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What is there to fear in Bill 43?

DURING the past three weeks the Prince Rupert public has had the opportunity to hear, and readers to The Daily News a chance to read, two interpretations of "An Act Relating to Trade Unions" or Bill 43 as it is more commonly called. The first was given by E. P. O'Neal, secretary of the British Columbia Federation of Labor and the second by William H. Murray, Prince Rupert MLA in the B.C. legislature.

We thought that both men outlined their viewpoints quite clearly and simply. We flattered ourselves that The Daily News had reported them clearly and simply and certainly at great length.

Yet on this page we have a letter from a reader who apparently thinks that Bill 43 is a means of preventing strikes. That is, if we are to take the reader seriously.

If we do take the letter seriously, then it must be pointed out that Bill 43 does not deal in any way with prevention of strike action.

Bill 43 deals mostly with what happens after a legal strike is called or a lockout imposed by management.

The bill (a) provides for legal picketing by the union involved in a legal strike (b) it forbids picketing during an illegal strike (c) it provides for picketing during a legal or illegal lockout (d) it forbids secondary boycott or picketing by unions not directly involved in a dispute with a management being legally picketed (e) it establishes that unions and managements are legal entities liable for damages (f) it establishes that a union is responsible for illegal unlawful acts of union members and management is liable for unlawful acts by management personnel (g) and it establishes the circumstances which justify an ex parte injunction and limits its duration.

None of the foregoing has anything to do with prevention of strikes. Therefore, it can only be concluded that "Loyal Supporter" (of Bill 43 we presume) contends that the bill gives management the means whereby it can hail unions into court sufficient number of times until the legal costs break the union treasury. It also means that "Loyal Supporter" must agree with Mr. O'Neal when he asked his listeners to compare the relative wealths of unions with that of the recently-merged Powell River Company and MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd. Unions haven't that kind of money unless they call on the internationals, therefore "Loyal Supporter" must agree with the labor leaders who claim that management pressured the government into introducing restrictive, anti-labor laws.

Certainly briefs presented by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Manufacturers Association and the Building and Construction Industries Exchange of B.C. were intended to persuade the government to curb the power of union leaders and achieve a balance between the unions and the employers of British Columbia.

The Building and Construction Industries Exchange manual entitled "Labor Reform in British Columbia" stresses to its readers that "when you are considering labor's case against this new legislation, we urge you to keep one fact in mind. This statute is the direct result of the deliberate and sometimes arrogant refusal of trade union leaders to recognize and respect the labor laws of B.C."

We would say this.

The government introduced laws which it believed would benefit the economy of the province. Right or wrong, Bill 43 is now law and the Social Credit government shows no sign of changing it. Federation secretary O'Neal reiterates the province-wide labor policy that the only way to have Bill 43 repealed is to change the government by supplanting it with the CCF party.

Now the CCF party has always claimed that the economy of the province is dear to its heart and it would seem to us that should it come to power, it will do nothing to jeopardize the well-being of British Columbia. Therefore, unless the CCF party wishes to condone the secondary boycott, illegal picketing, the tying-up by costly strikes of whole sections of the province's economy, then it will make few changes in Bill 43.

Where the changes should come is from the union membership itself. The members should study closer the issues at stake in disputes involving themselves and not be so willing to be led blindly into situations which not only harm themselves and their families but hundreds of others as well. Only those who have been out on strike know the full impact of getting back on one's feet financially and how long it takes for a dearly-bought pay increase to compensate for not working.

Unless Bill 43 actually restricts freedom of speech, and there is no proof that it does, then to avoid running afoul of it, is merely a matter of obeying the law. If management abuses the ramifications of the bill, then the courts of our land will penalize management the same as it has punished unions which have done the same thing.

In the hands of rank and file union membership lies the power to see that they are not betrayed into breaking the law. If there are cases where union members cannot express themselves freely by secret ballot, in any situation, then a means of intimidation is rife among them. Only internal house-cleaning can remove such breaches of democracy. For the law-abiding, it is not hard to obey the law.

Saving daylight

Daylight saving time has proved very popular in the years it has been in effect; so popular in fact that we cannot understand why it is not continued throughout the year.

In British Columbia, by the standards set in daylight saving, greater opportunity is provided for people to obtain more daylight hours when they can use them. During the fall and with winter soon to follow that extra hour tacked on to the afternoon period would give more daylight time to people of this province.

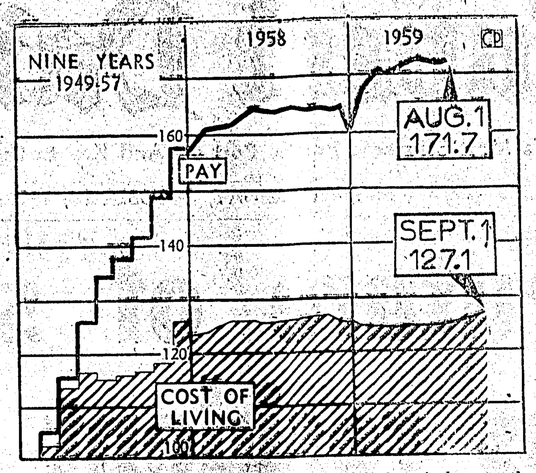
It is not a question of getting up earlier or later that we advocate retaining daylight time as a standard for this province, but rather because we feel that it would be far more advantageous to all. While appreciating the "extra" hour during the summer months, it seems only natural that it would be better all year round. —West Coast Advocate.

Christians in traffic

A Presbyterian minister, the Rev. D. G. Herron, of Toronto, says a Christian has not only a duty to obey traffic laws, but "he must show a love, an attitude of charity toward other drivers."

He was speaking to a road safety workshop conference sponsored by the Ontario Department of Transport, in Toronto.

It is true that the Christian has a duty to love his neighbor, but few of us are as Christian as all that. More's the pity, for we could solve all our problems if we were. —London Free Press.



ALL-TIME HIGH—The Canadian cost-of-living index reached a record high of 127.1 at September 1. The index, based on 1949 prices equalling 100, had risen during July past the previous record of 126.3, reached November 1, 1958. This graph (shaded area) traces the yearly average of the price index during 1949-57 and its movement through 1958 and so far this year. Also shown in the index for average industrial wages and salaries which stood at 171.7 at August 1, up from 171.6 a month earlier. —CP Newsmap.

Clothes rather than sputniks causing concern to Russians

MOSCOW (AP)—Quiet but persistent public pressure for more consumer goods has shown itself in recent weeks—and the Soviet government is seeking to meet it to some extent.

Premier Khrushchev made it clear last week that his government will continue pushing ahead with its industrialization scheme, thus limiting the supply of consumer items. But some improvement is promised.

Some declaration on the subject may be expected at the meeting beginning October 27 of the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet parliament. Khrushchev set the tune when he publicly discussed consumer goods on his recent tour of Siberia.

He ordered a better supply of consumer goods for Vladivostok, the Russian port on the Pacific which is icebound for three months a year.

DRESS BETTER

He told his people to dress better and get away from drab greys. He said Russia must produce more consumer goods of better quality and lower price.

What perhaps is as important as the speeches is the appearance of letters and discussions about prices in the newspapers.

Such subjects are still handled gingerly. But the Moscow paper Soviet Russia printed a letter from a worker complaining:

"I am fed up with this covering up with sputniks and airliners.

"Come down to the level of the most ordinary shoes. I have only one pair of shoes which have already lasted four years.

"Why? Because they come from the West and have a brand from abroad.

"I am not personally in need of a TU-114 (airliner). I manage with the help of the tram. But I want to lead a good life, to be well clad."

The article said that when factories and houses were being built in Russia, it was no time for nylons and fancy shoes. But "now the time has come for us to ask all those who are engaged in making suits, furniture and television sets to give us more of them and make them better."

Letterbox

BILL 43 GOOD LAW

The Editor,
The Daily News,

I certainly enjoyed your news report on MLA Bill Murray's speech on Bill 43 and I was glad that he explained it all so clearly.

It is good to know that we have a government that protects the working people from unscrupulous union leaders. It seems that everyone we elect for the top union jobs does nothing but complain about Bill 43, the restrictions of civil rights and how he would get thrown in jail if any of the Labor Relations Act laws duuring a strike as happened in Vancouver.

Who wants a strike anyway? Maybe in the old days when labor worked for peanuts there was good cause for strikes but we get good pay now.

This Bill 43 should be just the thing for halting all these strikes. Now there are a dozen ways to prove themselves innocent, all of which costs money and what have you got? Busted unions and no strikes.

"LOYAL SUPPORTER"
Prince Rupert.

Cross, Fretty Baby

If baby is cross or fretty, it is usually a sign that something in his or her little system is "out of order". And in many cases, mild, gentle Baby's Own Tablets can promptly "put it right". That's the reason more and more modern mothers keep Baby's Own Tablets on hand for instant use when minor ailments, colic and upsets, due to need of a corrective, cause baby to be fretful, feverish, and restless. Clinically and time-tested, Baby's Own Tablets are thoroughly dependable. Just see for yourself how quickly these easy-to-take sweet-tasting little tablets have baby feeling happy and comfortable again. Ask your doctor about them. Get a package at your druggist.

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The Packsack of Gregory Clark

The manufacturers of tins are lagging years behind the rest of this wonderful Era of Ease and Comfort. Opening a tin of shoe polish is just as exasperating a job as it was back in 1900. With the exception of one or two brands that put a sort of turn-button on the side of the tin which very simply hoists the lid off, nearly all shoe polish is still marketed in a tin that you have to beat and hammer all out of shape in order to get the lid off. And then you can never get the lid truly back on again.

Sardines are universally packed in those tins with a key enclosed. Some of them you open from a tab on the end, some from a tab on a corner. Whether I am hexed or not I can't say; but four out of five sardine cans never peel off for me. The third twist, and the blame thing goes on the bias, and I have to poke the sardines out in fragments with a fork.

"To open," says the directions printed around the edge of a thousands cans and tins, "simply. . . ."

Simply my eye. You would think that if the Russians can hit the moon with a rocket, the tin can industry could improve on their nineteenth century designs. But maybe the invention of the automatic can opener relieved them of any sense of obligation.

Or, indeed, maybe they own the automatic can opener factories.

No true and permanent fame can be founded except in labors which promote the happiness of mankind.
—Charles Sumner.

Merit is worthier than fame.
—Francis Bacon.

Lighter side

"The ancient Chinese art of healing people by sticking needles into them is being revived in Europe," says a travel writer. In the hospitals of this country it's universal.

✦ ✦ ✦

A student of human evolution predicts that the man of the future will have no toes. However, there is no need to hasten the process by injudicious use of power lawnmowers.

✦ ✦ ✦

Again the world is warned that the melting of the polar ice caps constitutes the chief threat to the survival of mankind. And yet we go right ahead unleashing blasts of political hot air.

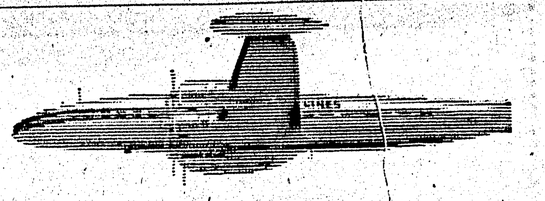
RAY GARDNER TELLS

How "Flying Phil" Gaglardi got that way

British Columbia's fast-moving (three speeding raps) minister of highways is also a whirlwind minister of the gospel. Heckled by a hostile press and accused of everything from meddling to manipulating, he bursts through opposition like a bat out of heaven.

Read about it in MACLEAN'S

ON SALE TODAY



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