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Small business needs help

Les Way, associate editor of the magazine The Canadian Weekly Editor and a man with considerable experience in the publishing and business fields, has hit the nail on the head with an article about the financial difficulties of small businesses in Canada.

It must be abundantly clear, even to the amateurs we elect to run our federal and provincial governments—because few of them are business men or women—that something must be done soon to ensure the solvency of Canada's Small Business if we are to remain a private enterprise nation, and not succumb to the complete control of our economy by Big Business or government corporation, which is another term for Socialism.

Mr. Way advocates strongly the setting up of a government - sponsored nation-wide loan plan for small business and professions.

"One doesn't need to be a Coyne to know that something should and could be done to make capital and development financing available to small businesses on a moderate term basis where today they can't obtain it through normal banking channels," he said.

"We have the Industrial Development Bank (federal), but its charter is restricted to industrial or manufacturing enterprises," he said. "Professional and many other small businesses can't get a wooden nickel from IDB because they don't actually manufacture."

Mr. Way is right. Across Canada hundreds of small businesses go broke each year because they lack the financing—other than the prohibitive loan shark source—they need to modernize or otherwise streamline their operations.

Unless they can get money when they need it for such purposes, they can't meet the competition from rich and powerful Big Business. With capital at the right time and at the right price, however, Small Business has often shown it can survive and prosper, regardless of the competition.

Many small business ideas of merit could be launched if they were able to obtain capital. And the result would be considerably greater employment for Canadians which at present is lost to the economy.

Nor would the governments face the possibility of heavy financial losses from backing this sort of loan. Just as IDB lends money only after careful appraisal of the borrower, so could a small loans bank ensure its solvency.
—The Prince George Citizen.

No time for pacifism

The debate in Parliament over the expressed opposition of Defence Minister Douglas Harkness to pacifism and neutralism has had one positive result. It has placed the CCF party squarely in the position of advocating pacifist neutralism as a national defence policy for Canada.

This is a position the CCF is entitled to adopt. It is not a position that will win for it much support from the people of Canada.

The debate was precipitated by Erhart Regier, a CCF member from British Columbia, who objected to a report that Mr. Harkness had urged an audience of militia officers to oppose pacifist and "Ban the Bomb" movements.

Since Canadian defence policy is based, as Prime Minister Diefenbaker recently stated in the most unequivocal terms in a speech in Toronto, upon an "equilibrium of power" in world affairs, and the maintenance of Canada's alliances, obviously any cabinet minister unwilling to accept this policy would have no recourse other than to resign.

But Mr. Regier and his colleagues have claimed that Mr. Harkness should resign because he regards a policy of unilateral disarmament in matters of nuclear and other weapons as undesirable!

The CCF has shown itself to be hopelessly confused. If war could be avoided by a one-sided decision not to bear arms or to fight, then the matter would be simple indeed. But a firm determination to stand, coupled with the ability to fight, represents the only possible chance of deterring others with aggressive intentions. This is the "equilibrium of power" upon which peace rests, and upon which rests the prospect of working out agreements to reduce armaments.

A strong Western alliance could have halted Nazi Germany in the course of aggression instigated by Hitler. Weakness and disunity made the Second World War possible and inevitable.
— The Toronto Telegram

Canute: king and legend

There are certain legends which need to be set straight every so often; and since it has been nearly 20 years since the Monitor last set this one straight, the effort may be about due again. At least, so one reader thinks. It has to do with King Canute, monarch of Denmark and England shortly after the year 1000.

All that some people have heard of King Canute is the misinformation that he is supposed to have tried ineffectually to sweep back the tide with a broom. This legend is just too convenient when a writer or speaker needs a symbol of futility.

What really happened, according to Henry of Huntington about a hundred years later, is that the very wise king, being surfeited with the flattery of his courtiers, sought to teach them a lesson. Placing his chair near the edge of the water at the seaside, he bade them note that the rising water paid no attention to his command to recede.

So the story becomes not one of vainglory but of humility. Nevertheless, even The Reader's Encyclopedia speaks of "the Canute of ancient legend who is reported to have commanded the waves to stand still". We squarely plant our editorial chair athwart the path of such fictions.
— The Christian Science Monitor

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Murder of Lumumbists trying to UN unity

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

If some evil genius had sat down and figured out a sure way to wreck peace hopes in The Congo, he couldn't have evolved a more cunning scheme than what actually has happened — the execution of six followers of the slain Patrice Lumumba.

Dag Hammarskjold, the coolheaded and urbane United Nations secretary-general, touched perhaps his first despairing not when, in reporting the executions to the Security Council, he said they were "humiliating" to the world body.

"It is for the council to judge how this latest development, following the assassination of Mr. Lumumba and others, should influence the United Nations actions in relation to The Congo and various groups in The Congo."

After Lumumba, the former premier, was murdered his captors could at least contend that he was out of their hands in an escape attempt when his assassins caught up with him.

But the new action that Hammarskjold described as "inconceivable" was reported flatly as "execution" at the very time when the Security Council was showing signs of some progress on the basis of an Afro-Asian compromise resolution.

Katanga province officials said, in effect, they were not responsible for Lumumba's death but they were glad it happened. Critics of the Congo operation were alert to point out that Lumumba was killed after being transferred from Leopoldville province to Katanga, while the new executions occurred after the victims were taken from Leopoldville to Kasai province.

All this deals a shattering blow to hopes of forming a broad-based government including Lumumbists under President Joseph Kasavubu, who is strongly supported by the United States and other Western countries.

It also is not likely to strengthen Kasavubu's demand that The Congo's sovereignty be respected scrupulously — although on this subject the Security Council must consider the question of precedent as well as The Congo itself.

On the question of recognition, the U.S. and the Soviet Union clashed head-on last week — the U.S. backing Kasavubu while Russia backed Antoine Gizenga, deputy of Lumumba, and demanded UN evacuation of The Congo.

There was evidence that this square-off between the great powers frightened smaller countries, who saw the destruction of the UN in prospect, and caused them to strive harder for a diplomatic solution.

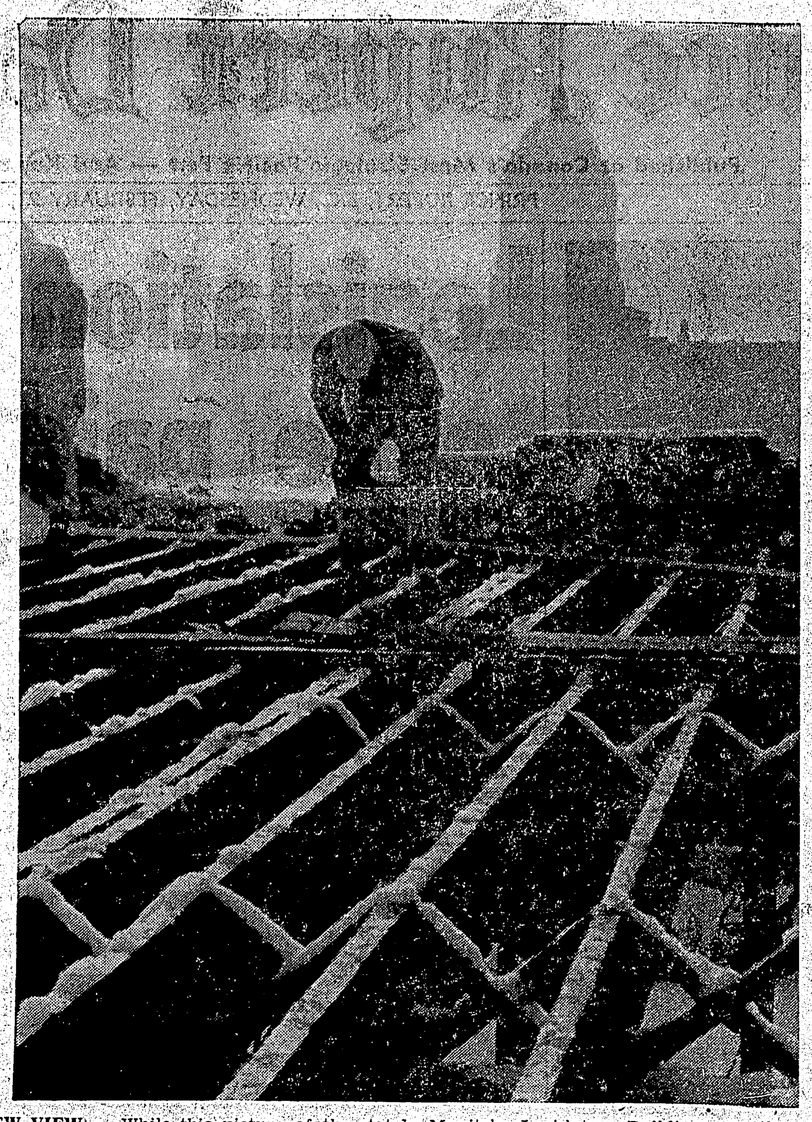
The United Arab Republic figures prominently in this thinking as the result of its surprise move in joining with Ceylon and Liberia to propose authorizing the use of force by UN troops to bring the wild Congolese armed forces under control.

The U.A.R. has been regarded as a strong supporter of Soviet efforts to promote Lumumbist aims.

A Bible Thought for Today

Lo I am with you always. Matt. 28:20.

God's children are never alone. His voice may be heard if we listen.



NEW VIEW — While this picture of the stately Manitoba Legislature Building seen through a frosty haze illustrates typical February weather in Winnipeg, it also reveals a new view that is being prepared for the Manitoba capital. The legislature long has been partially screened from the city's main thoroughfare, Portage Avenue, by so-called "temporary" quarters erected in 1919 to house University of Manitoba students. Government offices have been located in the buildings since the students moved out in 1950, but the workmen shown here on the frosty beams is taking part in demolition work that will clear the way for a park on Broadway, across the street from the seat of provincial government. — CP Photo

REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT By FRANK HOWARD

How old is old enough? When we apply this question to voting at election time we find that selecting an arbitrary age is the only answer. And, then that arbitrary age is subject to dispute for any such arbitrary decision cannot take into account the attitudes and maturity of any individual. Some are capable of mature decisions at 17 or 18, others never reach that level.

Traditionally we have thought that a person should be 21 before he or she could vote. The age of 21 has a connection, in the dim past, with the right of an individual to contract himself into serfdomship different than that which his father worked under. Even today 21 is considered as the age below which certain contracts are not binding.

In Federal elections a person must be 21 before he can vote. This situation prevails in most of the provinces, too, with British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan being the exceptions. In British Columbia and Alberta the age limit is 19. In Saskatchewan it is 18. Three states in the United States and a number of countries have voting age limits that are under 21.

With this background, I introduced a Bill in Parliament on St. Valentine's Day to lower the voting age in Canada to 18. The Bill didn't come to a vote for it was 'talked out.' In the debate the proposal received support from the Conservatives and from the Liberals. Perhaps in another year the government will sponsor such a proposal in which case it will undoubtedly become law.

In our present society everything has been speeded up. Our means of communication gives us a clearer and immediate picture of political and economic affairs all over the world. Our educational system has increased the level of education and of understanding. Our economy draws people into the business community, into marriage, into paying taxes, into the war efforts and into political considerations and understandings at an earlier age than was previously the case.

If people are mentally and physically capable of entering the armed forces at 18, then they should be considered mentally and physically capable of electing members of parliament who decide on such questions as taxation and war. "Old enough to fight—old enough to vote" is a slogan which has much merit in this regard.

British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have shown the way in the matter of lowering the voting age and I think that the federal government should follow suit. Until such a course of action I intend to keep pressing for this particular measure.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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The greatest weapon used in intimidation is not a pistol, or a blackjack or a heavy fist. It is common sense. People gifted with common sense intimidate more people around them than all the armed thugs put together. Sometimes the area of intimidation is only the family circle. Sometimes it is a larger area like a business employing 500 people. A person born with common sense can intimidate a whole great organization like a railroad employing ten thousand or a trades union with 50,000 members. Even a political party of 1,000,000, or a nation of many millions can be intimidated by a man or sometimes a woman endowed with this most powerful of all the implements of persuasion.

The rise to power of a person so gifted is strewn with the prostrate forms of all who come within reach. Sometimes they are prostrate because they are merely bowing low. Others are prostrate because they have dared to dispute. But in disputes, whether in a family circle, a group of friends, a business or a whole community, the lucky one gifted with common sense slowly but surely demonstrates his lethal talent. Usually he ends up on top of the heap; unless, of course, the family or his colleagues or the community rise up and hang him to a lamp post. Common sense can be the most infuriating of traits—in others.

The lighter side

A frightened householder reported to the police that he'd been struck down in the dark outside his back door by an unknown assailant. A young policeman was sent to investigate and soon returned to headquarters with a lump on his forehead and a glum look on his face.

"I solved the case," he muttered.

"Amazingly fast work," his superior complimented him. "How did you accomplish it?"

The young cop explained, "I stepped on the rake, too."

♣ ♣ ♣

Letter to the editor of a correspondence column: "I am only 10 and I stayed out till two the other night. My mother objects. Did I do wrong?"

The answer: "Try to remember."

♣ ♣ ♣

"Would you believe it," said a wife after her visitor had left. "If that woman yawned once she yawned at least ten times while I was talking."

"My dear," soothed her husband, "I don't think she was yawning. She just wanted to say something."

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

Confessions of an eavesdropper . . .

I like listening to people's conversations in bars, coffee shops and anywhere else I can hear them. Bad manners? Maybe so. But I pardon myself for snooping on the pretext that it is part of my work.

When a man writes pieces for the paper, he has to find out how other people think and talk. Well, doesn't he?

Of course I can't show that I'm listening. I have to turn away from the talkers, and just glance at them now and then out of the corner of my eye.

The trouble about most barroom and cafe talkers, I notice, is a deplorable tendency to mumble.

"She took him by surprise . . . urble urble . . . and then . . . urble . . . all around the house and the storage shed . . . urble urble . . . but I really don't blame him, because urble . . . "

I have often been tempted to stride across to these mealy-mouthed talkers and say: "For goodness' sake quit swallowing your words and SPEAK UP!"

But they keep waffling on. "So I said to her, you can take your dog and your rabbit and your pet lizards and . . . ooble ooble ooble . . . and as for that big lout of an . . . ooble . . . ooble . . . and I don't care what it costs, I want it done."

"You don't say!" remarks a woman sitting in the shadows at the corner Now she sounds as though she can talk clearly. Perhaps this will encourage her companion to turn up the volume, and with any luck I'll have better reception.

"And what answer did you get?" the woman asks.

"Answer? Ha! Ooble ooble ooff Omp omp obla! And that was all."

"Shocking!" the woman says. "No excuse in the world for such disgusting behavior."

" I agree. And what's more, he . . . oggle oggle orple! And so did she! Oggle orple aggle, as a matter of fact."

"That's it. Well, shall we go?"

"Yes. Here's your coat. Well, this is my plan to fool both of them . . . Abliggety blaggety glog . . . understand? Amofferty moff . . . "

So they mumble their way out of the place and into the night. I wish I had the courage to run after them and ask what their plan is. Eavesdropping is difficult when you have to deal with woolly-mouth people.

Such poor speech habits almost compel me to mind my own business—and that's no fun.

With the classics

The Unfailing One

The little sharp vexations,
And the briars that catch and fret,
Why not take all to the Helper
Who has never failed us yet

Tell Him about the heartache
And tell Him the longings too;
Tell Him the baffled purpose
When we scarce knew what to do.
Then leaving all our weakness
with the One Divinely strong,
Forget that we bore the burden,
And carry away the song.
—By Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

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