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Cabinet appointments colossal faux pas

Just about the time that the public is lulled into thinking that of all the evils with which one has to contend, the Social Credit government is the least of them, the Bennett government goes and pulls a real granddaddy of a faux pas. The credit for the most recent gaff goes to Premier W. A. C. Bennett himself whatever advisors (if any) he consulted before making his most recent cabinet appointments.

Before we tee off on that honorable gentleman, whom hitherto we credited with some acumen even if we couldn't agree with his politics, we must state that we find no quarrel with his appointment of F. X. Richter as minister of agriculture.

But from then on in, Mr. Bennett's ever-present sense of his own importance must have sent his brilliant mind reeling when he burdened the already-busy Minister of Education Peterson with the labor portfolio. Seldom has such a foolhardy act been perpetrated in the realm of cabinet appointments. Not for one minute do we think that Mr. Peterson will not do his utmost to try to fulfill the double role, but the fact that he has two tasks dividing his time and attention will work an unnecessary hardship on both Mr. Peterson and the two departments concerned.

It would appear that Premier Bennett does not think that the education and labor portfolios are important enough to warrant an individual minister. We feel that he has erred greatly. At a time when the Chant Commission on Education Report is scheduled to be disclosed and presuming that the government plans to implement some of its recommendations, we feel that Mr. Peterson will have his hands full making sure of some improvement in the education system of this province.

Again, with the unemployment situation worsening every week, the after-effects of Bill 43 still echoing around the province and a need for the closest attention to calming labor unrest in British Columbia, it is essential that one man be appointed so that he and his department can devote full time to such a vital portfolio.

We still claim that William H. Murray, Prince Rupert's MLA, is the man for the labor post.

But, not content with weakening the education and labor ministries, Mr. Bennett has given Recreation and Conservation Minister Westwood the portfolio of commercial transport. We of Prince Rupert are none too happy with Mr. Westwood's efforts as it is. He has given us a sop by dressing up Oliver Lake with a few picnic tables, but he has consistently refused to do anything about the full-scale development of Salt Lakes Park. Believe us when we say, Mr. Westwood has plenty to do in the recreation and conservation field without having to worry about trucks and buses.

As for Mrs. Buda Brown's appointment . . . well, we ask you. As a member of the Social Credit regime, she's certainly been faithful and undoubtedly she's being rewarded before she gets to heaven. But what it means and what she's going to do to earn her keep, we cannot guess, any more than we can guess what was in Premier Bennett's mind when he had his sudden attack of the vapors and made two double appointments.

Retailers urged to aid winter work program

By FORBES RHUDE
Canadian Press Business Editor

John H. Northway, president of the Canadian Retail Federation, urges all retail merchants to plan their expansions and purchases in such a way as to assist the winter employment situation.

In a letter to federation members, Mr. Northway says:

"In particular, I would urge you to support in every way you can the winter work campaign sponsored by the labor department.

"If you have plans for expanding or improving your present facilities, it would be helpful to do so during the winter months.

"In your buying orders placed with Canadian suppliers help to increase employment of Canadian workers. If you can also arrange your ordering to increase good-in-work in Canadian factories during the first three months of 1961, it would help to increase employment opportunities at a time which this is most urgent."

Wall Street Journal's George Shea, commenting on the late October rise in the free-market price of gold and the foreign exchange position of the United States, says perhaps some harm has been done, but also some good.

The harm: "The former reputation of the U.S. dollar as an impregnably strong currency has been tarnished in the eyes of the world."

The good: "The people and the government officials of the United States also know that the dollar can become weak and ill unless care is taken to keep it well nourished and healthy."

Canadian Exporters' Association has issued a guide listing documentation requirements for exporters shipping to any part of the world. The guide lists what documents are necessary to despatch a shipment via freight, parcel post or air cargo. Accompanying it is a 10-page supplement giving names, addresses, phone numbers and office hours of all consular and trade representatives of foreign countries at principal Canadian ports.

Japan Trade Centre, Toronto, says Japan has become a $5,000,000-a-year market for Canadian-made business equipment. It adds that International Business Machines Co. Ltd. which used to ship some 15,000 pounds of equipment to Japan every six weeks or so, now is sending shipments of 30,000 to 35,000 pounds twice a month.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

U.S. trade picture confusing to exporters

By HAROLD MORRISON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Hard-pressed exporters from Canada and other countries, seeking a greater share of the United States market, may find a new weapon of argument in the report of President Eisenhower's commission on national goals.

But the 11-member commission, proposing a blueprint of behavior for responsible Americans in a decade of intense danger, is so loaded with contradiction and qualification that the average American may have difficulty deciding what advice to follow.

In the specific field of foreign trade, the commissioners, who represent the best civilian and military brains Eisenhower could find, emphasize that the United States should join with other free industrial countries "in seeking a gradual reduction of tariffs and quota restrictions".

"The healthiest world economy is developed when trade is at its freest."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The report argues that the United States should make less use of "escape hatches" in international trade bargains and should accept more trade competition even to the point where some American industries would have to be aided in relocating or eliminating some of their operations altogether.

But the commission inserts decade clauses of its own, saying that in the search for freer trade the national U.S. economy should be safeguarded "against destructive competition" as a result of grossly lower unit labor costs and to preserve national defence."

How do you decide what is sneccessary for national defence? The commission doesn't say, but it may be significant that the Eisenhower administration used national defence as a reason for imposing oil import curbs against Canada and other countries a few years ago. It later used continental defence as a reason for eliminating the same curbs against Canada.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The commission's proposals are open to various interpretations, so much so that two of the 11 commissioners added dissenting statements, saying proposed tariff cuts violate recommendations to protect the United States against imports from low-paid producers.

But more important than the criticism is what will happen to the national goals report now that Eisenhower steps down from office and President-elect John Kennedy takes over.

Kennedy campaigned on pledges to make more vigorous use of "escape clauses" against imports which seriously threaten domestic industry.

At the outset, at least, it is unlikely he will accept any call for any great tariff slash. And the majority views of the eminent men who made up the commission may act as a restraint against the erection of any great new American tariff wall.

ABSTRACT sculpture placed in Dominion Square, Montreal caused quite a bit of comment this summer from local residents and tourists alike. Here two visitors inspect a piece of statuary, one of about 12 in the park. The Montreal Parks department have displayed paintings and sculptures by Montreal artists in the parks for three summers now. — CP photo

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

There is a nightmare unreality about disarmament talks between the great world powers. Both East and West say things that they don't mean, and offer proposals which they know can never be accepted.

Bewildered people, who stand in danger of being baked alive or blown to dust in a nuclear war, watch the envoys of the nations berate one another in a Mad Hatter's shouting match.

"A proper control and inspection system early in the game, or we can't be sure you're disarming," says the West.

"Promise us complete disarmament, and you'll get a control system," say the Russians. "You want inspection before real disarmament begins, so that you can spy on us."

Both sides are partly right. That's the way it appears to a non-expert onlooker.

Russia is a "closed society," controlled by a political elite. The United States is an "open society." America has fewer secrets. The Russians have more to lose by opening their country to foreign observers.

Surprise lost

They will lose the advantage of mystery and surprise, the chance to conceal both strengths and weaknesses, and keep their opponent guessing.

Americans tend to see the Russians as chronically deceitful. Therefore the West demands inspection and control to ensure that the Russians are keeping their word. Some Americans say that no system of inspection and control could be strong enough to guarantee Russian honesty.

However, Western negotiators themselves have indulged in some shifty tactics. From across the fence, they look untrustworthy, too.

The two sides haven't always been frozen into these positions of rigid opposition. A few years ago, they seemed on the verge of an agreement.

After Stalin's death, the Russians launched a "peace offensive." On May 10, 1955, they put forward a comprehensive disarmament plan.

William R. Frye, chief of the United Nations Bureau of the Christian Science Monitor, described it as "the first Soviet disarmament plan considered by Western experts to be a serious effort at negotiations."

Russia acknowledged — for the first time — that nuclear weapons could probably be secretly made, and hidden. So they placed less emphasis on the ownership of atomic weapons; more emphasis on their use, and ways of detecting their impending use.

Most important

The Soviet proposed drastic cuts in ordinary armies and in stocks of nuclear weapons; later, the elimination of nuclear weapons. Most important, they proposed an international staff of inspectors, with "unimpeded access at all times to all objects of control."

To this was later added the "total abolition of all missiles."

Britain and France had also put forward a similar plan.

But the Western proposals were withdrawn in 1955, because some Western experts felt that the problem of hidden atomic bombs could not be solved.

"It is a great tragedy," says Jerome B. Wiesner, physicist and arms expert, "that agreements were not reached and implemented in the period 1955-57 before the development of the ballistic missile and lightweight thermonuclear weapons that have made the problem of inspection even more difficult than it was then."

At least part of the blame for that failure, it sems, must be laid on the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, a shrewd cold-war strategist who firmly believed that the Russians could not be trusted; and on a powerful lobby of American military men and defence scientists, who worked tirelessly to defeat the possibility of any agreement.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

How little it takes to throw our whole social structure into a panic. A couple of inches of snow can ruin the entire time-table of a great city. Traffic is paralyzed. Citizens both rich and poor slither and skid home two hours late for dinner to irate wives and all engagements cancelled. A dim-witted truck driver slides into a pole and the power goes off all over town. The distribution of goods is wrecked. Schools close. Hospitals get the jitters. All the oil furnaces in town choose such a night to go on the blink.

Nor does it take two inches of snow. On the western approach to one of our greatest cities, on a magnificent four-lane highway on which traffic is designed to flow with all the smooth majesty of this, the sixth decade of the automotive age, a leaf in the spring of a beat-up old truck carrying a load of turnips, cracks, the truck hits the shoulder, rolls over, causes a delivery pickup delivering two bags of charcoal, to swerve and hit a bridge abutment; and thus, at exactly 5 p.m., the mighty traffic artery suffers a thrombosis that lasts, thanks to everybody caught in the jam trying to cut out around it, until 7 p.m.

What we would do if six feet of snow were to fall, or a hundred beat-up old trucks chose to jump the ditch at the same time, must be a nice speculation for the social gamblers who are responsible for the organization of our way of life.

Use time wisely

From the St. Catharines Standard

What are the distinguishing attributes of various age groups? Youth is marked by resiliency, strength and mobility. Maturity shows balance, precision and achievement. The good qualities of old age are thoroughness, steadiness, dependability and wisdom.

One thing remains irrevocably fixed: our allotment of time at 65 is just what it was at 18—24 hours a day. It behooves us to use every 24 hours in accord with the wisdom we have picked up along the way.

On the lighter side

"My husband's a wonderful athlete," boasted a woman. "He plays tennis, golf, and swims. Does your husband take any exercise?"

"Well, last week he was out five nights running."

✣ ✣ ✣

Small boy (to friend): "I used to hate practicing the piano, until I found out that it was driving everyone in the house crazy."

✣ ✣ ✣

Salesman (staring doubtfuly at formidable looking animal lying on doorstep): "What breed of dog is that?"

Housewife: "We don't rightfully know. My Brother sent it from Africa."

Salesman: "Well, it's the queerest looking dog that I have ever seen."

Housewife (nodding in agreement): "You should have seen it before we cut its mane off."

Price barrier

From the Ponoka Herald

Frankly we are a bit disappointed with the Big Three of North American motors. Henry Ford put the world on wheels with those old tin lizzies which you could drive home for something like $500.

Has the vaunted mechanical ingenuity of North America dried up so much that it cannot put out a plain, simple and sound car that will retail for $1,800? A car in which there will be no change of model for 10 years at a time and then only if such a change will make the car better and cheaper?

We suggest that the price barrier that must be broken is the $2,000 one. Get below that with solid dependable transportation and watch the factories start roaring.

Many production men will tell you that it is not the cost of steel or the labor that puts new cars up. It is the constant changing of models and motors and transmissions and so on.

With the classics

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep hearts core. —Yeats.

Water bylaw: Questions and Answers

In order to remove any confusion there may be about "Water Supply and Distribution Improvements Bylaw" The Daily News is publishing a question and answer column prior to the December 8 civic elections. Questions with answers supplied by the Citizens' Water Committee will be published below.

QUESTION: I understand that there is a money bylaw and also a referendum in connection with the vote on the water. Could you explain this please?

ANSWER: On December 8 the owner - electors will be asked to vote on two things:

(1) The money bylaw, which asks simply whether you wish to finance a new water system, and

(2) The Referendum, which asks which new water system you would prefer, if the bylaw is passed.

Short sermons

Remember, when you tell people your troubles, half of them couldn't care less and the other half are glad to hear that you're getting what is coming to you.

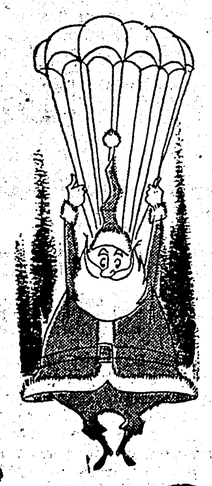
NUTS!

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY-PAK OF MIXED NUTS SUNDAY, DEC. 4th

A KINSMAN WILL CALL AT YOUR DOOR!

HELP THE KINSMEN HELP THE KIDDIES

SANTA ARRIVES at fashion's SLIPPER BAR



FOLKS . . . SANTA'S ARRIVAL MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE WONDERFUL SEASON. OUR SLIPPER BAR CONTAINS FRESH FROM HIS PACK, A WONDERFUL ARRAY OF SLIPPERS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. SNUGGLY WARM ONES, INTERESTING NEW STYLES, ALL BOUND TO SPARK CHEER ON CHRISTMAS MORN.

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