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Canada not destined for role as neutral

Our federal Member of Parliament Frank Howard is becoming quite an expert on defence matters but his strategy for survival appears a little weak. In Terrace Monday night, Mr. Howard made quite a "to-do" about Canada being pushed into the "nuclear club" on the one hand while External Affairs Minister Howard Green is going his best lick to bring about disarmament. The situation may be as Mr. Howard describes it, but the state of affairs is not as paradoxical as he tries to make it sound.

Mr. Howard, strangely enough, went on to give perfectly good reasons why Canada should not weaken its defences while still working for disarmament. "Neither the United States nor Russia is going to disarm so long as Communist China remains outside of the United Nations," Mr. Howard said, adding that China "will have the nuclear bomb within five years and she must be brought into the community of nations before disarmament can become a reality." True enough, but in the meantime Canada shouldn't remain a sissy between two bully boys, who have no intention of putting down their weapons.

To reduce it to simple terms, no householder is going to sit still while his neighbors rage back and forth across his property doing damage and creating havoc. He's going to try to stop the mayhem by deciding for himself who is the "good guy" and who is the "bad guy," getting a weapon and siding with the "good guy" to help him.

Neutrality has never been part of the Canadian makeup. If Canada ever felt that it should help a good cause, it went right ahead and did so.

Right now, Canada is directly between the two top nuclear powers. Canada knows, just as well as Mr. Howard, that Russia and the U.S. are not going to disarm until all other nations agree to do so at the same time and with a foolproof inspection system already devised. Therefore there is no reason why Canada should be left weaponless between these two powers. For obvious reasons Canada has cast its lot with the United States. For just as obvious reasons Canada, with its tiny population, cannot afford to go into the defence business to the same extent as Russia and the U.S. That's why, whether we resent it or not, we have to rely on the Americans for a good portion of our modern armaments.

If there is a remote possibility that a nuclear war is going to be fought over our terrain then by all means let's have the latest equipment and not be caught flat-footed as we were in 1939.

Maybe Mr. Howard isn't old enough to remember, but once upon a time, under the old League of Nations, the participating nations of the First World War signed a disarmament agreement which Britain and United States tried to carry out. We shouldn't have to recall for Mr. Howard the effectiveness of First World War 18-pounders and antiquated biplanes with which the Allies began the Second World War against the Germans who had been busy perfecting the 88-millimetre all-purpose gun, the flying bomb and the V-2. We're all in favor of disarmament, and wish Mr. Green and the disarmament committee every success in the world, but in the meantime, while everyone's acting so tough, it's nice to have a nuclear baseball bat handy to help the "good guy" keep the "bad guy" in his place.

Normandy memory

The D-Day commemoration in Normandy this year, an annual remembrance faithfully observed by the people of that part of the French coastline, will have special significance for Canada. The ceremonies will be held at the points where Canadian soldiers landed.

This will evoke memories here, for the Canadian Scottish were among the assault troops on that fateful day 17 years ago. It was the beginning of the great liberation, the lifting of the yoke under which the French people had suffered for four long years.

The kindly people of the Normandy coast have remembered the epic D-Day of 1944 with gratitude. Allied graves are carefully tended and visited regularly, and the annual ceremonies that take place reflect the hope and joy with which they watched the Allies come ashore on that great morn.

This year the focus will be centred on the Canadian landing points, an honor that will be appreciated in this country and nowhere with more recognition than in Victoria and Vancouver Island, whose sons played such a valuable role in the freeing of France from the tyranny of Nazi occupation. — The Victoria Colonist

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Some progress toward NATO unity achieved

By DAVID ROWNTREE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Commentators on both sides of the Atlantic seem to be annoyed that President Kennedy and Prime Minister Macmillan failed to pull any spectacular rabbits out of each other's hats in Washington last week.

A fairly general reaction is: "Yes, yes, we all agree that NATO unity is highly desirable, but what are you going to do about it?"

Macmillan told an audience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Friday that it is time to "achieve some real unity of political purpose and method in the Western Alliance".

To the Guardian of Manchester, for example, this is pure "Macmillanship", which the newspaper defines as "brave words covering an absence of ideas."

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But it would perhaps be too much to expect two realistic politicians to pretend they could produce and push through to a successful conclusion some grand design for a united Western world.

More probably, their public pronouncements were directed with an eye to a specific audience rather than a general one — President de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer for example.

For while there is much talk about the pressing need for unity, there are limits to what can be achieved.

If Britain does finally seek a merger of the two European trading blocs, will Canada be particularly happy? Or the United States? If the U.S. takes the side of new countries in Africa, are Belgium, Portugal or South Africa elated?

On political questions, it seems better than an agreement to disagree, such as Britain and the U.S. have over Communist China. It is preferable to forcing everyone to take the same line — as the Communists do.

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It is in the fields of military and economic policy that the prospects for a real union are much better and it is in these that Macmillan and Kennedy made the most progress.

There are still obstacles but nothing like those connected with questions of "political purpose and method".

Macmillan is said to have urged on Kennedy the need for consulting NATO allies if and when the need for using nuclear weapons becomes necessary and also of letting the allies have some hand in using the weapons.

As Canadians have been made acutely aware, American government's are tightly restrained in this matter by Congress. Macmillan is well aware of this but is said to have pressed the view that it is essential to have more "give" in the U.S. position.

It can be expected that both Adenauer, who is Kennedy's guest this week, and de Gaulle, who will see Kennedy in Paris late next month, will also be looking for more U.S. flexibility.

Here now!

"Good Afternoon Mr. Knakwurst. I'm John Smith from Relentless Realty. I wonder if you are thinking of selling your home?"

"Meinself selling? Nein! Meinself dis house is buying."

"Oh I didn't mean that Mr. Knakwurst. I ben meaning . . . er . . . I thought prehaps you might like to sell because . . . ."

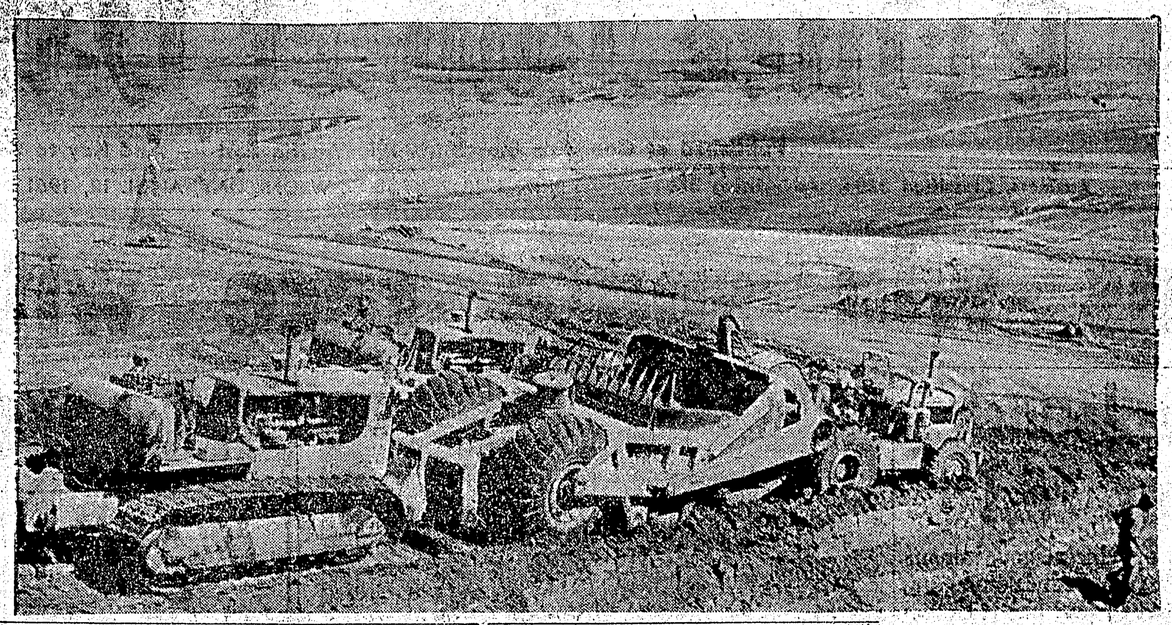
"Himmel! Das peoples needs selling der houses wen buying yet?"

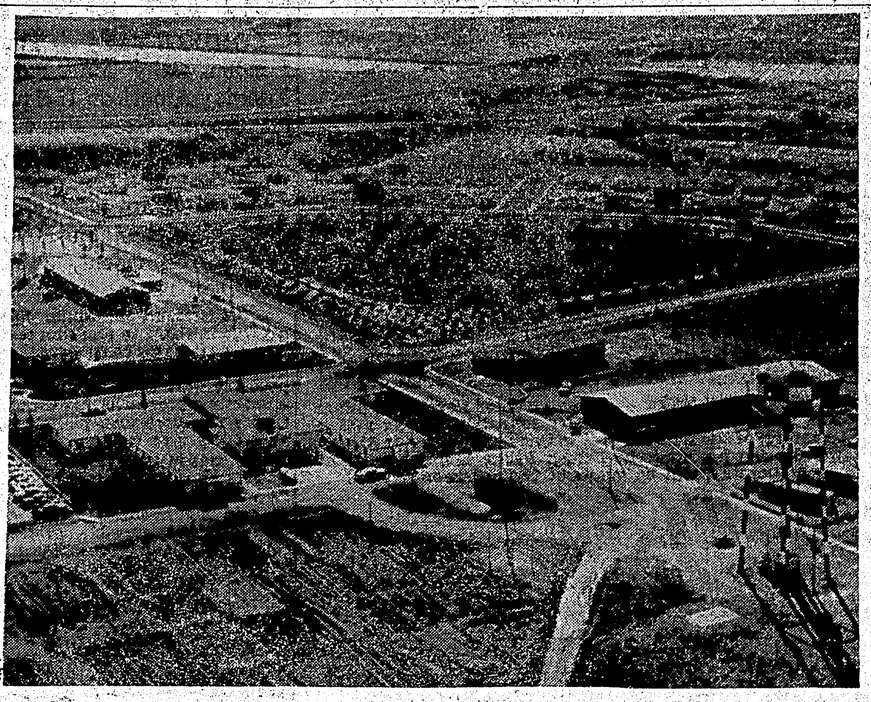
"Nein, der house she's buying . . . er . . . I mean this house I sell if you're not wanting it anymore."

"Auch nicht' aus der realen statum der houses buys yah?"

"Nein . . . der realen status she is finished, Meinself — I'm going to jump der lake into!"

— The Canadian Realtor





A MODEL VILLAGE for workers and their families has been constructed at the main dam site of the South Saskatchewan River project, 20 miles south of Outlook, Sask. Homes (background) are arranged in a neat pattern about a central tree-lined park with administration offices and warehouses on the opposite side. Site of the main dam is behind the village (centre top) where a temporary bridge crosses the river. — CP Photo

GRADERS MOVE earth for construction of the South Saskatchewan River dam in a government - sponsored program to irrigate 500,000 acres of prairie farmland. The main earth dam, located 20 miles south of Outlook, Sask., will rise 210 feet above the river forming a 135-mile-long lake behind it. The project including a $20,000,000 hydro-electric generating station, will cost about $182,000,000. — CP Photo

ALL ABOARD with G. E. Mortimore

"You know the way to find out the worst in anyone's character?" Jim demanded. "Go to his friends."

"If he has any," I said.

"I used to get a kick out of testing people," Jim observed. "I'd be talking to someone, and I'd say: 'You're a friend of So-and-so, aren't you? What kind of a guy is he, anyway?'

"And they'd answer: 'Oh, yes, sure, I'm a friend of his. A great guy. Known him for years. One of the best. But . . .' And I said to myself, ah, boy, this is it. This is where he slips the knife in. As soon as he starts saying 'But . . .' I know the knife is coming."

Jim jabbed me in the collarbone with his thumb, to illustrate.

"Sure," Jim went on. "'He's a great guy, but he's careful with his money. I wouldn't say he was stingy, but careful. And that's funny, because he's in debt all over town. He makes good money, sure, and I never did believe those people who said he didn't know his job, and ought to be fired . . .'"

Jim leaned back in the chair, took a puff on his cigar, and went on with the chronicle of friendship.

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"Pretty soon I'd find out some more," Jim said. "'Sure, he knows his job, no matter what anybody says. As for what he does with his money, that's none of my business. Of course, you know how rumors spread. I hear all kinds of wild talk about the mystery of his money, but I don't listen. I don't believe any of that stuff.'"

Jim gave a wry grin, and puffed out a cloud of smoke.

"It's touching to hear of such loyalty," I said.

"Yep," said Jim. "And this pal will keep on talking. 'Sometimes they'll try to tell you he drinks. It's not true. Sure, he'll take a beer now and then. But never more than nine or 10 beers, except maybe on a special occasion, and that isn't very often, maybe two or three times a month, not much more.

"'A great guy,' he'll go on, 'but there's one thing I have to warn you.'

"'And what's that?' I'll ask.

"'Well, let's be frank. Everybody has a fault. With him, it's talking too much. He can't keep his mouth shut. Be careful what you confide in him. Once you know that, you're all right. He's one of the best. I'll speak up for him any day.'"

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Jim slapped a fist against the palm of his hand.

"'Thanks,' I tell him, 'and will you do me a favor?'

"'What's that?' he asks.

"'Don't ever speak up for me. If a guy had many friends like you, he'd be out of luck.'"

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD — One of the largest of Oxford colleges, Magdalen was founded by William of Wayfleet in 1458. It's famous Tower overlooks the river Cherwell, which runs by the side of the college. — British Travel Association Photo

gems of thought

It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow.
—Robert H. Goddard.

The actually probable is often the apparently impossible.
—Leo Stein.

It is impossible to work from two standpoints.
—Mary Baker Eddy.

To attempt impossibilities is not the part of a wise man.
—Euripides.

Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.
—Samuel Johnson.

Impossible is a word only to be found in the dictionary of fools. —Napoleon.

Quote and unquote

Hansard:

Eldon M. Wooliams (PC, Bow River): "This talk we have heard is just plain hogwash and a red herring in order to smother this bill."

Hazen Argue (CCF, Assiniboia): "Don't mix your metaphors."

Mr. Wooliams: "Don't worry about my metaphors. I have seen you mix a lot of things and they have not been metaphors."

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U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman:

"The secret of a successful man is a wife who tells him what to do and a secretary who does it."

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

Copyright: Canada Wide

I love looking through an old castoff wallet and finding a $10 bill in it. Nothing gives me a merrier kick than to put on last year's fall topcoat this spring and find a whole handful of bus tickets in the little ticket pocket.

There is something ridiculous in the pleased expression of an insurance company president as he straightens up after picking up a 25-cent piece he just detected on the pavement. One of my well-to-do friends has a cellar full of thousands of dollars worth of machine tools. The cellar is like a laboratory rather than a hobbyist's playroom. It is immaculate. One evening I was watching him turning out some beautiful applewood priests for his friends, priests being those small pocket-size clubs trout fishermen carry for knocking trout on the head, when he interrupted work long enough to go out to his three car garage for more wood. I went to help him. He was groping around behind a cupboard where a billet of wood had fallen, and he came up with an old hammer. It was a homely old hammer, kind of worn on the nose.

"Well, well, WELL!" he cried, as he fondled and cuddled the hammer. "Look what I FOUND!"

And for the rest of the evening, in that shining, costly cellar full of magnificent machines, he had the old hammer on the bench beside him, and kept picking it up to admire as if he had found a treasure.

Spring rain

The spring rain came on slippered feet of darkness.
It fell upon sleep
As though sleep were grass or a bough
Waiting to hold the tipped outpouring cloud.
No thought waited, poised in the drowsy midnight;
Only a murmur marked the gentle edge between sleep and waking,
Making hair-thin the line of sheltering roof
Between the outdoor shower and the dark-filled room.
—Alice Clear Matthews.

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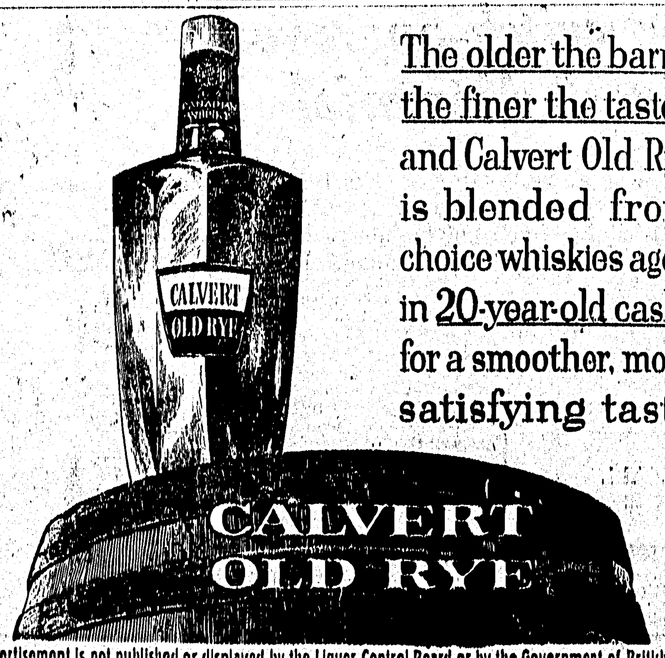

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