

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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PAGE 4 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1966

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink"

Where Will It End?

The Pearson government is being faulted, and rightly so, for its bumbling in handling the strike threat posed by the nation's air traffic controllers. They are demanding an average increase of about 15 per cent which is in line with the increase proposed by Judge John B. Robinson after seven months of mediation, and 18 months of negotiation with the government before that. The government said that only half of the judge's report had been submitted, that it was not dealing with it until it gets the second half, which is not expected to be completed until mid-January. Meantime the controllers have called their strike for next Tuesday, Dec. 20, and the cabinet is preparing emergency legislation to block the walkout which would halt all Canadian airline operations at the height of the Christmas rush.

Even before the strike was called, opposition members were clamoring for an emergency debate in the Commons, which was rejected on the ground that it was premature and might prejudice negotiations. But the negotiations, it seems, were at such a stage that they couldn't be prejudiced further. With the calling of the strike the debate was acceded to. But surely, the need now is for action, not long-winded controversy over why the trouble arose.

The point that strikes the general public most forcibly is that these air traffic officials are civil servants and are not covered by legislation providing for either collective bargaining or strikes. In short, they have no right to stage a walkout, or to threaten one. They knew that when they took their jobs. The government could fire them outright if a strike began, but replacements would be difficult if not impossible, and special legislation must be passed to compel them to remain at work until the wage issue is dealt with.

Such incidents have happened before as a result of government procrastination. But that is no excuse for any organization resorting to illegal measures to achieve its aims, however justifiable they may be in themselves. If our laws can be flouted in this manner, why not in others? It is an intolerable situation, and it should be felt as such by the Canadian Labor Congress and other responsible labor organizations as well as by the public. It is building up a strong feeling of resentment against union pressures generally, and its long-term effect could prove extremely harmful to legitimate labor demands.

Cold Comfort

We haven't joined as yet in the editorial hurrahs that greeted the news that the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed on a space treaty to prevent the military exploitation of the moon and other celestial bodies and to ban weapons of mass destruction from outer space. It is the first such treaty of its kind, and President Johnson, who initiated the negotiations last May, regards it as "the most important arms control development" since the 1963 treaty limiting nuclear tests on this mundane sphere.

Unlike the limited test-ban treaty, however, the space treaty will not prevent the major powers from doing anything they are now doing or intend to do in the foreseeable future. It does provide that no nation will place any space vehicles containing nuclear weapons into orbit round the earth or install such weapons on bodies in outer space. But as a New York Times writer points out, neither side seems interested in doing so. It also provides that the moon and celestial bodies will be used "exclusively for peaceful purposes," but

again, despite some far-fetched dreams early in the space program, no prevailing reason has been found for extending military bases to the moon.

It's a nice gesture, of course—to seek to make the vast reaches beyond the earth a zone of peace, not of jealous conflict. But it is ironic, to say the least, that even as the space treaty was being drafted the arms race on earth was being speeded up. Recent developments to this effect are noted in the greater-than-expected Soviet production of ballistic missiles, the initial Soviet deployment of an anti-ballistic system, and the move by the United States to develop more powerful, more sophisticated missiles for the Polaris submarines.

But of course, as The Times says hopefully, the treaty may eventually help overcome the mutual reluctance to embark on meaningful arms control measures where they will be of some use. That's as cheery a note as we can find to end our comment on the subject, and our readers are welcome to all the comfort they can get from it.

A Prime Example

Out of Regina comes the news that a prairie royal commission has been appointed to investigate increased consumer prices and the high cost of living. The commissioners will hold hearings at various points in the west. Coincidentally comes the news, out of Ottawa, that the parliamentary food prices committee will hit the road to hear from consumers across the country—again to investigate increased prices and the high cost of living.

For weeks the parliamentary group has been inquiring into rising food costs, store contests, give-away programs, packaging and standardization of weights and measures. The Western Canada's royal commission, with all the same powers and more, is to do the same thing. What new information can either or both investigatory agencies uncover?

Taxpayers, both east and west, must wonder. Either the prairie commission and its travels are unnecessary in the light of the parliamentary inquiry, or the proposed junketing across the country of the parliamentary inquiry is unnecessary. As the London Free Press points out, this is surely a prime example of the lack of federal-provincial liaison, government by duplication and expenditure by multiplication.

It is worse than that. This urge to go traipsing about the country at the public expense is a contagious ailment among politicians. Soon we'll be hearing about other regional commissions set up for the same purpose, all under the pretext of being zealous in the public weal. Finance Minister Sharp really ought to sound one of his notes of warning about it when he brings down his baby budget Monday evening. It would be more to the point, surely, than lecturing us in this part of the country on the inflationary results of a boom that hasn't yet made much impact on Maritime economy.

Hard To Get At

Flowery language is all very well in its place, but we can sympathize with Mel Ravitz, a Detroit civic councilman, who complains that it sprouts too luxuriously in the reports he receives from bureaucrats. These people never write a letter, he complains, but "forward a communication." No project is ever ended, it is "finalized." The poor have become "the disadvantaged" or "the culturally deprived."

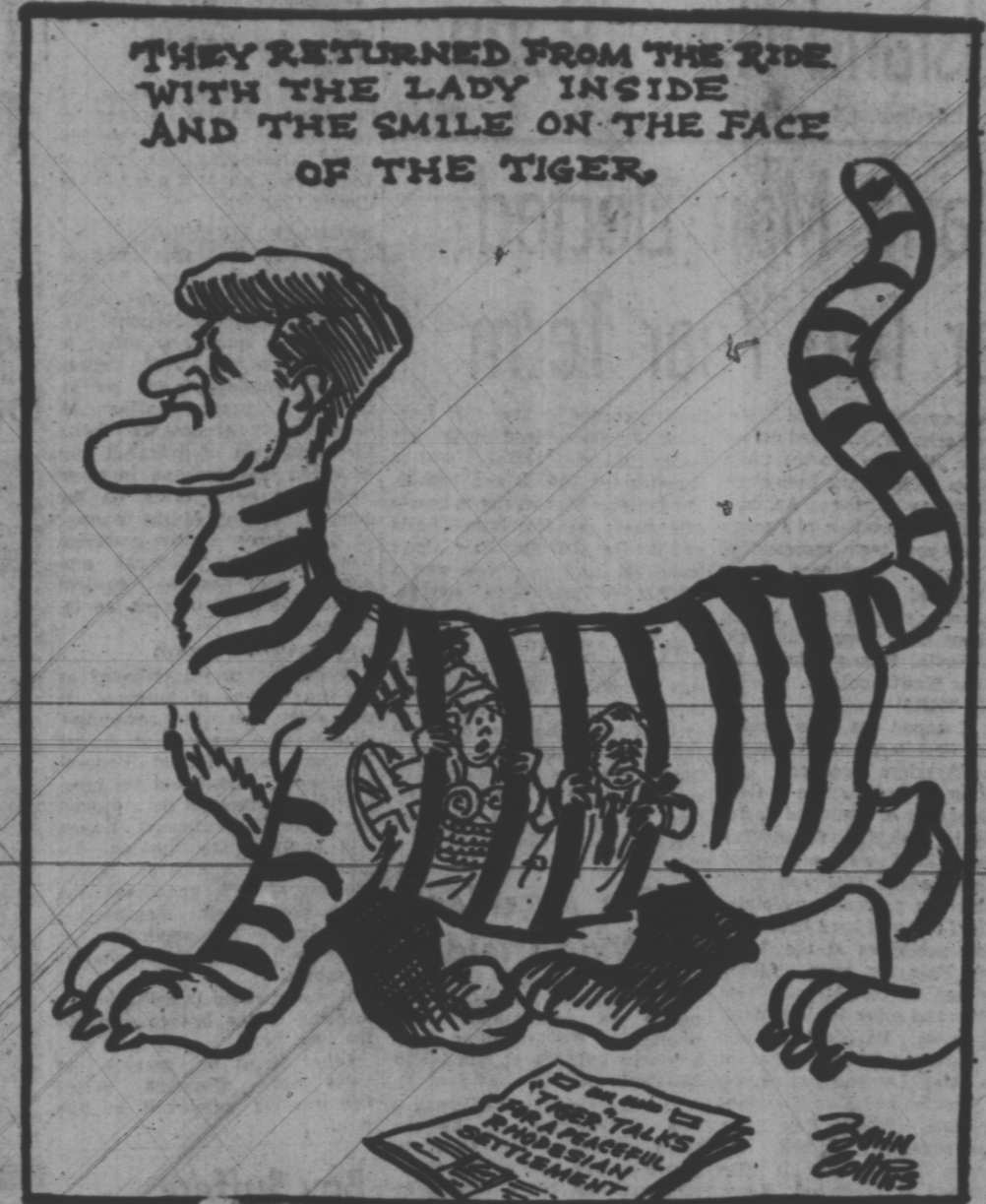
But this was nothing to what the councilman got in a letter from the director of a "Total Action For Poverty" organization agent a federal grant of \$46,134. It contained this gem, among others: "The purpose of the program is to develop an analytical structure which will permit the optimum allocation of limited funds among the possible components of a War on Poverty."

"Does that mean," Ravitz asked, "they want to find out how best to spend the money?" After struggling through the letter's description of a "client profile analysis system" and the "feedback mechanism for each poverty program," he learned that "such adjustments will lead to the optimum program mix."

There Councilman Ravitz quit. The council would accept the federal money, he told the poverty planners, but before it allowed them to spend it, someone would have to explain what it was for.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Why, laments an exchange, are old people, who retire so they can enjoy doing nothing, always greeted with "What are you doing now?"



ON THE ROAD OF NO RETURN

OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Pipeline Project Still A Line Of Issue

Trans-Canada Pipeline's project to carry natural gas from Alberta to the rich markets of central Canada proved to be a Waterloo for the St. Laurent Liberal government in 1966. Now 16 years later the company is planning a second pipeline, and this too may become a Waterloo for the Pearson Liberal government.

The company's initial proposal for this second line was to run it across U.S. territory from Emerson, Manitoba to Sarala, Ontario. In a well-reasoned and convincing statement on 25th August, Prime Minister Pearson rejected this route, as being against Canada's interests, and insisted on an all-Canadian route. Six weeks later, Mr. Pearson reversed himself and the government approved the U.S. route.

Many of the voters add weight to the questions. Many condemned this handicap to north development, and others wrote such miscellaneous comments as "I am very sorry we did not get a chance like this to express our views on the flag issue." "We don't like any part of the pending plan." "Go back to Cuba" and "I support your stand, but not necessarily the NDP."

Murdo Martin, New Democrat MP for Timmins, points out to me that the USA route for the second pipeline will deprive northern Ontario of much cheap gas which has been attracting new industries to the northland and would have attracted more in the future. He also queries the economic behind "this nefarious deal," and he claims that the government was "at best misled the country and at worst lied."

POLL DAMNS GOVERNMENT
But the New Democratic Party has not been content to let the battle end with that decision. In the most intensive private referendum ever conducted in Canada, it has saturated the homes of Northern Ontario with a questionnaire, asking whether the voters approve of "this disastrous sell-out to the USA." The first returns are now coming in, and reveal the overwhelming opposition of the people of Northern Ontario. 1,285 condemn the government, and only a paltry six support it.

From Timmins, this first vote was 299-2; from Port Arthur 299-1; from Kapuskasing 278-1; from Algoma 99-0; and from Fort William 23-2.

This is a very incomplete first return; many more replies will come in the days ahead. But this first count is a sufficiently large sample to indicate the trend. And this trend has made the New Democrats jubilant. "We will sweep 10 or 12 seats in Northern Ontario in the next federal election," they confidently predict.

WE LOSE JOBS
For instance, the government maintain that the USA route would be cheaper to construct. It would be 200 miles shorter than the approximately 1,000-mile northern route not so, says Mr. Martin, it would only be 64.2 miles shorter. The USA line would cost \$6.44 per foot to construct, whereas the Canadian route would cost \$12.18 per foot. Oh no, says Mr. Martin, that larger figure included \$7 per foot for buying the right of way, constructing access roads and cutting through rock.

But none of those costs would apply if the existing Northern Ontario pipeline were to be twinned, because the right of way has already been bought, the access roads built, and the rock cut. Then too the operating costs are based on the inequity that the capital invested in the US route would receive only 6 1/2 per cent interest, but if used to finance an all-Canadian route, the capital would seek a return of eight per cent.

Why Tolerate It?

We watched a young couple making love in bed last Sunday evening on television. The week before we were treated on the same program to an appearance of one Arthur Ginsberg, a so-called prophet of the LSD age, who advocates the use of LSD for everyone over 14 and who described the use of marijuana as a religious experience and the use of psychedelic drugs as "trance-magic."

Our Yesterdays
(From The Guardian Files)
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 15, 1941)
Widespread fifth column work by the Japanese and the fact that United States army and navy forces were not on the alert led to the modified success of Japan's surprise raid on Pearl Harbor, said U.S. Navy Secretary Frank Knox.

These were segments of a new television horror perpetrated by the CBC under the deceptively innocuous title, "Sunday." There have been other episodes almost as disgraceful.

A friend of ours, Arthur Hueston, publisher of a weekly newspaper in Southwestern Ontario, likened one of these programs to turning over wet and rotten planks in a barnyard to see the maggots squirm. We felt, after viewing the last program, that we had not only seen the maggots—we had eaten them.

Prime Minister MacKenzie King announced the appointment of Humphrey Mitchell, chairman of the National War Labor Board, as Minister of Labor, and transfer of Labor Minister McLarty to the department of Secretary of State.

Canadians are being taxed heavily to support the CBC. They have every right to expect that the money will be used in a way that will provide healthful, relaxing entertainment the whole family can enjoy. Especially on a Sunday evening. We can do without exposure to symphoniacs, long-haired beatniks, drug addicts, sexual perverts, religious nuts and all the rest who live on the fringe of society. And we can do without these producers who feel it necessary to bring them to our attention.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 15, 1956)
John Diefenbaker bounded into the Progressive Conservative leadership with ease and immediately called on his party for Atlantic to Pacific unity.

Foreign Ministers of the North Atlantic countries completed a four day council meeting which delegates described "as one of the most important in NATO history." John Foster Dulles of the United States said it was perhaps a turning point in history. The main practical provision in the 10,000 word document resulting from the meeting is to make the secretary-general a figure of authority and initiative comparable to the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjöld.

SHOW NEVER STOPS
Expo 67 will have five handshells for Canadian amateur groups to perform in throughout the exhibition.

Abusing Alcohol

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen
There are many serious and embarrassing side effects of overindulgence in alcohol. The worst is the possibility of becoming an alcoholic, even though the chance is not great. Eighty million Americans drink approximately 300 million gallons of liquor a year. Of these, 6.5 million become alcoholics. This demonstrates that the majority do not become problem drinkers, develop cirrhosis of the liver, wreck their lives, or become criminals or bums.

There also is a chance that the user will hurt or kill himself or others. This is a possibility because one-half of all fatal accidents involve a person who has been imbibing. In addition heavy drinking shortens life from 10 to 15 years.

Despite the considerable difference of opinion about the definition of an alcoholic, all concede that he is a person who has lost control of his ability to drink and has become dependent upon alcohol. In 1790, Dr. Benjamin Rush suggested that uncontrolled drinking might be a disease. Ten years ago delegates to the AMA convention passed a resolution declaring alcoholism a disease. This is the sophisticated approach, even though many physicians agree that it is not like any disease with which they are familiar. New laws may keep the alcoholic out of jail and add to the shortage of hospital beds—a medicare.

Getting drunk may aggravate existing diseases. A few ounces of booze may relax a person with heart trouble, but it will create stress if he overindulges. The pulse may double and he might overeat or exert himself beyond reason. Diabetics, and those with gout or peptic ulcer also may forget "doctor's orders" in the circumstances.

A patient of mine with a rheumatic tendency was always banging his hand against the door or table when feeling high. Arthritis of the fingers developed as a result of the trauma. He also is embarrassed when he cannot remember what he said or forgets commitments—he made the night before.

ILLNESS AND CHILDREN
L. B. writes: I have two children under 11 years of age. My mother-in-law has terminal cancer. Is it healthy for her to kiss the children on the cheek?

REPLY
To the best of our knowledge, cancer is not contagious. It is not passed along via kissing.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Two sailors, at sea for the first time, were looking out over the mighty ocean. Said one: "That's the most water I ever saw." The other replied: "You ain't seen nothin' yet. That's just the top of it." — Toronto Globe and Mail.

To the list of modern galley slaves add ship's cooks. — Windsor Star.

"The doctor said that my wife and I need more exercise, so I've bought myself a set of golf clubs," said Gubb to his neighbor. "And what have you bought for your wife?" "A lawn mower." — Montreal Star.

The young man who married a cheer leader found her cries of charge exciting, but didn't realize she was adopting it as a lifetime slogan. — Calgary Herald.

The \$100 a plate dinner seems to be here to stay, but with food prices the way they are it's hard to see how the sponsors make any money. — Calgary Herald.

Black Market Razed

The flourishing black market in American goods, stolen from U.S. aid shipments to South-Viet Nam, has been smashed in Saigon. It was action which only the government thought could happen, for it had been operating for many years and there was opinion that the city had learned to take ice in its stride and would not interfere with the black market.

Premier Ky, however, has given warning that the black market had reached the day of reckoning, and on that day the Vietnamese combat police tore the market apart and burned it. The destruction of the black market was a fitting end to illegal sales which had sent up to \$75 million in annual American aid down the drain. The black market had been operating openly under the eyes of the police who, along with thousands of others, occasionally purchased American goods from the dealers. The contraband included U.S. canned goods, electric toothbrushes, hair spray and many other items. All these goods had been stolen in one way or another from the U.S. aid shipments, bringing riches to the illegal dealers and destined goods to the purchasers.

Vindictive Tactics

It is supreme irony that a man who believes he has been wronged by his government should have to seek redress from an official of another government in another country.

Yet this is the case of John Krocker, a former Canadian civil servant. Mr. Krocker was dismissed last year from the federal finance department after a policy conflict concerning the Canada Pension Plan. Recently, he wrote to Sir Edmund Compton, Britain's new ombudsman, asking for help and complaining about "vindictive" government tactics and loss of pay benefits.

Mr. Krocker may have a case or his accusations may be completely wild. That is not the point here. The point is that he has a grievance, wants to air it and have it adjudicated after going through all "normal" channels; there is no ombudsman for him to petition here. Mr. Krocker would be better off if he were in Helsinki, Wellington or Lansing, Michigan. There are ombudsmen there in fact the idea is positively booming. Even Quebec, Canada's lone wolf, is considering an appointment.

Suggestions in Ottawa for a federal ombudsman have met with somewhat curt treatment and that old sidestep called the "departmental study." (As if a government department would be likely to approve an office which could undermine it.)

Mr. Krocker's plight, if not his case should alert governments to a cause should alert governments to the deficiency. Persistent brushoffs can only give rise to the speculation that governments which resist are afraid of exposure.



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