1910 — PRINCE RUPERT DAILY NEWS — 1961

An independent newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
A member of the Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulation
Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited

JOHN F. MAGOR, President
J. R. AYRES, Managing Editor

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1961

Bonspiel madness once more abroad

Well it's that time again. Down from the forests and hills of the interior, from the dry belt of the north Okanagan and even up from the "monsoon belt" of the Lower Mainland have come the colorful invaders, all set to take part in Prince Rupert's 10th Annual Marine Bonspiel. Here to welcome them are a host of local curlers, equally as mad but just as determined to protect the huge array of prizes that awaits the finalists.

Time was when only a few Prairie newcomers and a handful of out-of-towners knew anything about curling in Prince Rupert. But when the epidemic struck the city slightly more than a decade ago, it came to stay and a cure for it is as far off as that for the common cold.

Today with a six-sheet rink all spruced up for the big annual event and a "bigger - than - ever" banquet planned for Saturday, with no curling the rest of that night, the Marine Bonspiel here is known all over British Columbia for its curling thrills and the hospitality of the Prince Rupert Curling Club.

Only to strangers will the full effect of the bonspiel be apparent. The stores and plants will be only partly staffed. Bosses, particularly, will be among the absentees. Business will continue in a desultory fashion and most of the population will be concentrated at the Seal Cove end of town, thereby threatening the equilibrium of Kaien Island, which tends to tilt when the weight is all on one end. Children will seldom see their parents as mother comes home from the canteen at midnight and father has a late, late snack or early breakfast at 4 a.m. There will be weird characters roaming the city at all hours, clad in gaudy sweaters and tam o'shanters conversing in a language only associated with "stane" and broom.

To those rinks who have travelled here to take part in our annual classic, we bid you welcome and hope your stay and play is enjoyable. To the local curling club, we wish you every success for an event that will soon be hard to top.

Communists at UBC

However much we deplore the crucification tactics which were employed a few years ago by the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy in attempting to expose and eradicate communists in the United States, Canadians should not close their eyes to the inherent dangers of creeping communism in this country.

The communist tactic of sneaking infiltration is one which we should all recognize as capable of sapping our strength much as cancer gains control of and ultimately destroys the human body.

One of the infiltration methods used by the communists in Canada is made clear in the following excerpt from a letter written to The Citizen by a parent who recently attended Open House at the University of B.C.

". . . I visited the armory where the various clubs and societies, including campus political organizations, had displays. In addition to Social Credit, Liberal, CCF and Conservative stands, there also was a booth of comparable size sponsored by the student communists.

"In the booth there were three youths and a girl who were distributing literature and to satisfy my curiosity I started a conversation with them asking, among other questions, which faculty they belonged to . . . .

"You can guess my surprise when I ascertained that not one of the three youths was a student at the university but were, as far as I could gather, stooges of the Communist Party brought in under the guise of membership in the campus communist group to spread the gospel."

There is an officially-recognized student communist group allowed to operate on the campus. It is supported there by a relatively few students as something off-beat or rebellious.

But the question which all taxpayers and parents should put to the university authorities is whether they realize the Canadian communist group is abusing this privilege by using the Open House display to inject their non-student membership into the scene and thus create the impression of serious communist activity among the students.

Someone in authority at UBC should take a closer look at the activities of the campus communists, and before some real damage is done.

— The Prince George Citizen

The political check-off

The wage check-off for political purposes, about which there's a tremendous rumpus in British Columbia, is an ingenious dodge for extracting money from persons who do not wish subscribe. A proposed B.C. law prohibiting it has aroused strong protest among leaders of Canada's "new party". Britain supplies a case history with a bearing on the issue.

In the U.K. it was enacted in 1913 that an employer must make deductions from all unionized workers' pay packets, for support of a political party, when asked to do so by a union majority. This arrangement has been the Labor party's principal source of funds ever since.

The 1913 law gave each worker the right to "contract out". That is, he could escape the political levy by notifying the employer and the union that he didn't want to pay.

This action, of course, exposed him to criticism, and possibly ostracism, as a dissenter.

In 1927, when organized labor was unpopular in the U.K. because of the General Strike of the preceding year, the British Tories reversed the rule, making the checkoff applicable only to workers who "contracted in". The immediate result was a drop in the number of Labor's union supporters from 3.2 million to 2.0 million.

When the Socialists restored the earlier law in 1947, party fund contributors via the check-off rose at once from 2.5 million to 4.4 million. As the "contracting out" system still stands (the Tories have not plucked up enough nerve to change it back again), it's plain that around 40 per cent of the Labor party's current income, which runs to about $750,000 a year, comes from workers who are lukewarm, or hostile to socialism. At least they are not enthusiastic enough to go through the motions of authorizing payment of the modest sixpenny (7c) annual fee.

Canada's new party of the left, the CCF-CLC coalition, plans to raise money by the present British method. The country's lawmaking bodies should not allow this unjust system to be fastened on organized labor. On the other hand, deduction from the pay of those who "contract in" are fair enough. The controversial B.C. law, which appears to outlaw both the compulsory and the voluntary check-offs, goes too far.

— The Financial Post

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Kennedy facing Congressional fireworks

By DAVID ROWNTREE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

President Kennedy is having trouble convincing Congress that it should spend money to ease the recession but already he has stepped into the more uncertain field of foreign aid.

If conservatives are skeptical of the need for measures to goad the economy, they can be counted on to be almost hostile to overseas "giveaways". There are bound to be searching questions on the cost of the "effort of towering dimension" the president has outlined for a "decade of progress" in Latin America.

Even more certain to get the congressional dander up is the likelihood that in the next week or two Kennedy will seek a far-reaching change in the foreign aid program.

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At present, it exists from year to year at the pleasure of Congress. While there is little danger that the flow of American aid dollars will actually be stopped, Congress could turn off the tap if it wished. For the most part, Conservatives content themselves by inconveniencing the government through lopping off so many million dollars here and adding a few more there.

Most important of the changes that Kennedy's economic and military aid planners are seeking is one to put foreign assistance on a long-term basis.

By avoiding congressional whims and caprices, the reasoning goes, much sounder policies could be worked out and countries getting aid could be cajoled into making reforms.

These two aspects are inter-related. Countries that fail to carry out political, land and tax reforms will miss out on U.S. help.

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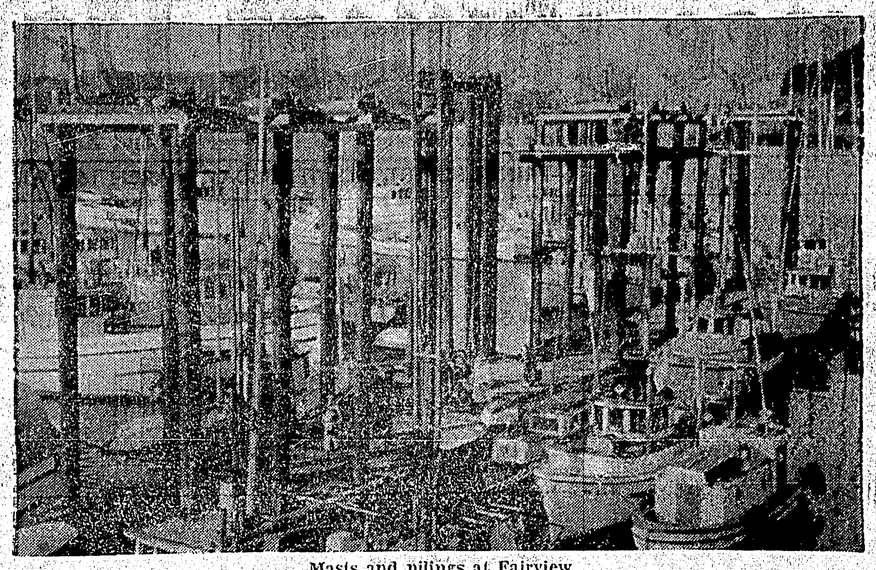
Kennedy had this in mind when, announcing his 10-year plan for Latin America, he said:

"To achieve this goal, political freedom must accompany material progress. Our alliance . . . must work to eliminate tyranny . . . Therefore, let us express our special friendship to the people of Cuba and Dominican Republic — and the hope that they will soon rejoin the society of free men, uniting with us in our common effort."

The thinking is similar to president Theodore Roosevelt's maxim about speaking softly and carrying a big stick but to many of America's allies it will seem an improvement on the recent past when the impression was widespread that dictators or near-dictators were given more than their fair share of dollars.

In "selling" Kennedy's ideas to Congress, the philosophy of helping those who are willing to help themselves will be frequently repeated, informants say.



Masts and pilings at Fairview

— Staff photo by Dick Ayres

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

"Yes, I always vote for the man, not the party," she said.

"Sure you do. Not how good a member he would be, but how handsome you think he is, the clothes he wears and how he gets his hair cut."

"Mmmm, well . . ." she said.

"All women do," I suggested. "That's why the country's in such a mess. And . . ."

"And I know you're going to say that's the reason why women never should have been allowed the vote."

"You said it. I didn't."

"Read your mind, though."

"Maybe a few lines of it," I muttered. "Don't you agree? Women vote on personality."

She pursed her lips faintly, as though to say: "Why argue?" The nicest women usually refuse to let themselves be drawn into the battle of the sexes, even in fun. They know how futile it is—a debate between Martians and Venusians, without interpreters.

"I vote for the man," she said.

"Shouldn't you strike a balance between the two?" I suggested. "But voting the party right or wrong is more a male fault," I said, presenting her side of the argument—as she had expected me to do, I think. But she did not come to my aid. She merely looked at me tolerantly, to see what I was going to say next.

"The party vote can elect good men, and it also elects men who richly deserve to stay in private life," I said. "For example, X." And I mentioned a name.

"Anyone who would vote for a person with a name like that needs to have his head examined," she said.

"What has his name got to do with it? He didn't christen himself. Ah, female logic," I mumbled.

"That just isn't the kind of name that deserves to be elected," she said with an air of finality. And she wouldn't add any more to the subject, except a smile.

When it comes down to a decision, that's the way elections really are settled. And for all I know, it's the best way.

The PACKSACK

Of Gregory Clark

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Reaching a decision and jumping to a conclusion are very different things. But they often look the same.

Many a man rises as an executive in the business world because he is a lucky jumper. Maybe he makes a few sensational jumps to conclusions, as the result of which his reputation soars and he is entrusted with decisions.

But you can't jump to decisions. You have to climb to them, often with very careful footholds and carefully selected hand-holds, like mountain climbing. And the best decision reachers I have known usually had ropes around their wastes tied to those above them and those below. Conclusion jumping is a solo exercise. Decision reaching is a sort of expedition with company.

Last fall, a promising young businessman of my acquaintance came to borrow some of my camping gear and northern outfit. He had been fired from his job, his boss having jumped to the conclusion that he lacked initiative. My friend was heading north to seek a job as accountant on a construction enterprise.

He has just returned me my outfit. He's back in town. He was recalled to take over the job of his former boss who, it appears, had too much initiative. He had the initiative of a mountain goat. He loved to jump. And missed.

Letterbox

SUPPORTERS THANKED

The Editor,
The Daily News:

Once again the All-Native Basketball Tournament has proven an outstanding success. Attendance this year was far beyond our expectations, and the behavior of the fans was excellent. Some 200 people had to be turned away at the door for the final night. We would like to thank all the people who helped make the tournament successful. Local support was terrific and without this support we could not carry on with our plans. Our thanks go out to The Daily News for its great coverage. We could name individuals but it would fill your editorial page, so a general thanks to all concerned is, we think, the best way to show our appreciation.

As noted previously, we had to turn many fans away at the door. The announcement of possible plans for enlarging the gym is music to our ears. The Association will back this plan 100 per cent and we urge that action be taken this year. We are prepared to go from door to door to obtain funds if this is thought feasible. It must be realized that we will not be the only organization to benefit from the enlargement of the gym. The increase in seating and relocation of same will improve and help all activities using the Civic Centre. There is very little good entertainment in this city, so let's improve our present facilities so that all, not just some, can enjoy them to the utmost.

Len Harrington,
For the All-Native Tournament Committee of the Prince Rupert Basketball Association.

The lighter side

"We're giving you a raise, Brown," boomed the boss, "because we want your last week here to be a happy one."

CHIEF WALKING BUFFALO, elder statesman and former chief of Alberta's Stony Indians, celebrates his 90th birthday March 20. The chief, present as a boy at the 1887 signing of the first peace treaty in the West between Indians and whites, has on occasion acted as bilingual intermediary between his people and the government. In recent years he has travelled on a 62,000-mile world tour on behalf of Moral Re-Armament.

— CP Photo

LEND SUPPORT

Letter from veteran stresses variety of Red Cross services

The following essay won first prize in the newspaper section of a contest for Grade 11 students of Prince Rupert Senior High School, aimed at helping the annual fund-raising campaign of the Prince Rupert Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society set for next Saturday, March 18.

By PETER SAMPSON

"I am not really an adventure-loving person, but I have lived a rather disaster-prone life. If it had not been for the Canadian Red Cross, my plight could have been many times worse.

"Now, as a result of wounds received in the Second World War, I am living in the Red Cross Veterans' Hospital in Victoria. Here, many other patients and I receive excellent care and are provided with books, movies, and other types of amusement.

"While fighting in the jungles of Burma, during the Second World War, I recall the great relief work being performed by the Red Cross International Service.

"On my arrival home in March of 1946, the river that ran through our community began flooding. As soon as the flooding began, the Red Cross arrived immediately, providing food, clothing, and shelter for the homeless.

"A year later, my wife was struck by a car. She was injured seriously, requiring many blood transfusions. These were given speedily, thanks to the Red Cross Blood Donar Service.

"Now that our life has become less accident-prone, our children have become interested in the Junior Red Cross. Our daughter is president of the Junior Red Cross. Our son is enrolled in an advanced Red Cross swimming class.

"The month of March, is the annual Red Cross Month. As you, have seen, The Canadian Red Cross offers a variety of services, essential to the welfare of many thousands of people. Any donation will be a great help to these services. If you are not a member, join today and keep these vital services alive."

Short sermons

A good part of success consists of getting along with those people you can't get ahead of.

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At some time in his life a man owes himself a good, swift kick in the pants.

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When somebody steals your thunder—make some more.

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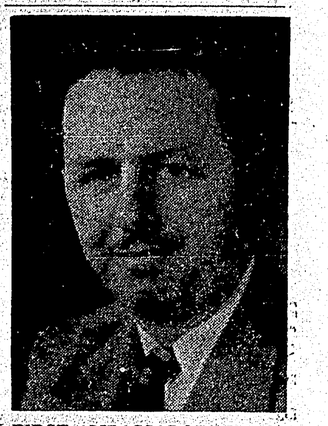
A kite rises against the wind, and not with it.



FIRST AMBASSADOR — Jean Louis Delisle, 18-year veteran in the external affairs department, last week was named Canada's first ambassador to Central America. Establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Republics of Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras was announced earlier. He will make his headquarters in aSn Jose, Costa Rica.

— CP Photo

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