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Repeat of portion of hopes for 1960

FAR from having an ulterior motive in including in our "Hopes for 1960" a wish that northern area fishermen could negotiate separately from those in the south, we certainly did not mean, as Mr. R. L. Gardiner suggests elsewhere on this page, to set ourselves up as "self-appointed advisor to the fishing industry." Nor did we, in the 19 lines of a 128-line editorial, have any intention of (a) using a thinly veiled union-splitting device (b) taking the employers' side or (c) making a loud outcry against strike action.

In fact we had no other thought in mind except to hope that the northern fishermen would have a better year in 1960 than they did in 1959.

We did, we quite freely admit, forget that the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union had signed a two-year salmon agreement. Having done so, we will hope that in 1961 negotiations will go sufficiently smoothly, so that when the salmon run is at its peak, Prince Rupert fishermen will not be tied up by a strike.

We say this in all sincerity, not because we are against strike action (which we feel should not be denied any worker) but because, to paraphrase a UFAWU editor who wrote that "injunctions won't build bridges or catch fish", we believe that strikes won't catch fish or pay the telephone, power, water bills, the rent, for the groceries or keep up the payments on the car, the refrigerator or the new automatic washer.

As for the "sauce for the goose" and the shutdown of the herring industry, it would have obviously made matters worse. Had we wished the fishing companies a better year so they could reopen their herring operations, then heaven only knows, we would have been accused of being a Fisheries Association of B.C. spokesman.

At the same time, we don't know of any Canadian law which says a merchant or a company has to stay in business, if they don't wish to, merely as an obligation to their employees. We always thought that an employee was paid for the work he had done and that if there were no more work, that was it.

However, despite the UFAWU representative's lengthy letter of protest and brief union history, we still hope the northern fishermen have better years in 1960 and 1961 . . . if it's okay with Mr. Gardiner.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

Is Canada losing her sense of humor? Wayne and Shuster, in a recent interview, listed so many "taboo" subjects for their television comedy show, that I found myself wondering if there was anything to make a joke about.

Religion and medicine are excluded, for a start. "We feel that a great number of our viewers might be sick," said Frank Shuster, quoted in the MacLaren Advertiser. "It's not very funny to make jokes on medicine."

"We once did a sketch on the radio about dentists, and we got a long letter from the Dental Association saying that they had spent a lot of time educating the youth of Canada that going to a dentist wasn't a painful thing, and in one 12-minute sketch we killed everything for them.

"So we don't do jokes about dentists either. We don't do jokes or situations which involve physical disabilities . . ."

A tinge of bitterness crept into Shuster's remarks as he went on:—

"It's a question of taste now. John and I are so full of taste it's terrible. We're tasting ourselves right out of show business. For instance, I won't do a joke about a hearing aid. I don't think it's funny. I won't do a joke about near-sighted people. . . ."

Well, maybe that's progress. In certain crowded and primitive countries, people don't see anything wrong with laughing at cripples, or hacking live animals around for sport.

But where does our tact and politeness stop? In Canada, we respect the tender feelings of politicians, too.

Political jokes seem to be all right in Europe and the United States, Wayne pointed out. Eisenhower's golf, Harry Truman's piano and his untalented daughter are all regarded as fit targets for ridicule, Shuster added. But Canadian politicians are more sensitive.

Said Wayne: "Currently a great number of our political figures have no sense of humor at all, and they take a rather dim view if anybody makes any sort of fun of them."

Has Lester Pearson a sense of humor? "A great sense of humor," says Wayne. Diefenbaker?

"I don't know Diefenbaker very well. I think he's got a sort of dedicated flaming quality to him. But I think he's got a sense of humor. He's not a dull speaker, and any man who's a vigorous speaker like he is has a sense of humor."

"I won't mention the ones I don't think have a sense of humor, but they're quite considerable.

"So that takes care of politics, religion, medicine, dentistry, physical disability. Taste also comes into jokes that might be misconstrued as obscene. Now obscenity it something there's no clear-cut rule on, but Frank and I have a rule. When in doubt throw it out.

"We're not that much in love with our material that we want to offend anyone if there's a shadow of a doubt."

Maybe I am reading the wrong message between the lines. But I would say that we have just heard from a couple of weary and frustrated men. And yet, by some miracle, they manage to be two of the funniest comedians in the business.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Forces integration to be de Gaulle visit topic

By JACK BEST
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The big man with the dignified bearing and the towering personality will be projecting the image of a new France when he comes to Canada next April for a state visit.

President de Gaulle's achievement in almost single-handedly leading France out of the political wilderness is deeply appreciated here.

There is a reservoir of admiration among top Canadian officials for the tall, austere statesman. It stems from his wartime services as leader of the Free French and from his bold assumption of national leadership when political disintegration and anarchy threatened France nearly two years ago.

♣ ♣ ♣

Canadian leaders, always concerned by dangers to the health of Atlantic alliance, feel a sense of gratitude towards de Gaulle for stabilizing France and perhaps preventing NATO's principal European bastion from crumbling.

Both Prime Minister Diefenbaker, who met de Gaulle on his world tour late in 1958, and External Affairs Minister Green, who conferred with him in Paris last fall, are understood to admire the president's ability and stature.

Whether they see eye to eye with him on certain crucial problems confronting the alliance is another matter.

♣ ♣ ♣

Canada, which has an air division and an army brigade stationed in Europe, is a firm advocate of the principle of integrating allied forces. De Gaulle doesn't like the idea of placing the French army under a unified command—which would be headed by an American general—and has said that in case of war he would withdraw French ships stationed in the Mediterranean from NATO jurisdiction.

Canada generally has tended to play down differences in the Atlantic family, including the dispute between France and the United States on the subject of integration.

Officials here are inclined to ascribe de Gaulle's present attitude to French troubles in Algeria and the demands of the pacification campaign there, rather than to his much-ballyhooed obsessive desire to restore France's national glory.

The general subject of integration could be one of the main topics of the discussions here, which will precede de Gaulle's state visit to Washington. Another topic will be co-ordination of Western policy for the East-West summit conference opening in Paris May 16.

Movies in the air

Air travel can be an exciting experience for those unaccustomed to it. But long flights can be somewhat boring to experienced travellers. Often the aircraft is flying so high it is impossible to see the ground—or water. All one sees are the clouds underneath, which soon lose their eye appeal.

Russia is doing something about this. On its 90-minute Moscow-Kiev flight, a relatively short hop, it shows a movie to keep passengers interested. It's an idea which may be emulated by private airlines—though it wouldn't work on night flights when most people want to sleep.

—The Windsor Star.

DIFFERENT TYPE OF CREW is seen aboard fishing boat Karen II as members of Prince Rupert Herring Dodgers Skin-Diving club complete exhibition of their skills in harbor on New Year's Day. Skin-divers headed by club president Gunter Diehl staged display for crowd of about 350 after members of Polar Bear club took annual plunge in chilly waters of harbor. Boat is owned by Mr. Diehl.
—Staff photo by Don Lobb.

Letterbox

INDIANS KNOW SCORE

The Editor,
The Daily News:

We the Canadian Indians abhor the anti-Jewish movement currently sweeping the world.

We know the depth of their anxieties and fears, because we too, have experienced a similar situation and fate in both the past and present.

When I read of massacres of Indians who tried to defend their lands and properties and about friendly Newfoundland Indians, who in the old days, were completely annihilated as wild game in organized hunts by white settlers who found them more elusive than wild animals. I often think Hitler could have learned plenty from North American history.

Today many Indians are still kept in modern concentration camps: reservations.

In many places, such as Prince George, to mention only one, Indians are still persecuted by being refused admittance to hotels, cafes and beer parlors. I know a very lovely law-abiding part Indian couple, who were refused service in Prince George and Babine because they had no blue cards to produce (to prove enfranchisement).

It is too bad the forefathers of the proprietors of such establishments were not required to produce cars to enter the country.

However, the Jews and Canadian Indians can be comforted in their knowledge that the good people of the world are determined that the cruel history is not repeated and that the present is corrected.

Ivan Adams,
Prince Rupert.

UFAWU PROTEST

The Editor,
The Daily News:

Your editorial of January 4, 1960, in its reference to the fishing industry, was remarkable on two points—first, in its inaccuracy, and secondly, that any semblance of neutrality in the matter of a labor dispute has been brushed aside by the Daily News and an attempt has been made to foist the company policy and position on to the industry.

You are inaccurate in your reference to salmon price negotiations in 1960. If you had so much as troubled to read your own paper, you would have been aware that the agreement concluded on salmon prices following last summer's strike was for a two-year period thus no negotiations in 1960. It would seem Mr. Editor, that if you are going to take on the task of self-appointed advisor to the fishing industry in its labor disputes, the first thing you should do is to acquaint yourself with the facts.

Your advice to the northern fishermen to "go it alone" in non-existant negotiations in 1960 is no more than a thinly veiled union splitting device that has been used not only in the fishing industry but in every industry where union organization has fought for existence. As long as groups can be kept separate on some pretext or other, the employer is always in a position to play one group against another to their own advantage.

Fifty years or more of struggle has gone into the organization of the fishing industry. The complete history of the struggle would be too lengthy to outline here, enough to say that organization was slow, many mistakes were made, many set-backs encountered. It was not until the formation of the UFAWU through a series of mergers of existing groups—one local group, for example was the Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Federal Union at the new B.C. Packers plant at Seal Cove—that the organization began to move ahead but the job is not yet complete.

You, Mr. Editor, airily wave aside all this as if the policy making bodies and membership of the organization involved were not aware or had never considered the problem. Your solution in essence—how can one group of fishermen or fishworkers continue to produce while the rest of the industry is on strike—is no solution, merely a means of providing the companies with production during such a period, thus weakening a strike. The real answer, a tactical one providing negotiations fail, is a tie-up at such a time as to give maximum bargaining strength to the negotiating committee.

It is also noticeable that you are vociferous in condemnation of strike action, by inference the organization representing fishermen but stayed wide of the question of the present situation on herring where the Fisheries Association of B.C. representing, the companies, arbitrarily ceased the operation in midseason regardless of a two-year contract. What is sauce for the goose, Mr. Editor.

R. L. Gardiner,
Northern Representative,
United Fishermen and
Allied Workers' Union.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

On one movie and three TV shows recently, fairly prominent actresses had to portray waitresses. In each instance, they presented a hard-jawed, gum-chewing, nasal-talking, ungrammatical, over-lip-sticked, floozy haired, skirt-swirling hussy that bore no resemblance to any waitress I have ever encountered in 50 years of eating here and there in most parts of the familiar world.

Where does this literary and theatrical impression of waitresses come from? How does a stereotyped character of this sort become established in our arts and letters?

The truth is, as anybody with eyes well knows, that the outstanding characteristic of waitresses everywhere is their patience. If you want to draw a true picture of a waitress, portray a girl no longer in her first 20s, but in the second half of them; a girl slightly on the severe side, a little remote or detached in manner, her hair done up plainly, as nurses do theirs, and with an over-riding, over-impression of patience.

Make her quiet, quick and strong. What little she has to say she says pleasantly, politely. Make her busy, active, intent.

And if you want the second basic characteristic, next to patience, it is that she is often a little tired by the end of the rush: tired in a patient, enduring sort of way, a thoroughly nice person.

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

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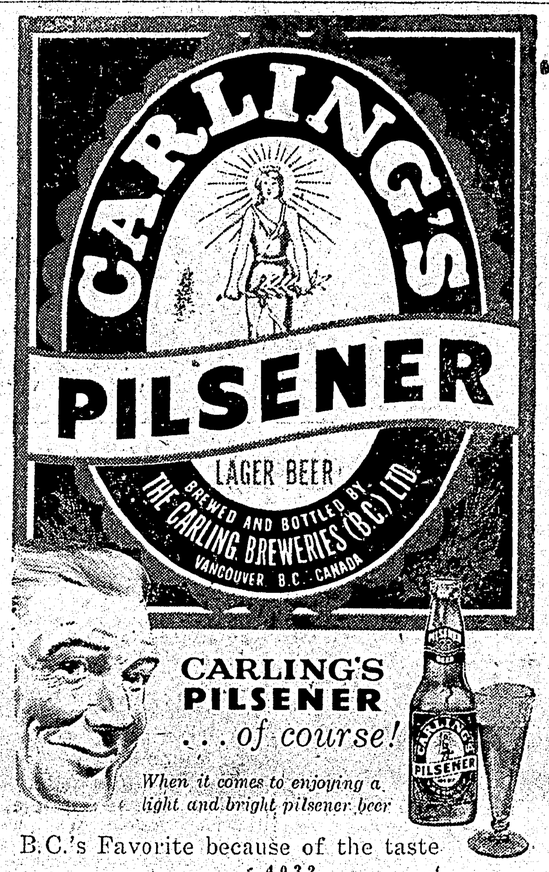

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