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FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1961

Help the Red Cross, help yourselves

All week long our readers have been able to see for themselves, through essays and articles published in The Daily News, the valuable work done by the Red Cross. The work of this world-wide organization is tremendous whether it is on an international scale or on the local level. The free blood transfusion service alone makes it worth while in Prince Rupert without the fact that there are disaster services available in the event of emergency.

The collection of blood, the disaster service, home nursing courses, outpost hospitals, water safety program plus veterans services take money, a lot of money to keep operating. Once a year we are asked to make our contribution to this cause, although we know that once a year for several other worthy campaigns, we are also asked to donate funds. However, there is a thought we should all keep in mind, whatever our circumstances.

Tragedy in the form of disaster can happen to anyone. Fate is no respecter of the highly-born or those not as fortunate. Lives can be snuffed out, others injured, homes destroyed by fire in the twinkling of an eye and without warning. Many times the Red Cross is needed. It is always there, ready to serve.

It may sound trite but donating to the Red Cross is like insurance. You may not need it now, but you never can tell when tragedy will strike. If you need Red Cross services you want them immediately. You want them strong and ready, not dissipated by lack of funds. Give generously tomorrow when the canvasser calls. You may be doing yourself a good turn.

Mobs won't produce jobs in B.C.

British Columbia is a province wealthy in basic resources — lumber, coal, metals, fisheries, power. Its population, like that of Ontario, has grown explosively since the war.

Yet B.C. has a level of unemployment comparable only with that of the distressed Maritime provinces — which have few resources and are losing their population.

While B.C. has 9 per cent of Canada's labor force, it has 11 per cent of Canada's unemployed.

With the backing of the B.C. Federation of Labor, several thousands of British Columbia's 77,000 jobless have been organized into the B.C. Federation of Unemployed, which this week made a noisy visit to the legislative buildings in Victoria. Shaking their fists and waving placards, the 1,500 demonstrators marched through the corridors, pounded on doors, and went up and down the stairs, all the while shouting and chanting, "We want jobs!" and "We want Bennett!"

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As the mob paraded in and about the legislative buildings, a delegation from the Federation of Unemployed pressed Premier Bennett to provide more jobs through public works. Mr. Bennett replied that his government was already doing a great deal to help the jobless, and that the responsibility for further aid lay with the federal authorities.

This is an easy way out for Mr. Bennett — blame Ottawa. Similarly, the B.C. unemployed choose the easy way out when they blame Mr. Bennett, and say that he should provide them with jobs.

The essential reason for British Columbia's high level of unemployment is not to be found either in Ottawa or in Victoria; it is to be found in the basic industries of the province, which have spent the last 10 years pricing themselves out of world markets.

British Columbia is the most unionized province of Canada; and its unions are noted for their militancy. With the highest wages in Canada, they press for more; with the shortest hours in Canada, they press for fewer; and these demands are often backed up with long, destructive, and costly strikes.

Thus, the International Woodworkers of America, who went out for 10 weeks in 1959 — crippling B.C.'s biggest single industry — seem likely to go out again this summer; among other things, they are demanding a wage increase of a dollar a day, and double time for overtime. It was through such costly demands that B.C. lumber lost its position in the British market. As the 1950's opened, B.C. sold twice as much lumber to Britain as Russia sold to Britain. When the 1950's ended the situation had been reversed — Russia dominated the British lumber market, Sweden and Finland followed, and British Columbia was trailing in fourth place.

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British Columbia's salmon fishermen struck in 1959; they may do so again this summer, when their two-year contract expires. (During the last 10 years, there have been 24 strikes in the B.C. fishing industry, each followed by a reduction of employment.) Construction unions which walked out in 1959 are pressing new demands.

The B.C. Federation of Labor has started a drive for the seven-hour day. From all this, it would seem that unemployment in British Columbia is going to get worse before it gets better — not because of anything Ottawa does or fails to do, not because of anything Victoria does or fails to do, but because trade unionists in British Columbia do not comprehend the relationship between wages and prices between prices and sales, between sales and jobs.

This lack of comprehension is perhaps the most depressing thing about the B.C. unemployment problem — or crisis, as some would call it. Leading citizens of the province have been saying for years that the wage-price spiral was carrying it to disaster; that B.C. labor and management must stop feuding and co-operate to reduce costs.

Even Mr. Harold Winch, the veteran Socialist MP for Vancouver East, joined in the chorus a year ago. Returning from a world tour, he said that B.C. had earned itself a bad reputation as "the place where you have all the strikes"; that Canadian unionists could not assume that the world owed them a living; that business, labor and government "have to find stability or our markets are going to vanish completely".

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These warnings have gone unheeded. Not even Mr. Winch was able to get his message across; one union official commented, "I can only conclude that during his travels, Harold got a touch of the sun."

It is evident that B.C. labor will have to learn its lesson the hard way. The lesson is that jobs — if people really want jobs — are not made by shouting, shaking fists, waving placards, or rushing up and down the corridors of government buildings. Jobs are not made by going on strike; by pushing wages ahead of productivity; or by taking things easy in an industrious world.

Jobs are made, and in B.C. especially, by producing what other nations are willing to buy, at prices which other nations are willing to pay. — Toronto Globe and Mail

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

U.S. showing more intelligent approach

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The new United States administration is being credited with a good deal more political sense than its predecessor in its courteous reception of visiting President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.

Christian Herter, then U.S. state secretary, said last September 23 that Nkrumah had followed a line akin to the Soviet Union in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly about The Congo and the machinations of imperialism in Africa.

This caused surprise, to say the least, at a time when the U.S. was supposed to be striving to understand the aspirations of new African countries and make friends with them.

Now Nkrumah has addressed the UN again, and it was known long beforehand that he would advocate policies for The Congo sometimes at variance with those of the U.S.

Nevertheless President Kennedy made a point of inviting the Ghanian to the White House and Adlai Stevenson, U.S. ambassador to the UN, issued a statement welcoming his "interest and concern" in the Congo problem.

Whether Kennedy acted on advice from Stevenson, or whether Stevenson acted on orders from Kennedy, is not known. But the upshot is that Stevenson is generally credited with adopting a more intelligent approach to the new African countries than his predecessors.

Stevenson, for instance, instantly reacted favorably to a suggestion by Liberia that the Security Council consider holding a meeting in The Congo or some neighboring country if that might help the crisis there. He even made a tentative offer that the U.S. Air Force would fly council members to Africa.

Nothing has come of this so far, but it made a favorable impression on African delegates.

A somewhat similar suggestion was made at a Security Council session last year and was opposed by former U.S. ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, but pushed by the Russian representative.

Stevenson has been a tremendous worker behind the scenes.

A Bible Thought for Today

I am the vine and ye are the branches . . . without me ye can do nothing. John 15:5.

Christian lives are notably fruitful. Christ performed humble services as well as many mighty works. We should wait for some sensational deed of devotion.

NEW SCHOOL PLAN — Montreal architects Lorne Marshall and Mrs. Janet MacTavish look over a model of the new school design they have developed. Shaped like half a banjo, it features a round section containing classrooms, gymnasium and store rooms and a "handle" for offices, library, laboratories and special workrooms. The design saves on construction costs by reducing the expanse of exterior walls. — CP Photo

New defence ideas

Mr. Pearson, the Liberal leader, rightly believes that his proposals on defence policy have been misinterpreted. They have been. They were one of those rare and wondrous events when a prominent public man got out of the pattern of conventional thinking and tried to break new ground. Naturally, his political opponents jumped on him in order to reinforce their own orthodoxy. Naturally too, the handful of neutralists in Canada believed they had found a sponsor in Mr. Pearson and added their share to the misrepresentation.

To deal with the latter first, there never has been, and indeed there never will be, any chance of Mr. Pearson becoming a neutralist. Since assuming the Liberal party leadership he has studied, spoken and commented on many aspects of public affairs which were not his direct concern when he was Secretary of State for External Affairs in the St. Laurent administration. In the old days he fought isolationism with everything he had, and it would be a strange metamorphosis if, at his age, he turned about face and began to sponsor the silly doctrine of neutralism which is merely isolationism with a new name.

What he did do, however, was to suggest that our defence expenditures might be turned to better purposes than they are now. This is not isolation, it is not neutralism, and certainly it is not treason. But because his ideas broke out of a long established pattern, some people thought he must have turned neutralist, and the tenor of speeches by cabinet ministers, while not saying so in exact words, left the impression that anyone who suggests something different must be neutralist. This may be good debating. Half truths have turned many a tide. But, in this case, it has an element of malice which is not pleasant to observe.

Because Prime Minister Diefenbaker has rigidly pursued the defence policies of his predecessors, he has denigrated Mr. Pearson's ideas by saying he wants to reduce the Canadian role in continental defence to "bird watching." This is, of course, a gross distortion of Mr. Pearson's idea which was based principally on the fact that, at this particular moment in time, Canada might serve a useful international purpose by refusing nuclear weapons even for the use of its air squadrons.

What Mr. Pearson had, and has, in mind, is that if continental defence demands the use of nuclear weapons, there is something to be said for devoting a substantial part of our defence expenditure to other purposes. It is not sensible to dismiss such an idea by finding a contemptuous phrase to describe it. Least of all for a man like the prime minister who, in his years of office has not contributed a single new idea to defence policy — and has indeed condemned our NORAD squadrons to obsolete equipment. Mr. Pearson years ago helped to work out the conception of NORAD. Now, as time passes and as new events change circumstances, he is prepared to take a new look at the concept. Who should blame him for that unless we are all convinced that the Liberal policies from 1955 to 1958 should never be changed ever? Who wants to go for that?—The Montreal Star.

Letterbox

SEX PICTURES

The Editor,
The Daily News:

I wonder how long the local mothers and fathers are going to tolerate such juvenile delinquency - inspiring shows such as "The Rebel Breed?" Even tolerant countries like Japan have banned it.

My wife and I wanted to go to a show a few nights ago but we were disgusted to find that our two only theatres were showing sex pictures.

No matter how low grade a picture may be, we still have to pay inflated prices.

If a few civic-minded organizations could band together and approach such companies as the Odeon to build another theatre here, the competition should give us better entertainment at prices that we can afford to pay.

Ivan Adams,
Prince Rupert.

When the Canadian Red Cross canvasser calls at your door remember he is a volunteer. Through the Red Cross you help yourself and help others.

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To meet transfusion therapy demands of Canadian hospitals the Canadian Red Cross must collect over 600,000 bottles of blood in 1961.

Unemployment 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. I have been asked to repay to the Unemployment Insurance Commision, money which I received for benefit to which I was not entitled. What can happen if I refuse to pay this?

A. All amounts due to the Commission are recoverable in the Exchequer Court of Canada or in any other court of competent jurisdiction or by garnishee procedure. The best solution to a problem of this sort is to agree, in advance of such action, to repay certain amounts monthly until the debt is repaid. Such a procedure can be worked out with your local unemployment insurance office.

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

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

"You must be mistaken," I told my friend. "I didn't see any women in the unemployed parade wearing fur coats."

"They were here," he insisted.

"Then they must have dropped out by the time I saw them," I remarked.

"Maybe they found the heat too much, under the mink," he said.

"Rabbit, if anything," I remarked. "But I didn't see these coats. I hope you're not trying to play down the seriousness of the problem. There are fair numbers of people out of work."

"Sure there are people out of work," he acknowledged. "But I was thinking of the contrast between the prosperous look of those paraders and the desperate look of the ones in the 1930s.

"In the 1930s," he went on, "the unemployed marchers looked hungry. They had patches on their clothes and holes in their shoes. But this time, they were all fairly well dressed. No patches or holes."

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"That's true," I said. "And the banners and placards were neatly lettered, and the paraders were well organized and cheerful. But that isn't the whole story."

"What else?"

"The main thing is that they meant it" I said. "Sure, the demonstration was partly political — anti-Socred. But they were in earnest about unemployment. I found it a chilling experience to see them go by, and hear them chanting "We Want Jobs".

"What really scared me," I added, "was the indifference and puzzlement that some of the onlookers showed. I heard one prosperous-looking man asking: "What's this about?" in a most supercilious way."

"Well, it isn't just jobs they want," my friend objected. "They're asking for jobs at union wages. Money to pay the installments on the deep-freeze, the car and the automatic washer."

"All right for you, you're working," I said. "Have you tried living on unemployment insurance or welfare?"

"Hunger marchers in fur coats," my friend said.

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"By the way," I said, "You know Barney McKinley, who used to be with us — now the Toronto Telegram? He's doing a series of stories about how it feels to be unemployed in Toronto."

"How does it feel?"

"Miserable. Flophouses, soup kitchens, policemen telling you to move on, Barney says. Here's a piece from his story: "Though nowadays they call you "Sir" at the National Employment Service office, the Sick 60s are replaying the tragedy of the hungry 30s."

"Barney's a good writer," I said.

My friend nodded. "But I'm not sure I like this idea of playing at being unemployed, or playing at being a pensioner, no matter how skilled a writer does the job."

"Yes, the people who have to go on being unemployed may resent it."

"It's all very well for a man who can return to a clean, comfortable house, and write pieces in the paper, saying: "I was a hobo for a month."

" 'I was a leper for a week,' or something like that, eh? The people who have to remain lepers won't like it. But listen," I said, "Barney had a taste of hard times in the 1930s. Everything looks different from the inside."

"It does," my friend acknowledged.

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ON THE JOB

Serving you and your community

Your generous donation will continue the essential Red Cross services and programmes provided for your community. Your dollars will keep the Red Cross active and alert, always willing to help you and your neighbour. Through your consideration the traditional work of the Red Cross will be carried on whenever and wherever there may be a call for people to help people. A strong Red Cross means a better community.

You will share in every act of mercy—vital work for people of all races, creeds and political beliefs across the street, across the nation and across the world.

This year be ready and willing to give your share when the Red Cross volunteer canvasser calls. Your donation or pledge will do so much for so many.

YOUR RED CROSS NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW

Objective: $4500 Campaign: March 18th

For further enquiries Phone 3307, 5245 or 4393