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Checkoff validity

One labor union has challenged the validity of the controversial checkoff provision added to the labor code at the last session of the Legislature, by taking a test action to court. So long as any doubts exist, or induce non-compliance of the Labor Relations Act may be ultra vires, the sooner the point is cleared up the better.

Court action of this nature could last a long time; if it were pressed to the highest legal tribunal, the Supreme Court of Canada, some months would pass before final judgment could be rendered. The hiatus in the meantime could prove awkward. Some unions have complied with the provision which makes mandatory a declaration that no checkoff dues will be used for political purposes; others are said to be adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Presumably while argument went on through the courts the law would still be the law, and the amended labor code puts an obligation on employers no less than on unions. The former are forbidden to make checkoff deductions unless they have received the statutory declaration required, notwithstanding any collective agreements to which they may be party.

The employer is thus confined by the Labor Relations Act as well as the employee, and so long as the act is deemed valid in this respect—which is until it is legally ruled invalid—he is as much bound by it as is a union. The new legislation specifically gives priority to the declaration over any collective agreement, and this is the point raised by the contesting union.

This would seem to create an embarrassing situation while the pros and cons are being argued in court if the test action is carried to its extreme limit. Yet it is important to B.C. labor relations that no dubiety exists as to the competency or otherwise of the legislation in question.

—The Victoria Colonist.

For parents in distress

Are your offspring threatening to quit school for good when the June finals are over?

Here are two persuasive arguments which may come in handy when the arguments get heated.

First. Canada's latest headcount of the unemployed shows that even slight downturns in business hit hardest at those without skills or training.

Over-all, 11 per cent of the work force was jobless during the first three months of this year. But the rate among laborers was 33 per cent and for unskilled construction workers was 30 per cent. At the other end of the education scale, unemployment among trained office and professional workers was only 3.5 per cent — probably not far from the normal amount involved in switching from one job to another.

Second. The whole skill level of the economy, it is clear, is being pushed upward by the pace of technological advance in industry — and it is the unskilled who are being left behind.

One example: An IBM data processing machine has just computed airline fares between 70,000 pairs of points in the world air market for the International Air Transport Board. The time — 30 hours.

IATA says there were 800 million calculations — which would have taken 5,000 workers a year to do by hand.

But instead of 5,000 endowed with no special talents, the job required only a score or so of highly trained researchers to feed the necessary information into the machine.

The moral is clear: the kids in the know won't be the ones without jobs and spending money.

— The Financial Post

It won't work, Mr. Logan

No one can accuse the United States of failing to produce colorful political candidates who stand for office on a platform that is certainly novel even though it is somewhat zany and would give a psychiarist a nervous twitch. Down in Texas, Mr. V. C. Logan is campaigning for a seat in the Senate and he has offered a speedy solution to the unemployment problem. He proposes offering $1,000 to every married woman at work to quit work, thus opening up millions of jobs for men.

It won't work, Mr. Logan. They'd take the money all right and quit work but as soon as they had blown the $1,000 on a new wardrobe or a trip to the Riviera or a visit to a plastic surgeon for a face-lifting session they'd be right back in the labor market to take another job. The creatures couldn't be trusted to stay home munching bon-bons and reading movie magazines in the best traditions of dedicated homemaking. Besides, Mr. Logan, you never did say who is supposed to pay for the scheme. This may be a mere administrative detail to you but financing does seem to have some bearing on the matter.

— The Calgary Albertan

NOT KHRUSHCHEV'S IDEA

Moves to independence pre-dated Red bid

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

NATO foreign ministers tried to knock down the self-created image of Soviet Premier Khrushchev as the champion of dependent peoples against imperialists.

Khrushchev has developed to a high degree the art of taking credit for historic changes that actually had their birth in Western political experience.

The NATO ministers who convened in Oslo remarked with concern on the progress made in this campaign by Khrushchev since last September when, at the United Nations General Assembly, he issued his call for total independence everywhere, at once.

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Of the NATO countries, Britain, France, the Netherlands and Portugal are colonial powers and Belgium is not altogether free of ties and interests in The Congo.

All these countries except Portugal had evolved plans for liquidating their empires long before Khrushchev's intervention.

The U.S. has incurred bitter reproach among many of the smaller countries for its tendency in the past to support regimes which, on the mere basis of anti-communism resisted all social change.

The statements in Oslo of External Affairs Minister Green of Canada reflect, in the case of Cuba, a lesson that was evident in the closing days of the UN General Assembly in New York.

It was clear that the great majority of UN members, regardless of their opinion of Fidel Castro and his associates, were dismayed and shocked by the U.S. role in the Cuban landings.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

No easy solution to NATO nuclear problems

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

NATO's biggest military problem and a prime political one — control over the use of nuclear weapons — was barely touched at the NATO foreign ministers' conference in Oslo last week.

Observers see three lines of approach to this problem, none of them easy.

One would be a system similar to that worked out by Canada and the United States for North American air defence command.

In the case of NORAD, the two governments have agreed in advance on how to react to various circumstances in the event of attack on North America.

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This system might be applied to NATO, but many more possible eventualities would have to be taken into account. This might make any agreement so cluttered it would be unworkable.

Another possibility which has been discussed would be to permit three or four NATO members to assume control over the use of nuclear weapons. In other words, these powers would make the decisions for NATO as a whole.

Canada has already objected to any such arrangement.

The third possibility appears the most likely of all: Retention of the present system whereby the United States has custody of the nuclear weapons and releases them for use only on the authority of the U.S. president.

The core of the problem is in the attitude of France.

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President de Gaulle is building a nuclear force for France because Britain has such an independent force in RAF bomber command.

De Gaulle appears to resent the fact that the U.S. and Britain have nuclear striking forces while France does not. A secondary consideration with him is that he feels the U.S. eventually will withdraw its military forces from Europe.

Many observers think that if Britain would give up its nuclear force or at least place it under NATO command, de Gaulle would be willing to compromise on his own nuclear force.

But time is running short. In a year or two, France will have weapons and she may have different views from the U.S. and Britain on nuclear strategy.

This could lead to divisions between NATO countries impossible to close.

ON THE HOOF. It's a rare sight nowadays when ranchers leave their trucks behind and go back to the old-fashioned cattle drive. But the Waldron Ranch in southwestern Alberta did just that this week. They put 1,200 Herefords onto a 20-mile trail at daybreak, crossed the Oldman River, and arrived at dusk at the CPR's mainline near the Crowsnest Pass. A youngster watches from the near bank of the river as the animals make the crossing, highlight of the run to market. — CP Photo

LETTER BOX

Residents request guard rail after 12th mishap in 15 years

The Editor,
The Daily News:

We are sending you a letter that we have sent to City Council asking for action after a car crashed into our front yard May 11.

The letter follows:

"The City Council,
"Prince Rupert, B.C.
"Dear Sirs:

"We wish to draw to your attention a very dangerous condition existing on Hays Cove Circle. We refer to the absence of any type of guard rail whatever around the East edge of the road.

"At least a dozen times during our 15 years of living at 649 Hays Cove Circle a car has come over the edge of the road into our property. We have photographic evidence of three in the past year. The most recent was this morning at 4 a.m. (May 11). This is the third time that our stairway and walk have been damaged, and today our stairs and front yard are completely demolished.

"In view of the fact that some years ago a suggestion of a guard rail for the Circle, was made in the Council, we wish to urgently request that once again you consider some type of protection before one or more of the many children in this area are either severely injured or killed.

"This matter requires your immediate attention.

"Thanking you, we remain,
"Yours truly,
"Mr. and Mrs.
William Dunn."

LOVED CHILD AS OWN

The Editor,
The Daily News:

Since the Magistrate decided to give his judgment on the Curti adoption case before all the witnesses had been called, including myself, I would now like to tell the people of Prince Rupert that the child which Mary and Aladino Curti took into their home for adoption was very well cared for.

My husband and I have been tenants in the Curti home for the past six months and had occasion to see them every day and it was plain to see they loved this child as their own.

I was present when the welfare authorities snatched the baby from their arms at 11 o'clock at night and have never seen anything so heart breaking. As a mother myself I know what this child means to Mr. and Mrs. Curti.

My husband and I came to Prince Rupert a year ago because we wanted to make our home in British Columbia, but if such an injustice is permitted here we would gladly go back to Ontario where government authorities act like human beings.

(Mrs.) Dixie J. Crossman
Prince Rupert, B.C.

CLINIC SUCCESSFUL

The Editor,
The Daily News:

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the very excellent coverage through news items and editorials of the Job Clinic Program held at the Prince Rupert Senior High School on Wednesday, May 10. Indications are that the program was successful and it is possible that it will be continued in future years.

Your excellent editorial under date of May 10 was brought to the attention of all students attending the program and was particularly noteworthy for its emphasis.

Thank you again, sir, for your co-operation and valued assistance.

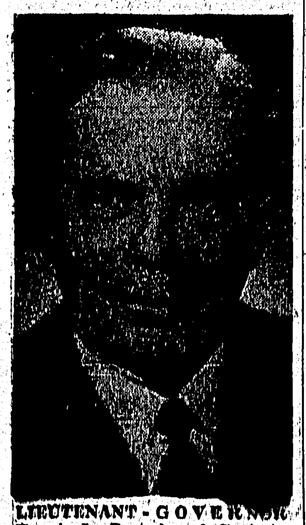
C. A. R. Pitt,
Manager,
Unemployment Insurance Commission.

With the classics

All I could never be,
All, men ignored in me,
This, I was worth to God, whose wheel the pitcher shaped.
Ay, note that Potter's wheel,
That metaphor! and feel
Why time spins fast, why passive lies our clay—
Thou, to whom fools propound,
When the wine makes its round,
"Since life fleets, all is change; the Past gone, seize today!"
Fool! All that is, at all,
Lasts ever, past recall;
Earth changes, but thy soul and God stand sure;
What entered thee,
What was, is, and shall be;
Time's wheel runs back or stops: Potter and clay endure.

—Browning.

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



LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR Frank L. Bastedo of Saskatchewan was criticized by Prime Minister Diefenbaker for his unprecedented action in withholding royal assent to a bill. Mr. Bastedo, 74, who has been lieutenant-governor since 1958, doubted the validity of a bill which would have forced renegotiation of some mineral contracts, and referred the bill to the federal cabinet. Mr. Diefenbaker said that Mr. Bastedo should have consulted the federal cabinet before he took such unprecedented action.

— CP Photo

Employment questions and answers

In this column we publish questions about unemployment insurance and employment, together with answers which may be of interest to you:

Following are some questions with answers received from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. If you are uncertain about any point do not hesitate to send us your question. We will obtain an answer and publish it in this column.

Q. An April 11, 1960, I was laid off work, I had 40 contributions to my credit, and I started collecting benefits immediately at a rate of $27 a week. For how many weeks was I entitled to benefits, since the local Employment Office was unable to find suitable employment for me?

A. If you established a regular benefit claim, and your contributions were all earned in the 104 weeks preceding your claim, you were entitled to 20 weeks benefit, providing, of course, that you met all the conditions of entitlement each week. If you established a claim for seasonal benefit, your claim terminated on May 21, 1960.

The lighter side

Smith: "Do you mean to say they put him in jail for something he didn't do?"

Jones: "Yes. He didn't pay his income tax."

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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Away downtown in New York I boarded a big Fifth Avenue bus and nabbed the seat right next to the rear exit. Rush hour was about to begin and I wanted to be able to escape without having to fight those trained infighters, male and female, who are so at home on crowded New York buses.

By the time we got to 42nd street, the bus was packed to suffocation. The driver kept ordering the mob to move back, move to the rear. This resulted in a very solidly stuffed front half of the bus. But there was a slight looseness in the packing of the rear half.

On arriving at 57th street, another main crossing, the rear exit door opened and a uniformed bus man appeared, armed with a fare box. Since nobody could possibly get on by the front door, they weren't going to waste any space in this loosely packed rear half. Taking their fares, this rear-door man let seven or eight more in by the exit, so that a totally efficient package was at last arrived at. Packed solid.

"Okay!" he yelled.

The door batted the last passenger up the step. And away we went, 100 per cent.

Short sermons

It's awfully easy to make both weekends meet.

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Don't always give your wife credit; she appreciates a little cash, too.

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To entertain some people, all you have to do is listen.

✣ ✣ ✣

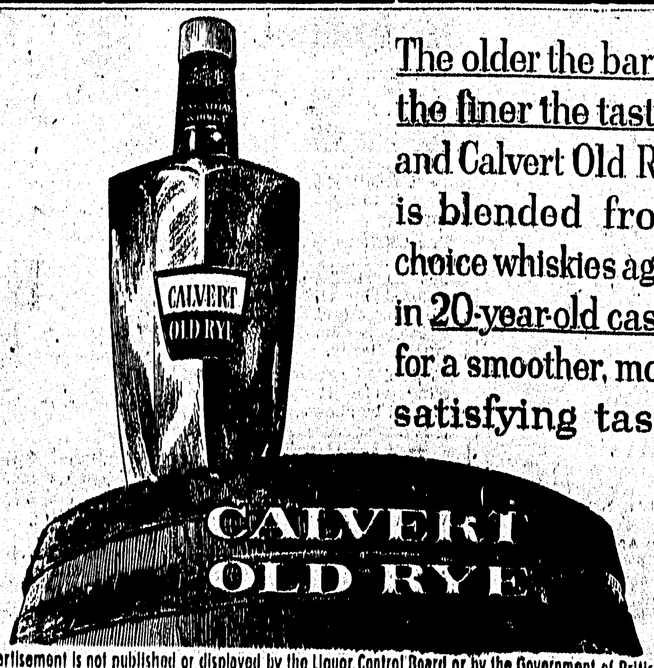
Gossip goes in one ear and out the mouth.

✣ ✣ ✣

If you drop the ball, don't complain about how it bounces.

SAMARITANS UNLIMITED.

IT'S BIGGER IT'S BETTER
IT'S BINGO
CIVIC CENTRE BRING YOUR FRIENDS Monday, 8 p.m.



The older the barrel the finer the taste... and Calvert Old Rye is blended from choice whiskies aged in 20-year-old casks for a smoother, more satisfying taste

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