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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink" PAGE 4 MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1964

Was This So Urgent?

The House of Commons has adjourned with a lot of business unfinished, including, on the Government's part, the answering of a lot of questions which piled up during the time the question period was suspended by the flag debate. What did the priority was preliminary reading of a bill which is likely to prove highly controversial, and which usurped time that could have been spent to better purpose.

This was the bill authorizing Quebec and any other province to "opt out" of 29 federal-provincial programs and get an extra 4 per cent slice of the personal income tax pie in compensation.

Why the hurry in giving first reading to this measure? Finance Minister Gordon introduced it just two hours before the House adjourned, and Opposition Leader Diefenbaker naturally protested. He gave notice that his party intended to debate the measure at considerable length when it comes up for second reading. Its effect, he said, would be to create "two associate states," and it was far too important to be dragged in at this stage.

With this plain warning as to its contentious nature, Mr. Gordon insisted on placing the bill in the category of budget changes, which normally do not come on January 1, even though still passing Commons and Senate passages will as royal assent. If it should not be passed by Parliament, he conceded, "adjustments will have to be made." But what if Quebec takes advantage of its provisions in the meantime? Mr. Diefenbaker demanded assurance from the Government on this point, but got none. Indeed, it seems evident that this was the chief purpose in giving it a hasty first reading at this time.

Rescue Of The Pound

Fuller details of the dramatic rescue of the British pound are coming to light, and they make a story of international importance. For it was a close call for the whole free world in successfully weathering one of the gravest financial crises of modern times.

At stake was not merely the fate of one currency, but of the future of the entire international monetary structure, painstakingly built up over the last 20 years. If this had toppled, the free world eventually might have been plunged into a depression as crushing and widespread as that of the early 1930's.

That a collapse was averted is a tribute to the good sense and co-operation of international bankers. Most observers agree, however, that the repercussions—political as well as financial—could be far-reaching for Britain and the west. One consequence might be to force the new Labor government from its leftward leaning posture into a more middle of the road or conservative position.

Internationally, the problem was of concern because gold and two reserve currencies—the dollar and the pound—are pillars of one structure. That is, they are the basic mediums of exchange since the United States guarantees to exchange dollars for gold at the fixed price of \$35 an ounce and Britain guarantees to exchange the pound sterling to dollars at the rate of \$2.80 a pound. Although other nations do not make such pledges, each does agree to establish a fixed value for its currency in terms of dollars and

points. Forced devaluation could trigger devaluation of other currencies, and paralyze world trade.

The recent bout of financial "brinkmanship" has brought warnings from economists that the whole monetary system needs reshaping, to make it less dependent on reserve currencies of any kind. We've just been reading an elaborate article on the subject; but as we can't understand any more of it than what we've given in the above paragraphs, we'll let it go at that.

What impressed us is that we've come through such a crisis without realizing how much we were involved in it. Bankers, whose business it is to know about such things, must have been worrying themselves stiff while we were relaxing in the complacency of ignorance!

The ARDA Agreements

We note from a news report that the new agreement between Ottawa and the provinces on the ARDA program will mean a direct injection of \$300 million and possibly more into the economy of the country over the next five years. This is an impressive figure. It could indeed mean a great deal in the way of rural rehabilitation.

Almost \$50 million has already been spent on ARDA. The federal government has put up another \$125 to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the provinces and, in addition, it has established a \$50 million fund for special projects. The provinces need not match the federal contribution on these, but will be expected to put up as much money as they can afford.

ARDA money in general is expected to flow out gradually under the terms of the agreements as the provinces get a better idea of what projects would benefit their rural economies most. It is expected that the Canada Land Inventory, which is part of the program, will provide a clearer idea of this. But so far, it has only been able to establish the uses to which land is being put in the settled parts of the country. Its studies of land capability, which will result in a picture of how land can be put to its most economic use, will not be completed until 1969.

Federal officials say the most important aspect of the new agreements from their standpoint is that they clarify procedures and simplify relations between Ottawa and the provinces. We gather from comments by Premier Shaw and Agriculture Minister MacRae, that the red tape is already being cleared away on projects of concern to this province, and this seems to be the case in other provinces as well. We may expect, therefore, more satisfactory results from now on.

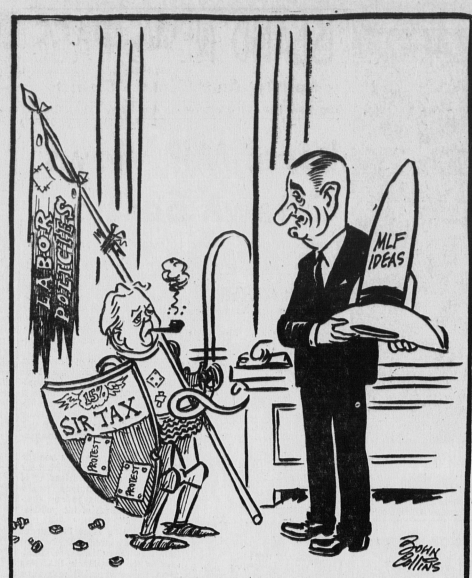
Question Of Principle

By a unanimous vote last week, the Security Council decided to extend the life of the United Nations Cyprus force for a further three months until March 26, on the same terms that have applied since last March. This was in accord with a recommendation of Secretary-General U Thant, on the ground that there seems to be no reasonable alternative to the force to keep peace between the Greek-Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot communities.

In the House of Commons on Friday, External Affairs Minister Martin said that Canada will agree to the UN request, which involves continuing this country's contribution to the peace keeping force for the period mentioned. Most Canadians will agree that this is the right course to take, though it does seem unfair that we should be paying for our own contingent in Cyprus. Why should Canada bear such costs when it is doing international work for the United Nations?

This point was raised in the Commons by Opposition Leader Diefenbaker. It was a matter, first, for members of the NATO alliance who voluntarily shared this responsibility, but now that it has been taken over as a UN policy, and endorsed in the Security Council by a vote of 11-0, the financial obligation rests plainly on the world organization as a whole, not on a few of its more conscientious members.

Mr. Diefenbaker was not arguing that Canada should draw out in any case, but simply that the question of cost sharing should be brought up by the Canadian government as a matter of principle. There seems no reason indeed why it shouldn't.



"HOW ABOUT A SOUVENIR HAT?"

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Another Form Of Filibuster Employed

Sandwiched in among the seemingly endless hours of the final week of the Great M.L.F. Filibuster in the House of Commons, as at 3 p.m. on Thursday just one hour was set aside for the consideration of private members bills.

The hook of the Order Paper brought forward Miss Pauline Jewett sponsoring a bill to incorporate and entirely non-controversial piece, Miss Jewett explained that this new nationwide bilingual "titled body" would replace two existing organizations, the Canadian Universities Foundation and the National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges.

Mr. Grogan: "It can be seen that Mr. Lambert does not understand the subtleties of the French language." BILL KILLED Mr. Grogan said: "Everywhere in the province of Quebec the students are saying 'we used to trust Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, but since he became a Liberal MP he is just like the rest of them.'"

Mr. Grogan: "On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not agree that Mr. Grogan speaks for all the young people of French Canada." Mr. Grogan: "I should like to ask Mr. Pepin if the word he is used is a most unparliamentary one."

Mr. Grogan: "On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, I have been most gentle and considerate in my remarks." "Filibuster, filibuster," called Miss Jewett, as she noted the previous six minutes ticking past. She asked repeatedly for the House to be allowed to vote to pass the bill.

The speaker declared: "Order! The hour for private members bills has expired." Mr. Grogan: "I am sorry that Ontario, Belgium is an important source of revenue to this province."

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Ontario And "Books"

The lawyer defending an Oshawa bookmaker protested in court against the apparent injustice which penalizes bets at race tracks but brands as criminals people who accept bets away from the tracks. His plea overlaid two points:

In various parts of Canada where as in the United States, it has repeatedly been established that while bookmaking may start as a small postscript to a little store's business, it is not long before the underworld edges in to take control of the books and put them on an aggressive basis under syndicate management.

The other is that bets at race tracks are under government supervision. They yield annual millions to the governments, in return for the protection of the bookmaker.

Smoking Report Brings Alibis

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen Publication of the United States public health report on smoking led to a problem that has not been solved. "Our men were, however, by patients who wanted to know how to quit. Many methods, often with cigars in hand, took the easy way out by saying: 'Well just stop.' This is true, but how?"

Some heavy smokers are able to overcome the nicotine withdrawal effect it is having on a convalescent. It is having an even worse effect on their health. "Physicians are now finding that bronchitis and are paying for advice and want to improve their own reactions of people."

Edward P. Sprague of Boston has had many opportunities as a heart specialist to observe the reactions of people when told that smoking was not fitting their condition in any good. "Physicians are now finding that bronchitis and are paying for advice and want to improve their own reactions of people."

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NOTES BY THE WAY

A new story says science has ruled out the handling of nuclear waste in final phase. There is nothing sacred? The next thing, they will be saying that a subatomic particle mixture has no value as a spring tonic.—Edmonton Journal

There are increasing signs that the age of the purring metal is ending. In final phase, that the device which was to have solved all our parking problems, within a decade, so. Join the hitching post of an other car as a thing of the past.—Kingston Whig-Standard

By Joseph MacSwain Canadian Press Staff Writer

By JOSEPH MACSWAIN Canadian Press Staff Writer The general lines of Prime Minister Harold Wilson's formula for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons have emerged from the hurly-burly of nuclear debate in the British House of Commons.

Wilson has said repeatedly a key function of his proposed NATO Atlantic pact would be to prevent proliferation of the dread bomb but this intended he did not mention controversial aspects of his program.

He Britain the prolonged controversy over Wilson's ANF and the rival M.L.F., the multilateral pact, first proposed by the United States, Wilson assumes an air of force.

Cartoonists find a source for inspired comment. One cartoon depicted fond parents exclaiming over their child: "He's spoken his first words, ANF and M.L.F."

James Cameron, writing in "The Independent" on the M.L.F. arguments sound like an essay in medieval theology rather than an attempt to solve world problems.

FORGET ABOUT RUSSIA "The only clear part about this is that the Russians are manifestly forgotten all about the Russians — they are completely and abjectly forgotten themselves from each other."

Wilson, the Labor premier, and Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the former Conservative premier, agreed in the Commons neither side would really add anything to the deterrent against Russia.

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British Nuclear Debate

Neither defence agency could ever fire nuclear weapons without U.S. permission. And the U.S. would be highly unlikely to approve an ANF or M.L.F. attack on anything unless it also was attacking from the far greater missile arsenal.

Dennis Healey, defence secretary, sought to show, however, that the anti-proliferation aspect of the ANF is particularly meaningful especially in relation to West Germany and indeed, although he did not mention the latter country, in France.

"We offer Germany the prospect of ownership, management and control of a new strategic NATO force on terms of absolute equality with all other participants," said Healey. OFFERS EQUALITY

"By renouncing our right to go it alone in Europe we offer Germany equality and offer the German government and people a more decisive argument against those in Germany, who are pressing for the independent nuclear role of their own."

The dangers of a nuclear war in the Far East were stressed in former terms by Healey, India's Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri apparently warned in his recent visit to London he is under pressure to build a bomb to match aggressive Chinese nuclear weapons.

Healey made it clear Britain wants Eastern and Western nuclear powers to guarantee India and neighboring countries against nuclear blackmail or attack by China. Wilson, it seems sure, intends to press this plan when British Premier Alec Douglas-Home visits London in the new year.

Canada's Cautious Hope

Winnipeg Free Press represented" in the General Assembly. In light of Communist China's attitude to recent approaches that the attend UN as an observer, not even Mr. Martin can be sure that the day of China's admission is close at hand.

Canada's annual policy statement to the United Nations, delivered by Mr. Paul Martin on Tuesday, was full of good hopes and calls for conciliation among the great powers. It was about as much as the external affairs minister could say in the circumstances.

Wise, he did not want to rock the boat. In the present attitude of the UN, all that one can do is hope that the major powers will reach an accommodation that will permit the organization to continue its good work.

As Mr. Martin said, the present dispute over the refusal of some nations to pay their share of the UN, all that one can do is hope that the major powers will reach an accommodation that will permit the organization to continue its good work.

But in light of Communist China's attitude to recent approaches that the attend UN as an observer, not even Mr. Martin can be sure that the day of China's admission is close at hand.

Other cautious generalizations in Mr. Martin's address appeared to indicate that Canada still hopes for the eventual seating of communist China in the UN. General Secretary U Thant's "universality of ultimate goal" so long as a significant segment of the world's population remains unrepresented, of which Canada is a member.

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STOP GYPSIES MUNICH (AP)—The state of Bavaria announced Saturday it has stopped a threatened invasion of its territory. The invaders? One - thousand Gypsies who are trying to cross into West Germany by air and

WHAT SHOULD BE KNOWN ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

The fight against tuberculosis is by no means won, but actually becomes more difficult as improving death rates and new cases engender a degree of apathy. The P.E.I. Tuberculosis League continues to play an important supportive role in the control of the disease. The most important fact to realize is that Tuberculosis which is raging in Europe and North America is becoming more common in Asia and Latin America. There are 3,000,000 deaths throughout the world every year from tuberculosis. Help prevention and research—BUY CHRISTMAS GIFTS.