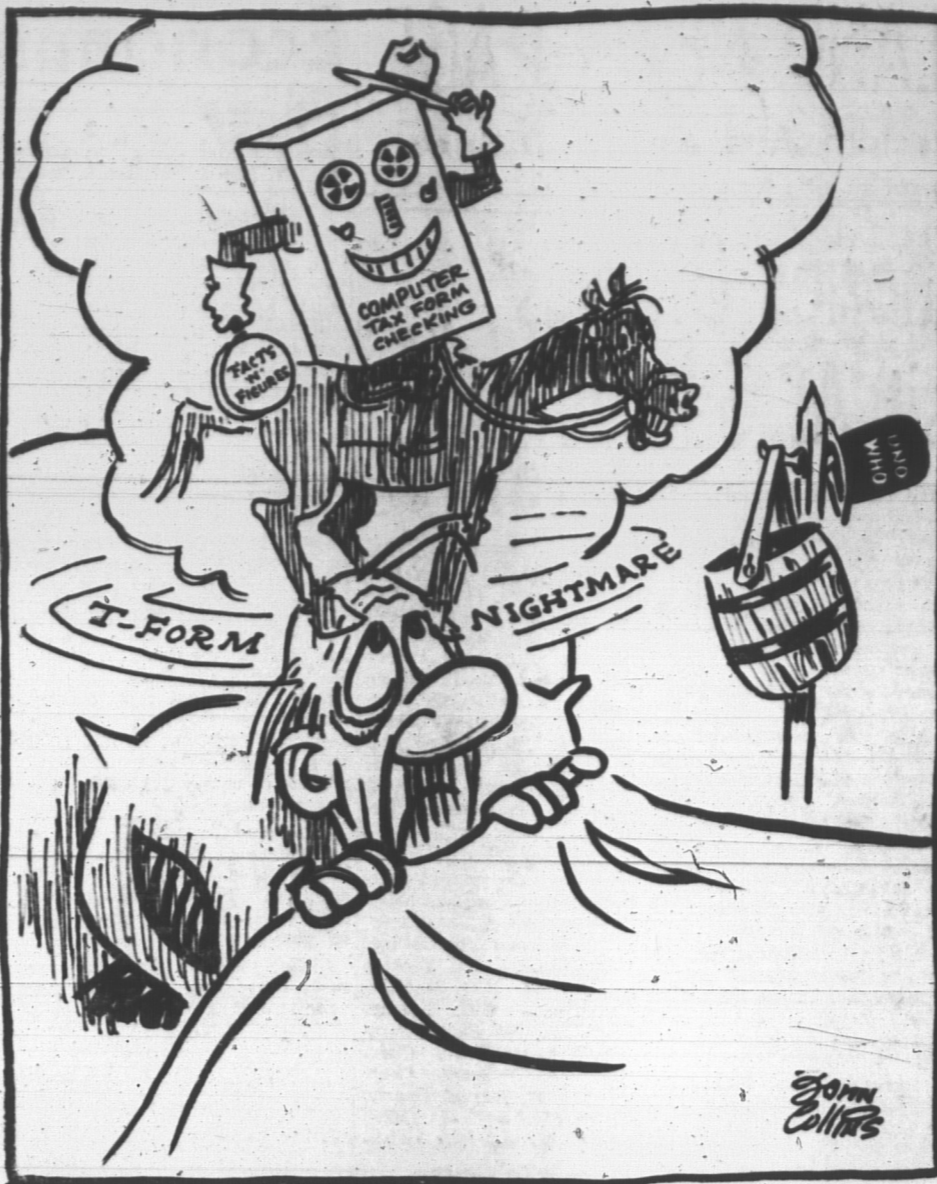
The Milwaukee Journal recalls, in this connection, that the formidable old general isn't the first to protest the use of English. The state of Illinois passed a law in 1923 that declared that "the official language of the state of Illinois shall be known as the American language." The legislature said that Tory elements in the country "have ever clung to the tradition of king and empire." So American became official. It didn't seem to matter much to those who continued to speak English; but a principle had been established and proclaimed. That was the point.

The Milwaukee paper suggests—we suspect with tongue in cheek—that it would be fine if de Gaulle would compromise in this matter. "Let the scientists," it says, "continue to use English professionally and the rest of the world extend the use of French on menus and in titles of beauty salons." But de Gaulle won't compromise; he never has. Compared to him, an Illinois legislator, or even a Quebec nationalist, is a reed shaken in the wind. He won't budge. His decree has gone forth. If science can't accommodate itself to it, so much the worse for science!

EDITORIAL NOTE

British exports of candy to Canada hit a new high of 10,000 tons during 1964. This figure, issued by the British Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, represents sales close to \$7 million, \$2.2 million higher than the previous year.

It should be a solace to the poor sailors among us, notes an exchange, that astronauts Grissom and Young remained in perfect health while orbiting the globe three times, then got seasick while bobbing around in the Atlantic in their spaceship for 40 minutes.



AGE OF AUTOMATION

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Dief Recalls Parliamentary Changes

"My most memorable impression of Parliament was my first day, my first week, in the Chamber of the House of Commons."

In those words, John Diefenbaker, reminiscing to me of his unbroken quarter-century of membership of the House of Commons, implied the awe, the respect and the pride which a student of Parliament feels when entering that historic institution as an elected member.

John Diefenbaker was a "Parliament Man" even by upbringing. "My ambition to enter politics came about through my father's tremendous influence on the boys he taught," he told me. "He was a very learned historian, especially in the field of political development; he had a great affection for parliamentary institutions."

That father inclination is probably the only Canadian school-teacher who numbered two future prime ministers among his pupils. He taught Mackenzie King, whom he knew as "Willie," and of course his own son.

SECOND 25 YEARS We sat talking in John Diefenbaker's fourth floor office in the Parliament Building, the large square room in the southwest tower. It is ornate with plaster work which has always been there; it is almost museum-like with the cluttering of Canadiana which the present tenant has placed there—busts of former Tory leaders, a huge Indian carving, photographs, framed documents.

And amid all that sat a veteran of 25 years in the House of Commons—a rare figure in our politics: a veteran of six years in the very similar Prime Ministers' office immediately beneath the room where he sat—an achievement beaten only five times in Canada's history; and a candidate to return to that office, which has only been achieved twice in Canada's history.

And this is not such a remote chance as his enemies like to think: while the Liberal action image disintegrates, more and more Canadians are increasingly looking back with kinder eyes at the Diefenbaker years. What changes in the House of Commons has he seen in 25 years? His span is a brief moment compared to the life of that institution itself, which stems from the first meeting on

Our Yesterdays

(From The Guardian Files)

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 8, 1940)

A bill to grant women the vote in Provincial Elections headed the week's projected legislation as Quebec's Legislative assembly prepared to meet tomorrow to continue the 21st Legislature's first session.

Fire Chief C.K. Wightman recently reorganized the Montague Fire Department. Members of the new organization are C.K. Wightman, Chief; George McIntyre, deputy; A.F. Campbell, captain and nozzle crew; M.G. Reynolds, captain of pumper crew; Charles McLure, captain of chemical crew.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 8, 1955)

Flying Officer J.M. Arsenault of Summerside was among nine RCAF officers who spent a sub-zero 10-day period in the Alberta bush proving that RCAF emergency rations and equipment will keep a man alive and well.

Miss Wanda Chappell of Summerside was elected president of the Maritime Ladies Softball Association at their annual meeting held in Amherst, N.S. Miss Marie Peters also of Summerside was elected third vice-president.

January 26, 1265, of the parliament at Westminster—now Canada's model. "Perhaps the greatest change has been the lengthening of the Question Period. When I first sat in the Commons, it was unusual for two questions to be asked at the opening of the daily sitting."

SHIFTS OF POWER There have been significant changes in the exercise of power. John Diefenbaker observed. It has shifted from the House of Commons to the Cabinet, and then particularly to the Prime Minister who is no longer "first among equals" in his cabinet, but now absolutely "first."

"Canada's Prime Minister wields greater absolute power than the President of the United States," he said. "The power of dissolution of Parliament is a tremendous weapon. "Is the House more turbulent and less effective than in your first days in it?" I asked.

"It is the same as it always was," replied John Diefenbaker. "In fact the debates are less hard-hitting than they used to be. Observers have always criticized MPs. Samuel Pepys complained in 1661: 'Beastly things are carried on in Parliament by the young men.' Charles Dickens, a Press Gallery reporter in the 1830s, called the House 'a conglomeration of noise and confusion to be met with in no other place except Smithfield Market.' Robert Louis Stevenson 50 years later said: 'We all know what Parliament is, and we are ashamed of it.' 'I wish that when I was Prime Minister I had taken those desks out and made the Chamber smaller; then there would have been more attention to debates,' he concluded.

Same People Will Pay

Fori William Times-Journal

The subject of government takeovers of utilities continues to be in the news across Canada, with some significant facts and opinions being reported.

One interesting case concerns the nationalization of telephones, currently demanded in some quarters in Quebec. The argument offered in support is the usual one, that state ownership would excuse the company from corporation taxes and thus save money for the public.

But Marcel Vincent, president of the Bell Telephone Company, points out that there are 3,000,000 adults paying phone bills in the area served by the company and, directly and indirectly, they pay 72 per cent of all income taxation paid in Canada.

Thus if telephones were nationalized, whatever revenues were lost by the government would simply be added on someone else and the same people would pay the same total taxes. Mr. Vincent added that there is no evidence that government ownership of utilities results in general rate reductions—an observation supported by the facts in recent cases of hydro and urban transit take-overs. It might also be added that the quality of telephone service is inferior under state monopoly, as evidenced in the United Kingdom.

As a general rule, the support of take-over of utilities is influenced more by politics than economics.

Spring Courting Season

National Geographic Bulletin

Most songbirds court with both feet on the ground. Only a few have their head in the clouds. Bobolinks and meadowlarks sing and display on the wing, but other species perform the springtime ritual on the ground or on a handy perch, according to the National Geographic Society's book, Song and Garden Birds of North America.

In a chapter on courtship and nesting behavior, Robert M. McClung writes: "Among most songbirds, the male takes the initiative. He may sing to the female, then spread his tail and show off his fine breeding plumage. He may offer her a bit of food or drop a twig before her, presumably a symbol of the nest."

BIRDS ARE PICKLE—Once a female accepts the attentions of a posturing male, the two become mates. Some waterfowl and birds of prey are believed to mate for life, but most birds stay together for only one breeding season. Game birds form many temporary and casual liaisons. "One lusty sage grouse was observed mating with 21 different females in the course of a single morning," Mr. McClung writes.

After courtship and mating come nest building and egg laying. The female selects the nesting site, and more often than not she does the actual building as well, though her mate may help gather material. By the time the nest is finished, the hen bird is ready to lay her eggs.

Most songbirds in temperate regions average four to six eggs each clutch. Weather, abundance of food, or other external conditions may influence the number.

Certain birds have been known to lay their eggs, almost indefinitely, when something happened to their eggs."

Nondisease Affliction

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen

We suspect that some physicians write with tongue in cheek. I just read an article in the New England Journal of Medicine on nondisease by an Alabama physician. The patients usually are seen by consultants who find them not just healthy but afflicted with a specific nondisease.

Dr. Clifton K. Meador cites several examples. A woman was sent to him because her physician suspected she might have a tumor of the pituitary gland (Cushing's disease). She had many of the findings, including obesity, facial rounding, ruddy complexion, and unwanted hair on the upper lip. But all tests for this condition were negative. She had non-Cushing's disease and Dr. Meador justifies this diagnosis on the theory that nondisease exists when it is suspected but not found. It is suspected because certain symptoms were present. He would not make this diagnosis on every Tom, Dick, and Harry who had negative laboratory tests for this disease. This person had a group of symptoms that mimicked the disorder.

The most common of all nondiseases are classified as upper-lower-limbs syndromes. These are men and women with laboratory tests that are borderline. A person with nonanemia has a blood count that is not low enough to diagnose as anemia nor high enough to call normal. The same situation exists when the blood pressure is borderline (nonhypertension). This is somewhat ridiculous because repeating the tests usually settles the question.

Overinterpretation of X-rays, electrocardiograms, and physical findings lead to a suspicion that certain diseases are present. A shadow that looks like a tumor or ulcer may appear on the X-ray film. Surgery is done and when a lesion is not found, Dr. Meador makes one of his nondisease diagnoses. Overestimating the seriousness of a soft-sounding heart murmur may lead some physicians to conclude that heart disease exists. In time, when the murmur proves to be innocent or functional, he comes up with nonmitral (valve) insufficiency.

SOCKLESS CHILD Mrs. G. H. writes: What is your opinion about not wearing socks? My 11-year-old daughter will not wear them because the other children at school don't. She has sore throats and colds all the time.

REPLY Children of this age want to belong to the group. In all probability, she is getting her colds from classmates and not because she is sockless.

ANGIOGRAM A. P. writes: What is an angiogram of the neck? Is it a dangerous procedure?

REPLY This refers to the visualization of the arteries of the neck. The procedure is done by injecting a material opaque to X-rays into the carotid artery. Films are made at frequent intervals to determine whether the vessel is open, narrowed, or obstructed.

TODAYS HEALTH HINT—Heat, in most forms, is beneficial in arthritis.

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

NOTES BY THE WAY

"I don't think the man in the next apartment likes to hear Johnny play his drum, but he certainly is tactful about it. This knife, and asked him if he knew what was inside his drum." —Financial Post.

A friend says his wife can do bird imitations. For one thing she watches him like a hawk. —Sarnia Observer.

There was a time when the 40-hour week was considered visionary. This was before it was realized how little people were capable of working when they really tried. —Galt Reporter.

Prof. Albert Einstein gave what he considered the best formula for success in life. "If A is success in life, I should say the formula A equals X plus Y plus Z. X being work and Y being play." "And what is Z?" inquired the interviewer. "That," he answered, "is keeping your mouth shut." —Montreal Star.

One of the strange illustrations of how the place of women can change in our modern society was provided in Vancouver where a woman, married to two men, supported the two families. —Fort William Times-Journal.

partly as an unhappy byproduct of the campaign for West Germany's general election in September. This has renewed pressures for moves toward German reunification. "All the political parties want to demonstrate their refusal to accept the separation of Berlin and the division of Germany," says The Sun, a London newspaper, in an editorial. "But reunification, short of a world war, can be achieved only by agreement."

More Trouble In Berlin

By Joseph MacSweeney Canadian Press Staff Writer

It has often seemed the Kremlin can manipulate cold-war flareups around the world with comparative ease. Thus trouble might erupt in, say, Laos following a bloody clash in a Congo jungle.

Nowhere can the Russians inspire trouble more quickly than in Berlin and the crisis of that divided city have perhaps caused more shudders than any other focal-point of trouble in the years of the cold war. But the new East German action in blocking traffic between West Germany and Berlin appears to fit less easily the theory of a Kremlin master simply manipulating trouble on a global scale.

It may suit the Communist purpose to shift some attention at this time from the Vienna case in Southeast Asia to the divided city in the heart of Europe. If so ever, observers find it difficult to see China, regarded as the chief protagonist of toughness in Viet Nam, and the Soviet Union co-operating that closely on strategy amid their own deep differences.

PROVOKED INTO ACTION Besides Bonn being the Russians and East Germans an opening—a "provocation" as the Communists call it—by announcing plans to hold a meeting of the West German parliament in Berlin today. It was the first such scheduled meeting since 1958, when the practice of meeting in Berlin was suspended at the request of the Western Allies.

It is widely thought in Britain the incident arose at least partly as an unhappy byproduct of the campaign for West Germany's general election in September. This has renewed pressures for moves toward German reunification. "All the political parties want to demonstrate their refusal to accept the separation of Berlin and the division of Germany," says The Sun, a London newspaper, in an editorial. "But reunification, short of a world war, can be achieved only by agreement."

"Cocking a snook at the iron curtain may make West German politicians feel good. It also makes agreement more unlikely."

AFFECTS THINKING The autobahn incidents between Berlin and the West German border, even in the early stages, were believed to have had a serious effect on the thinking of many German politicians.

Chancellor Ludwig Erhard and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder had done much toward creating an atmosphere of lessened tension with the Soviet Union and East European countries, including the hated East German regime. Critics had been deeply suspicious of this departure from the uncompromising stand of former chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Now the critics are having their day.

The Hamburg newspaper Die Welt says the incidents could "wake up those of us who have been sitting back comfortably because there was no longer an icy blast blowing from the east."

Germany's Working Women

Milwaukee Journal

Woman's wish to be independent "is one of the worst developments in the uplifting of Europe," the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche observed 80 years ago. He believed that it was "a typical sign of shallow-mindedness to dream of equal rights, equal training, equal claims and obligations" for women.

That kind of thinking, which once permeated Germany's patriarchal society, is becoming passé. Of the 23 million or so people at work in West Germany today, about nine million are women.

There are several reasons for this. One is the vigor of the Ger-

man economy which has brought an acute shortage of labor. Even with more than a million foreign workers, there still are about 300,000 unfilled jobs. World War II, of course, brought many women into the factories. And, largely because of wartime casualties, more than half of the West German population is female.

The West German parliament is now investigating the changing role of women in society. There will be surprises, too. One woman in Dusseldorf employs 850 persons in a factory that makes electrical measuring instruments. Another owns a cigar plant and employs 500 workers.

travel bargains

Table listing travel fares to various cities: Charlottetown to Sackville \$2.20, Moncton \$2.90, Truro \$3.70, Saint John \$4.30, Halifax \$4.80, Antigonish \$5.20, Sydney \$9.50, Quebec \$12.15, Montreal \$13.00, Ottawa \$15.70, Winnipeg \$35.00, Edmonton \$47.00.