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Because it hurt

The result of a recent appeal in Ottawa should be of interest to police magistrates and also to all those drivers who, after conviction, plead for their licences on the ground that driving is part of their employment. The man in the Ottawa case was convicted of impaired driving, fined, and deprived of his licence for one year. He appealed the suspension on the ground that forfeiture of licence would cost him his employment.

The appellant's employers were willing to keep him in their employ and provide a driver for him for three months, but no longer. The implicit suggestion underlying the appeal was that the courts also should be indulgent. In other words the appellant was asking for protection from the consequences of his own actions.

The judge hearing the appeal upheld the decision of the magistrate who had imposed the penalty.

Here was a case in which a penalty was appealed not because it was excessive — which is the usual ground for such appeals — but because it hurt. As the judge remarked, penalties that do not hurt have encouraged a frame of mind tending to produce an increase in the offences concerned. He might have added that penalties which do not hurt are not penalties at all.

In appearances before the magistrates for offences against the highway and traffic codes there is an altogether too prevalent belief that an accused whose job depends on driving should enjoy preferential treatment. Pleas are constantly being made, and often granted, for the retention of driving privileges for "business purposes."

The obvious reply to that appeal for clemency is that the person whose livelihood depends on his driving licence should no nothing that would result in him being deprived of it.— The Victoria Colonist.

Life expectancy

Following any election in this country, there are always mixed feelings on the part of the electorate; there is a certain amount of joy among supporters of the winning candidate, gloom among those in the opposite camp.

This post-election feeling must be the reverse in Russia, if the following figures published in The Weekly Crusader of Tulsa, Oklahoma, are correct.

"Up to 1954 the Russians had shot nine out of 11 cabinet ministers holding office in 1936; five out of seven presidents of the last central executive committee; 43 out of 53 secretaries of the Communist party central office; 15 out of 27 who wrote the 1936 constitution; 70 out of 80 of the Soviet war council."

Seeking an army career doesn't help a person either; since 1917, three out of every five marshals of the Russian army have been executed as spies or traitors.

— The Lacombe, Alberta, Globe.

Democracy impaired

A recent cartoon in the Toronto Globe and Mail shows Mr. Pearson standing inside the open door of his home looking with grim disapproval at a group of merrymakers who obviously want to come in. The caption is "No need for a new party". Mr. Pearson is quite right. There is no need for another party in Canada. But of course the people must be free to form as many parties as they wish.

The Canadian parliamentary system of government functions best with only two parties, one in office, the other in opposition. The little splinter groups with no chance of majority support impair parliamentary democracy. Alberta's long habit of sending Social Credit members to Ottawa, for instance, accomplished no good and by frustrating both the major parties it may have done some harm.

Of course the splinter parties have contributed some outstanding individuals to the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Woodsworth and Mr. Coldwell, for instance, were a credit and honor to the country. The CCF has had some outstanding back-benchers too.

But the two major parties should be big enough to accommodate all but the extreme non-conformists, and we believe they are. When a new climate of political opinion develops, better for one of the existing parties to shift and absorb it than to organize a new party.

It has already been made quite clear that the New Party will not be as socialist as its parent CCF. In fact it will differ from the Liberals only in emphasis and personnel. As Mr. Pearson said, there is no need for it. Everything it can say could be said just as well in the Liberal party, and if worth while, would have a much greater chance of being implemented. — The Lethbridge Herald

Unhelpful criticism

Dean Neville Scarfe's sneering comments on the Chant report suggest that he is out of touch with public opinion. It was because of public outcry against the trend education has taken and against many of things for which correction is now proposed that the commission was appointed by the government.

As head of the College of Education at the University of British Columbia, Dean Scarfe has some measure of responsibility for conditions in the schools of the province which the Chant commission found to be unsatisfactory. It is perhaps understandable therefore that he should be displeased with the report.

Dean Scarfe complains that it "is not creative, experimental or adventurous". It is a dangerous philosophy that education is a pleasant field for adventure or that the minds of young children are something for experimenters to play with. What a child is taught and the way he is taught influence his whole future.

The superior tone towards the earnest, conscientious endeavors of a commission headed by a university colleague does him little credit; nor does the nature of his objections inspire confidence in the ability of the department he heads to make a useful contribution to the education system of the province.

It is the "progressive" brand of education which has brought dire troubles to all of North America. If British Columbia can be rescued from it through the efforts of the Chant commission then the people will have cause for gratitude. The report may be "reactionary", as Dean Scarfe asserts, but that could be the approach needed after bitter experience with "progressive" methods.

Results will not be immediately apparent, for it takes many years to repair the damage caused by mistakes in the field of education. For some of the luckless subjects the harm may never be undone. It is they who have to pay the price of adventures and experiments.

— The Victoria Colonist

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Peace in Algeria seen within six months

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Peace in Algeria now looms as a distict possibility.

President de Gaulle's victory in the weekend referendum, more decisive than many observers expected, creates a climate for negotiations that could end the bitter six-year war within months.

Possibly the biggest stumbling block now is the attitude of the rebel leaders headed by Ferhat Abbas. Their views appear to have hardened in recent weeks. If they insist that peace talks should be strictly a two-way matter between de Gaulle and themselves, without taking into account what de Gaulle calls "other tendencies", the developing trend toward peace may be stalled.

Certainly with France's clear vote of confidence behind him, de Gaulle has a mandate for peace. Despite all obstacles, despite the ambiguity of the questions posed in the referendum, France has shown its weariness of the conflict between European and Arab.

The next move is likely to be another visit by the 70-year-old president to Algeria to set up "provisional institutions", including an executive that may be headed by a Moslem. One name mentioned is that of Ali Malem, an Algeria deputy.

British comment on the referendum concentrates on two related themes:

It is the final nail in the coffin of the myth that "Algeria is French", the slogan pursued for so long and at such cost to France in the belief that 1,000,000 European settlers could forever retain mastery in a land also inhabited by nearly 10,000,000 Moslems.

"This is the end of a legend", says Sam White, writing in the Evening Standard. "As a political factor, the Algeria — is — French slogan now is as dead as the dodo."

An example of the rough treatment suffered by right-wing advocates of a No vote in the referendum came from the celebrated wine-fields of Beaune where 80 per cent voted in the affirmative. Beaune is the stronghold of Roger Duchet, leader of the powerful independent group in the French Assembly. The independents are staunchly conservative, and Duchet had called for a negative response in the referendum.

OLD AND NEW — Squat powerful tug at left contrasts with trim, gleaming hull of 3,500-ton Spanish Navy training ship the Juan Sebastian De Elcano, shown above in Halifax harbor. The barquentine, which carried 224 officers and men and 80 cadets paid an eight-week courtesy visit to Canada last year to take part in the Royal Canadian Navy's 50th anniversary celebrations. — CP Photo

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

"Should a child be allowed to die, because it is against his parents' religion to allow a blood transfusion?

Yes, says W. Glen How, QC, a well-known Canadian lawyer. Parents' rights and religious freedom are more important than individual lives.

No, says the province of Ontario, which has seized a number of children from their parents on medical advice. Other provinces may do the same thing. The cases involve the Jehovah's Witnesses sect, which regards blood transfusions as sinful.

"Parents will make some mistakes and children will die," says Mr. How in an article that appears in Canadian Bar Journal and Canadian Doctor.

"But the genius of our law over the centuries leaves this responsibility with the parents. They will suffer most from such errors, and therefore are those who will give the greatest love, thought and attention to the welfare of their own children."

Welfare authorities in Ontario have power to take away a child if parents fail to provide "proper medical treatment." But (argues Mr. How) doctors disagree about medical treatment. Blood transfusion, and other techniques, may be just medical fads.

"It is an outrage for the law . . . to reach inside a home and snatch away a child, largely because the community does not agree with the religious views of the parents.

"This is being done to a minority, Jehovah's Witnesses, while majority groups, such as Roman Catholics, who also have disagreement with medicine in other fields, are left immune."

Mr. How is plainly in earnest, and he has built a plausible argument. However, I think there are some holes in it.

He says "the genius of our law over the centuries leaves this responsibility with the parents." But principles of law change to fit changed conditions of society.

At one time, for example, the law regarded trade unions as criminal conspiracies. The law allowed parents to do virtually as they liked with their children.

Nowadays, society meddles far more in private lives than it did formerly. The law forces parents to send their children to school. The law no longer allows parents to beat their children unconsciously.

In the days when parents were allowed to do virtually as they liked, many children died of cruelty and neglect. We simply are not prepared to tolerate such neglect today. I don't think we are prepared to license parents to kill their children by refusing them emergency medical aid.

If a child is crippled for life by neglect of medical treatment, the taxpayers may have to foot the bill, in welfare payments. I think the taxpayers should have a chance to prevent such waste of life, health and money, regardless of whose religious beliefs are violated.

Should we let lawyers debate while a child's life hangs in the balance? Surely there is only one proper court to hear such arguments: a panel of doctors, empowered to reach a decision in a few minutes.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

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When a major - general, all starched up in body, mind and personality, suddenly sees, in the stiff ceremonial ranks he is inspecting, a buck private with whom he went to public school eyeing him with a twinkling sardonic eye, what are his feelings?

When a millionaire industrialist, on hailing a taxi, has the door flung open for him and finds himself gazing into the cheerful face of a long - forgotten schoolboy chum at the taxi wheel, what are his thoughts?

By long odds the financially most successful member of my old high school class shared a pew on an aircraft with me recently, for a short flight. He confided to me that his health had not been good the past three years, and his looks confirmed it. He was thin and dyspeptic, which is the old way of saying he had ulcers.

Naturally we talked about our former schoolmates and how they fared.

"You know," said my prosperous seat mate, querulously, "what makes me so mad is to run into some of them, now and then, who haven't done anything, haven't amounted to anything; but they look so darn healthy!"

The lighter side

Coroner: What were your husband's last words, Madame?

Widow: He said, "I don't see how they can make much profit on this stuff at a dollar and a half a quart."

Cop: Did you break your date last night?

Dora: I don't think so. He still had a quarter left.

Winter Robin

Through the hushed air the whitening shower descends,
At first thin-wavering; till at last the flakes
Fall broad and wide and fast, dimming the day
With a continual flow. The cherished fields
Put on their winter-robe of purest white.
'Tis brightness all; save where the new snow melts
Along the mazy current. Low the woods
Bow their hoar head; and, ere the languid sun
Faint from the west emits his evening ray,
Earth's universal face, deep-hid and chill,
Is one wild dazzling waste, that buries wide
The works of man. Drooping, the labourer-ox
Stands covered o'er with snow, and then demands
The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of heaven,
Tamed by the cruel season, crowd around
The winnowing store, and claim the little boon
Which Providence assigns them. One alone,
The redbreast, sacred to the household gods,
Wisely regardful of the embroiling sky,
In joyless fields and thorny thickets leaves
His shivering mates, and pays to trusted man
His annual visit. Half afraid, he first
Against the window beats; then brisk alights
On the warm hearth; then, hopping o'er the floor,
Eyes all the smiling family askance,
And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is—
—from "The Seasons" by James Thomson, 1700-1748.

Quote and unquote

The Bishop of Coventry:

"If we do not make room for God in this atomic age there will shortly be no room for us."

H. T. Mitchell, president, Mitchell Press Ltd., appearing before the Royal Commission on Publications:

"In the course of O/Canada we musically aver no fewer than five times that we stand on guard for our country, but when we sit down it's five chances to one that the magazine we pick up will have been produced in and for the friendly but foreign country to our south."

Aldous Huxley, British novelist:

"The Greek Dionysian revels, the corybantic frenzies, the macumba ritual dances in Brazil—all those were or are ways of working off tensions. Dancing away frustrations is a better technique than drinking which is the standard approach in the West."

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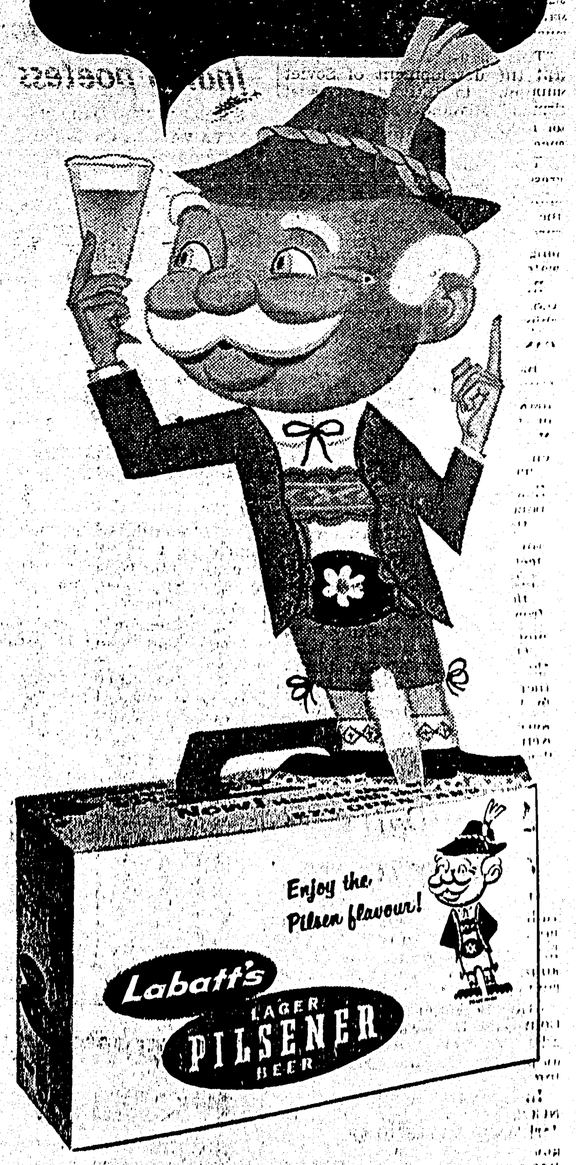

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