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Socreds make mockery of PUC, laws of land

IT is The Daily News' policy, as it should be the policy of any responsible newspaper, to support honest measures for the good of northern and north-central British Columbia. By the same token, it is a newspaper's duty to see that it is not blindfolded when the time for questioning arrives. Such a time has arrived in connection with the various proposals of the Wenner-Gren interests and affiliated enterprises.

Despite all the rosy assurances by both Wenner-Gren and the Socreds, the people of northern British Columbia are beginning to wonder just what is going on. Despite solemn pledges by Wenner-Gren, Premier Bennett, W. C. Mainwaring, and others involved in these proposed projects, clouds of mistrust are hovering over the north.

First the Peace River power development delay (in violation of its June dating) and now the Pacific Northern Railway aided and abetted by Railways Minister Wicks, is playing hanky-panks with the Public Utilities Commission. A notice of protest from Prince Rupert City Council, gave the Pacific Northern Railway Company cause to pause because it suddenly sought an adjournment of the scheduled PUC hearing to prepare its submission. It seems obvious to us that the PNR wasn't expecting any protests and that backed by its Socred protectors they were prepared to go ahead hearing or no hearing. However, now that there has been a protest it doesn't appear to make very much difference. Railways Minister Wicks, used the Railways Act as his authority and promptly gave the PNR the go-ahead to start construction without a PUC hearing.

This left the PUC impotent on the sidelines and Prince Rupert wasn't even permitted the courtesy of registering its protest against the PNR's proposed route.

The only recourse left Prince Rupert City Council is legal action and to try to obtain an injunction to prevent the railway from starting work until submissions have been made from both sides. There must be some laws of the land to halt such dictatorial action by the government. With an election date expected at any time, one would think that the Social Credit government would bend over backward to convince the people of British Columbia that it is acting in good faith for the interests of the majority, but the fact that the Wenner-Gren-backed railway is placed by the government beyond the jurisdiction of the PUC, would seem to reinforce the impression that in promoting such schemes as the Peace River power development and the PNR, Premier Bennett and his lieutenants are content to ride roughshod over the wishes of the people of British Columbia. When Mayor Lester describes Railways Minister Wicks' action as "high-handed and arrogant" he is describing the whole Social Credit regime. It is something to remember when the election is finally called.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

There's a man who comes into the office every now and then to offer me advice on social problems. The other day he turned up at the swinging door with a worried look on his face.

"Did you ever stop to think," he demanded, "of the gallons and gallons of milk that the average family wastes?"

"Frankly, no, I never have stopped," I said.

"Take a look at the bottom of the average milk bottle," he said dramatically. "What do you see?"

"Milk?" I suggested.

"That's it," he said. "A small amount of milk left at the bottom of the bottle. Not of much account, you might think. And yet, if you add it up over the course of a year, it could make an impressive total."

"Yes," I acknowledged. "Perhaps, in a lifetime, the output of one entire cow. It's a depressing thought, some poor cow giving her all, to no avail. Wasting her life's work."

"You see what I mean?" he asked anxiously.

"But look at the work it's making for the dairymen," I objected. "The extra sales. Dollars in his pocket."

"No, that doesn't happen," he said. "The dairyman doesn't sell an extra bottle of milk just because you waste a little. But think of the loss to you."

"What can be done about it?" I asked. "Make sure you dump every drop in the tea or coffee?"

"You should," he contended. "And think of all the other stuff that's wasted, because of tag-ends of butter left on the plate, bits of meat left behind in the fridge. Tons of good food thrown away."

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"I can't see this as material for a great newspaper crusade," I objected. "But I remember depression years, and I hate to see anything wasted.

"As a result," I continued, "my feelings are hurt all the time, by finding small amounts of spoiled cottage cheese or slices of green-looking dried bread, tucked away in forgotten corners of the fridge or cupboard.

"My wife claims she doesn't remember anything about any depression, except what she has read in the papers," I said glumly.

We exchanged a few words about the shortage of food in other countries and the abundance of it here. And my advisor went away, shaking his head darkly.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Little hope of reducing arms race for year

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's action in breaking off disarmament negotiations at Geneva today apparently postponed for at least a year any hope of checking the nuclear arms race.

The move had been foreseen by Allied officials although it came more quickly than they expected. It was in the pattern of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's blowup of the Paris summit conference.

It could mean a further intensification of the cold war.

President Eisenhower will have a chance to assess the results of the Geneva collapse when he makes his televised report tonight on his far eastern tour.

The only surprise element in the Soviet manoeuvre was the speed with which it came. Valerian Zorin, the Russian disarmament negotiator, had repeatedly accused the United States and its allies of stalling.

His tactics led to the belief here that Khrushchev intended to apply to Geneva negotiations the line he took at the summit conference — that it would not be possible to reach any agreement with the United States so long as Eisenhower remained president.

No resumption of negotiations, therefore, can be foreseen until after the change in administrations next January and until an additional few months during which a new U.S. executive and new secretary of state will figure out their policies — altogether, at least a year from now.

Collapse of the disarmament talks, which had been deadlocked from the moment they began, raises a serious question as to whether negotiations among the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union for a treaty banning nuclear weapons tests will not also be called off.

There is a strong pressure within the government here to start up testing again. If the Geneva talks on testing completeley collapse, the pressure on Eisenhower from the defence department and the Atomic Energy Commission will be very great.

Individual freedom

Society is composed of people who represent all shades of belief and opinion. Some do not believe in divorce under any circumstances. But a great many do and, unquestionably, there are many cases where divorce seems the only way out of an intolerable, not to say dangerous, situation.

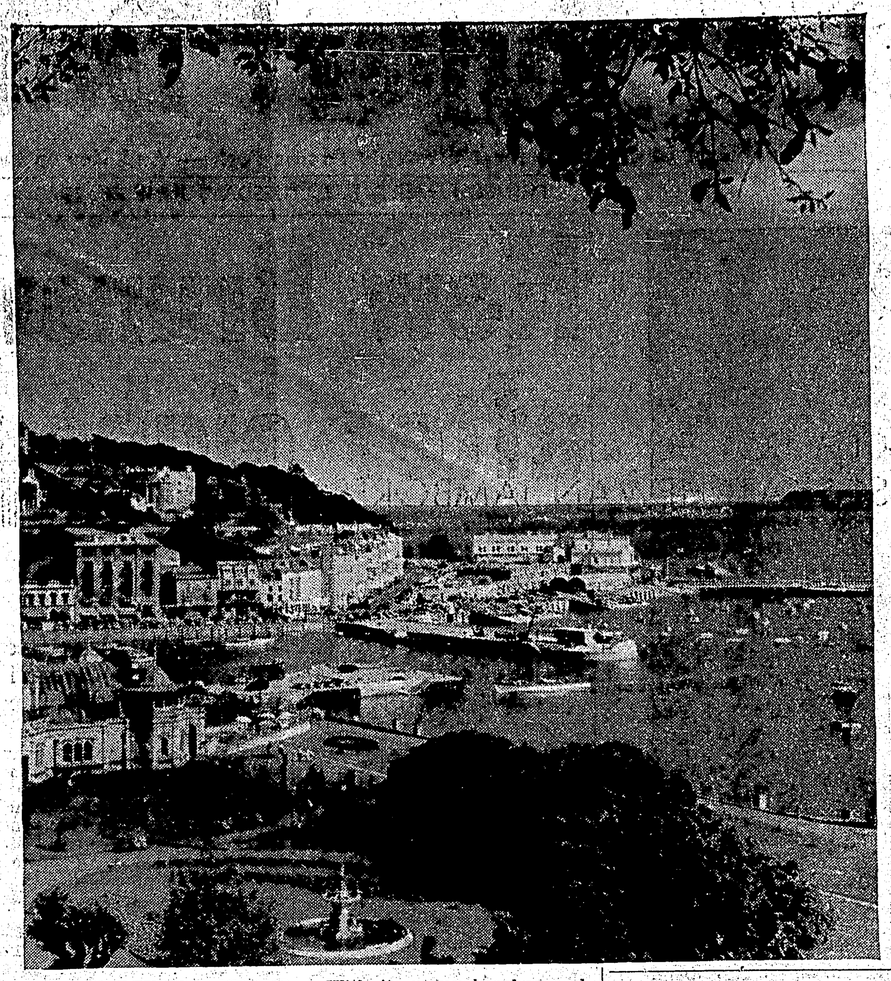
In a country which places emphasis on the principle of individual freedom it will becomes any one group to restrict the rights of any other group or groups where injury beyond the individuals concerned is not involved.

—The Calgary Herald.

Pioneering spirit

From Le Courrier, St. Hyacinthe, Que.

Young people must have the courage for adventure and they should not show any hesitation at all in going to seek the conquest of the unlimited regions of the big north. To do so, they will have to exile themselves to some extent, to separate themselves for a time from their wives and children, but the day will come when they will lead the latter into a new country, rough no doubt, but one which is not so unfriendly, so inhospitable, so cruel and cold as those who know nothing about it are ready to state.



TORQUAY, DEVON, ENGLAND — With its many beaches and its beautiful gardens, Torquay offers an admirable holiday setting for all tastes. This view shows that the harbour, despite the development of Torquay's many other attractions, remains the hub of the town. The principal shipping streets converge upon it, and the harbour itself is a scene of constant animation in the summer months.

Victoria Report by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA — If a municipal council wants to spend $1,000,000 on a necessary civic project the taxpayers must be consulted.

But the provincial government can spend $10,000,0000 if it wants to and doesn't even have to get legislative approval, let alone the approval of the people in the polling booths.

We elect reeves and councillors to do our business, yet, when they deem it advisable, after much thought and exploration, to spend money to better conditions for all the people, there must be the uproar and the confusion of asking the people, a minority of whom, mostly, vote a big and loud NO.

A majority of these taxpayers do not want these plebiscites. That's proved when we consider that usually more than 60 per cent of the voters can't be bothered to vote at all. The NO voters—the squawkers—turn out in force—but they're a minority: most people, by not voting, show they're quite willing to let their elected representatives make the decisions—and that's the way it should be.

These thoughts are conjured up by the result of a plebiscite in this, your capital city, on a new Mall, designed to brighten up Victoria's considerably shabby and dismal downtown shopping area, which is losing business to the vast new shopping centres on the fringes—even in outside municipalities.

Only 38 per cent of the taxpayers bothered to vote in this plebiscite, but 60 per cent of this minority said NO. Thus was progress stymied by the few.

Because people will not turn out to vote on money by-laws it shows there're not interested. They know it costs money to make a city attractive, and a better place in which to live. They feel they elected a council, and that it's up to that council to do what it thinks best for the community. Otherwise, why have a council? Why go to all this trouble for nothing more than mere window-dressing?

The government didn't have to ask the people if they approved expenditure of $10,000,000 to set up a public ferry system. The government doesn't have to ask the people's approval before it borrows money. Yet, it's the government that clips the wings of its children—the municipalities—by insisting that municipal expenditures of any size be put to the people. The government does this in the name of what it calls democracy—but, at the same time, the government takes great care not to clip its own wings.

If the government had to run to the people every time it wanted to spend a few millions we'd be in a state of constant chaos, getting absolutely nowhere. The Shylocks would ruin the country.

It's a ridiculous state of affairs when we elect city and municipal councils, and then forbid them to make any important decisions. What are they there for?

In any community there are always backward-looking people, dull and stodgy tightwads, complainers, grumblers, frustrated starts, who delight in throwing monkey wrenches, those who believe in taking everything and giving nothing in return; these are the people who vote NO everytime a city or municipal council wants to spend some money in order to better the daily lot of all the people.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

One of my grandchildren was showing me the picture of his school class, five rows of little boys and girls. And as I studied it, something very odd about it grew on me. So I went and got from among my souvenirs the class picture of my schoolmates taken 60 years ago.

The thing that had me puzzled was this: out of the 37 boys and girls in my picture, no fewer than 14 of us were squinting, had our faces screwed up our noses wrinkled. But in my grandson's class picture, not one child was making a face. Every one of the 43 was facing the camera with clear open countenance.

Could it be faulty vision in our day? No. Because there were two children in my picture with spectacles, and two in my grandson's 60 years later.

Then I began remembering not the children but the elders of 60 years ago, my aunts, uncles, the neighbors, the school teachers. And suddenly I realized that everybody squinted and screwed their faces up in those days. It was the fashion. The style nowadays is to be deadpan. But in 1900, to be in fashion, you wrinkled up your nose, screwed one eye half shut, pulled your lip up at one corner, and made some sort of a face in order to demonstrate that you were an individualist, a person of character.

The lighter side

His daughter had just arrived home from finishing school and the brand new millionaire was showing her about the mansion he had built in her absence. At the swimming pool they stopped to watch several athletic young men diving and stunting.

"Oh, Daddy," exclaimed the girl, "and you've stocked it just for me."

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The sweet young thing related: "I didn't want to marry him for his money. It's just that there was no other way to get it."

Letterbox

TWO FLOATS TOO MUCH

The Editor,
The Daily News,

Your Friday edition carried the news that the Elks of Rupert were disappointed in the fact that they had no entries for their July 1 parade.

Well, most of us who work half the night before putting together a float are completely "fed up" too—not with the Elks, but it takes a lot of work and time, and seems it is always the same few in every organization who spend the night doing the work—the others are very free with their criticism of what we should have done, but are never there to put their ideas to work.

Then comes the morning of the parade, and ten to one, the sky is black, or pelting rain, and after two minutes our work is all for nothing. Discouraging, yes, and this year with a Jubilee parade planned, we are all expected to also enter a float there, and what organization can stand the expense of two floats in one year. It is fine for the companies, whose float is built on company time, and the public pays for it in a hidden way, but most voluntary groups depend on teas, bazaars, etc. for their funds, which are supposed to be spent on good works, and how spending the money on two floats, can be classed as "good work" is beyond most of us.

Let's just forget about floats and parades—unless there is a guarantee from the weatherman and concentrate on children's sports, etc.—at least if they have to be cancelled there is not the expense involved, and I think most of us would appreciate a quiet morning at home, before the races, instead of tearing down to make sure the float is right and ready to go.

"A fed-up float decorator"

EDITOR'S NOTE — Signed articles, and editorials credited to other newspapers do not necessarily reflect the views of The Daily News.

HERE'S THE FIRST DRAW ON THE ELKS NEWSPAPER CAR

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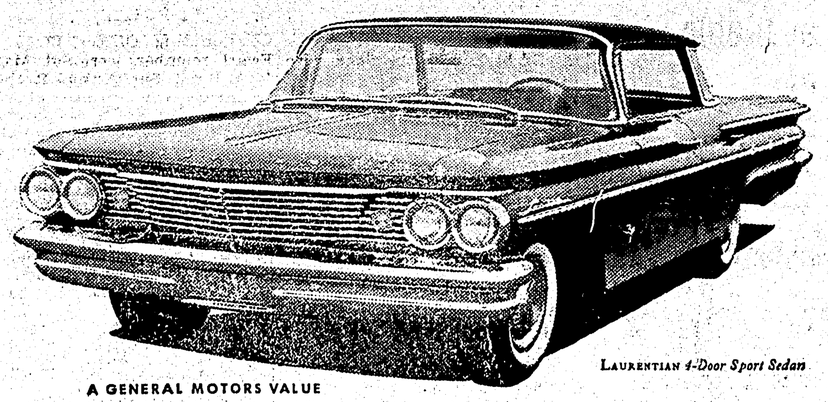
Drawn by: Mr. Paul Kraft, Queen Charlotte City

NOTHING MATCHES PONTIAC



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