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Retirement big blow to school board

It is often said, sometimes tritely, that when a person leaves a position they have held for a long time, they will leave a void that will be hard to fill. In the case of Mrs. Myrtle M. Roper, secretary - treasurer of District 52 school board, whose resignation is effective August 31, there is not a shadow of a doubt that her retirement will be a big blow to the school board. In fact, the announcement of her resignation Tusday night stunned the school trustees, even though they knew sooner or later the time would arrive.

Mrs. Roper is no ordinary school board secretary-treasurer. She has devoted at least 28 years of her life to education, as a teacher, a school board trustee and as secretary-treasurer of the old city school board and the District 52 school board before the days when the Cameron report was implemented and the province was divided up into school districts.

Her knowledge of school matters, school financing and the administrative end of school board work is profound. She has been a tower of strength to school trustees, who, because they are unpaid community-minded citizens doing a part-time job for the school district, are unable to devote full-time to school affairs. Mrs. Roper has provided a liaison between the school board and the local press, and therefore the public, so that the board's good works on behalf of the taxpayer have been given full publicity. She has had ready answers on policy for new teachers, board employees, principals and trustees alike.

While the board has a difficult enough task in finding a replacement for Mrs. Roper, it should also ensure that a substantial token of the school district's and trustees' appreciation should be presented to Mrs. Roper when she finally steps down to enjoy her retirement. There are few public servants who have shown the devotion to duty that Mrs. Roper has. When we say her loss will be deeply felt we mean it from the bottom of our heart. We join the school board in wishing Mrs. Roper a well-earned period of rest.

"KILL THE UMPIRE"

Psychiatry might ease arbiters' nightmares

By HAL BOYLE

"NEW YORK (AP) — Remarks a baseball umpire gets tired of hearing:

"Kill the umpire!"

"You know what happened to vaudeville? Well, give Blinky McGuire five more years behind the plate, and he'll do the same thing to organized baseball."

"I admit Blinky calls them as he sees them. That's the whole trouble. He don't see very many of them."

"Boo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oohhhhh!"

"Forty thousand fans scream he's safe, and Blinky calls him out. Is this a democracy or isn't it?"

"Oh, he's all right except for one thing — he favors the pitcher."

"There's only one thing I really got against him — he favors the batter every time."

"We'll be glad to sell you the life insurance coverage you requested, but because of . . . uh . . . certain inherent risks in your calling, we'll have to ask for a higher premium."

"Okay, little boy blue, bend down and dust the plate. Papa's going to belt the first one over for a homer. That way you don't get a chance to call one wrong."

"Boo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oohhhhh!"

"Don't mind the paying customers, Blinky. Maybe the sun got in all their eyes—not yours."

"Blinky dear, you were talking in your sleep again last night. I warn you for the last time, I simply will not tolerate language like that in our home."

✦ ✦ ✦

"No, Mr. McGuire, I don't find any indication of ulcers. However, I would like to make a suggestion. One of my associates specializes in psychiatry, and I think it would be a good idea if you would . . ."

Boo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oohhhhh!"

"In your case, Mr. McGuire, I would recomment contact lenses. Then no one would even suspect that . . ."

"Put a mouse in a uniform and give him a little authority and right away he begins to act like a big rat."

"There was no return address on the package, dear. I opened it and there was another tin cup and another white cane. Who do you suppose is sending them all to you?"

"Boo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oohhhhh!"

U.S. FAILURES SET RECORD

Furniture, infants', sporting goods hit hard

Special to The Daily News

NEW YORK — In 1960 total business failures reached the highest figure in more than 25 years, while liabilities of these failures set an alltime high mark, passing by $10,000,000 the previous record set in 1932. Moreover, the average liability per failure set a new record and was more than $16,000 above the average for all post war years.

These statistics are reported in "The Failure Record Through 1960", a just published comprehensive annual Dunn & Bradstreet study of business failures.

Total number of failures in 1960 was 15,445, as compared with 14,053 the previous year. Total liabilities climbed from $692,808,000 in 1959 to $938,630,000 in 1960.

The failure rate per 10,000 listed concerns reached 57 in 1960, up from 52 in 1959, though just slightly above the 56 level reached in 1958, the year of the last previous recession. The 1960 failure rate is the highest since 1940.

In the city listings, New York showed a decline in numbers of failures for the second straight year. Chicago and Philadelphia reported slight increases in numbers of failures, while Detroit and Los Angeles reported fewer failures. In New Orleans, failures dropped to a five year low, off more than 50 per cent from the previous year. In contrast, failures in Louisville nearly doubled, though they were still at a lower mark than in 1958. Total failures outside the nation's major cities were up substantially more than in the metropolitan centres themselves.

In the state breakdowns, Oregon again, as in 1959, led the failure rate category with 207.1 failures per 10,000 concerns. New York was second with 124.8; California, a close third with 123.9. At the low end stood South Dakota with 4.3. In both North Dakota and Nebraska, the states taking low rate honors in 1959, the failure rate tripled in 1960.

Repeating the 1959 story, furniture and transportation equipment manufacturers claimed the dubious distinction of top places in rate of failure per 10,000 concerns in manufacturing, while in retailing, infants' and childrens wear and sporting goods once more led failure rate lists.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Kennedy mapping new atomic tests policy

By HAROLD MORRISON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

President Kennedy is mapping out a new atomic tests policy, concluding that after almost three years of conversation the Russians have become frozen in an attitude that virtually eliminates further hope of an effective test ban agreement.

It is understood Kennedy is ready to end the United States moratorium on underground tests. But despite domestic pressure to proceed with new explosions, he is moving cautiously—partly because of urgings by Canada and other allies against new tests and partly because he doesn't want the conversations with the Russians to end.

Kennedy wants to keep open as many doors to the Kremlin as possible. A pattern of engaging the Communists in conversation or negotiation—even if this produces nothing but talk—seems to be one of the key foreign policy characteristics emerging from the new U.S. administration.

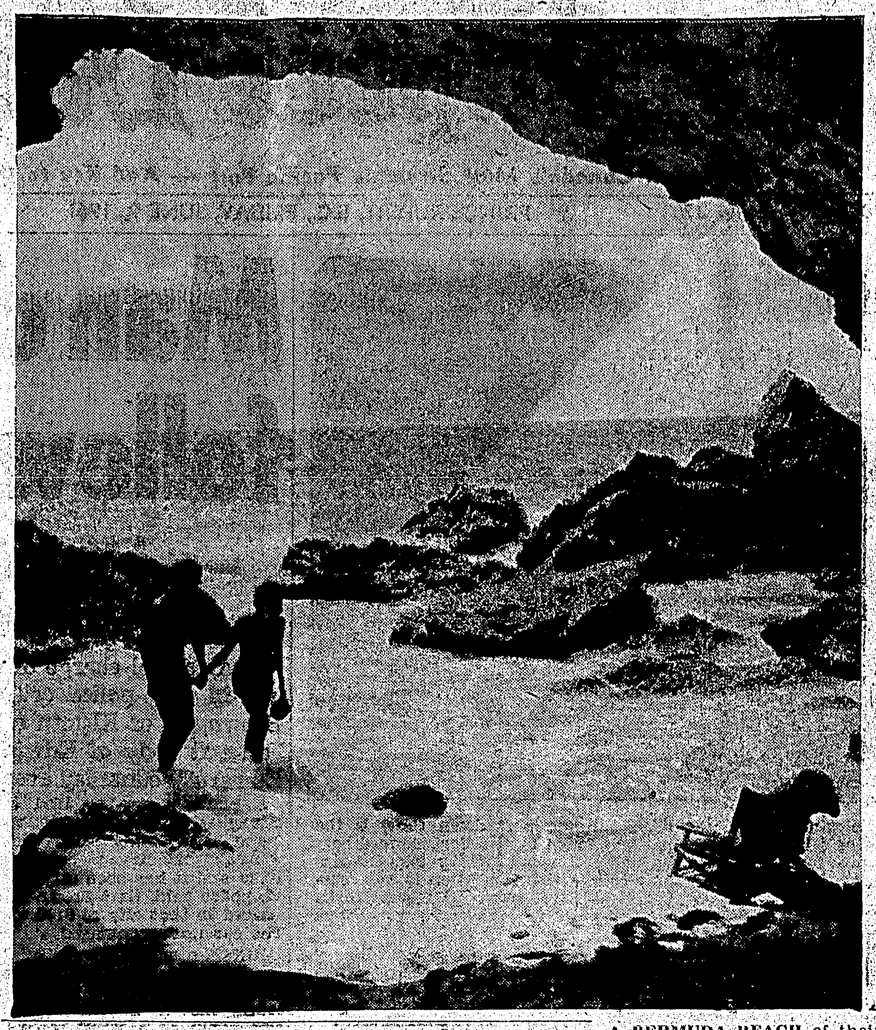
Kennedy knows the mere presence of members of the Western and Communist blocs around a conference table, as at the Geneva conference on Laos, does not stop Communist power tactics. The Communist forces in the southeast Asian kingdom have continued to capture ground despite the cease-fire that was supposed to be in effect there.

Meanwhile, as Kennedy continues to engage the enemy in talk, he has time to build up strength on his side, time to increase American Guerrilla forces and time to persuade allies to strengthen and unite behind the forces of freedom.

But in the case of the nuclear test ban negotaitions time seems to be running out. Kennedy has the problem of U.S. morale and prestige to consider.

He has made clear to American people that Soviet Premier Khrushchev feels continuation of the present nuclear negotiations at Geneva is futile.

Kennedy is eager to engage the Russians in a new series of talks on disarmament. But that won't tie his hands. He already has set into motion an increase in U.S. military expenditures.



A BERMUDA BEACH of their own: A natural arch of coral forms the entrance to this secluded, little beach on Bermudas south shore. Honeymooners for years have turned tiny coves like this one into their own private beach for a day. Bermuda also has long stretches of pink-tinted beaches where crowd - loving swimmers find their fun on waterside patios and huge sandy areas doted by multi-colored umbrellas.

—Bermuda News Bureau.

How to wreck an industry

From The Victoria Times

The United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union is negotiating with the packers of British Columbia for another large increase in salmon prices this year. No doubt if it fails to get what it wants the union will strike, as usual. Between 1947 and 1961 it has disrupted one phase of the fishing industry or another 21 times. Few if any industries in North America have been so riddled by strikes, the chief results being continual increases in the price of fish and frequent idleness of the fishermen.

Now the union demands that the price paid to fishermen for sockeye salmon be increased by 12½ per cent; for coho 36 per cent; for chums 77.7 per cent; for red springs 63.6 per cent; for white springs 233 per cent; for steelhead 36 per cent; and for jacks 163 per cent.

Since the price paid to them for fish represents the fishermen's wages it will be seen that they are demanding wage increases far in excess of those suggested by most unions, or probably by any union on this continent. In addition, the union demands large new welfare benefits that would increase the present costs to the operators by about 10 per cent.

These proposals are advanced, with the customary threat of a strike, at a time when competition is increasing in the fishing industry throughout the world, when foreign nations such as Russia and Japan are scouring the Pacific Ocean for fish to be sold in the world market.

Already this year the results of the continual drive for higher fish prices have been demonstrated in the case of whaling. Unable to meet the demands of the union, the operators have laid up the whaling fleet again. About 150 workers who could have been earning good wages are idle, or working in other industries. The operators have lost their chance of profits and the British Columbia economy has lost a substantial source of income while the other nations catch and sell the whales.

The whole history of the fishermen's union in this province is one of perpetual agitation, strikes and class war — not because most fishermen favor such tactics but because their union leaders insist on them. The typical fisherman, in fact, is not a class-conscious proletarian by the Communist definition. With his own boat and valuable gear, he is a small independent capitalist, a hard worker and an excellent citizen who only seeks the opportunity to make a reasonable living.

But the union is controlled by Communist leaders. Its secretary and effective boss, Mr. Homer Stevens, is a dedicated Communist, who has run for public office (without being elected) as a Communist candidate, whose mission is to destroy our existing social and economic system. Within the limits of his influence, Mr. Stevens is doing an excellent job for the world wide cause of Communism and to this end he has surrounded himself with other union officials who share his beliefs.

Not many fishermen are Communists. Most of them are as much opposed as any Canadians to the world revolution. Nevertheless Mr. Stevens and his colleagues continue to control the union, mainly because not many fishermen take any direct part in its affairs but leave them to their officials. So long as Mr. Stevens seems to be getting a higher price for fish he is unlikely to be disturbed in his office.

The continual disorganization of the industry, and the frequent idleness of the various fishing fleets, doesn't seem to worry Mr. Stevens and of course he blames everything on the operators.

The latest annual report of the British Columbia Packers Limited, showing a profit of less than a million dollars on sales of about $56 millions, must be a depressing picture for the shareholders. Apparently they would be in a better position if they had invested their money in government bonds and taken no risks. And the British Columbia economy would be in a better position if one of its major industries were not bedeviled year in and year out by Communist union leaders.

With the classics

His golden locks time hath to silver turned;
O time too swift, O swiftness never ceasing
His youth 'gainst time and age hath ever spurned,
But spurned in vain; youth waneth by increasing:
Beauty, strength, youth, are flowers, but fading seen;
Duty, faith, love, are roots, and ever green.

—George Peele.

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

HEADS GROUP — Martin F. Murphy, president of the Canadian Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, will head a group of 80 Canadians attending the congress of the International chamber in Copenhagen May 22-27. About 2,500 people from 40 countries will gather at the congress. Mr. Murphy, a native of Halifax, is executive vice-president of Northern Electric Company Ltd., Montreal. — CP Photo

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

Copyright: Canada Wide

An inventor of my acquaintance is working on a small pocket record player, operated by transistors and using tiny little discs about the size of a 50-cent piece.

"With my miniature player," he says, "a salesman can turn on background music for his sales pitch when he calls on a customer. At the rate background music is being employed now in the movies, on television and in radio, the time is coming when hardly anybody will want to speak without suitable background music to help him. With my miniature player, a man can carry two or three dozens of these little recordings of music suitable to all occasions; slow, passionate music for sincerity, fast, accelerating music for the statement of exciting sales statistics; you know how it is. No movie or TV producer would dream of staging a drama, especially a thriller, without background music all the way to help the viewer to understand what he is looking at. When the hero is about to be trapped by the villain, slow, menacing music. When the fight is on, loud, brawly music, so the viewers will know there is a fight on. In fact, so stupid does the movie and TV industry believe the public to be, that it employs every device to explain what is happening on the screen.

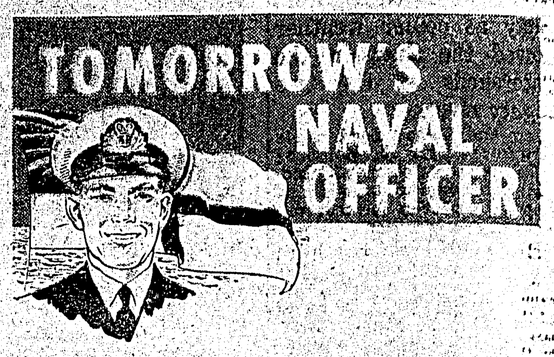
"In the next federal elections, I bet you the political leaders are going to use background music to accentuate their speeches. Background music is becoming an essential aid to understanding.

Short sermons

Theories are worthless until they are harnessed to industry.

✦ ✦ ✦

A good look at the family budget reduces the vacation fever.



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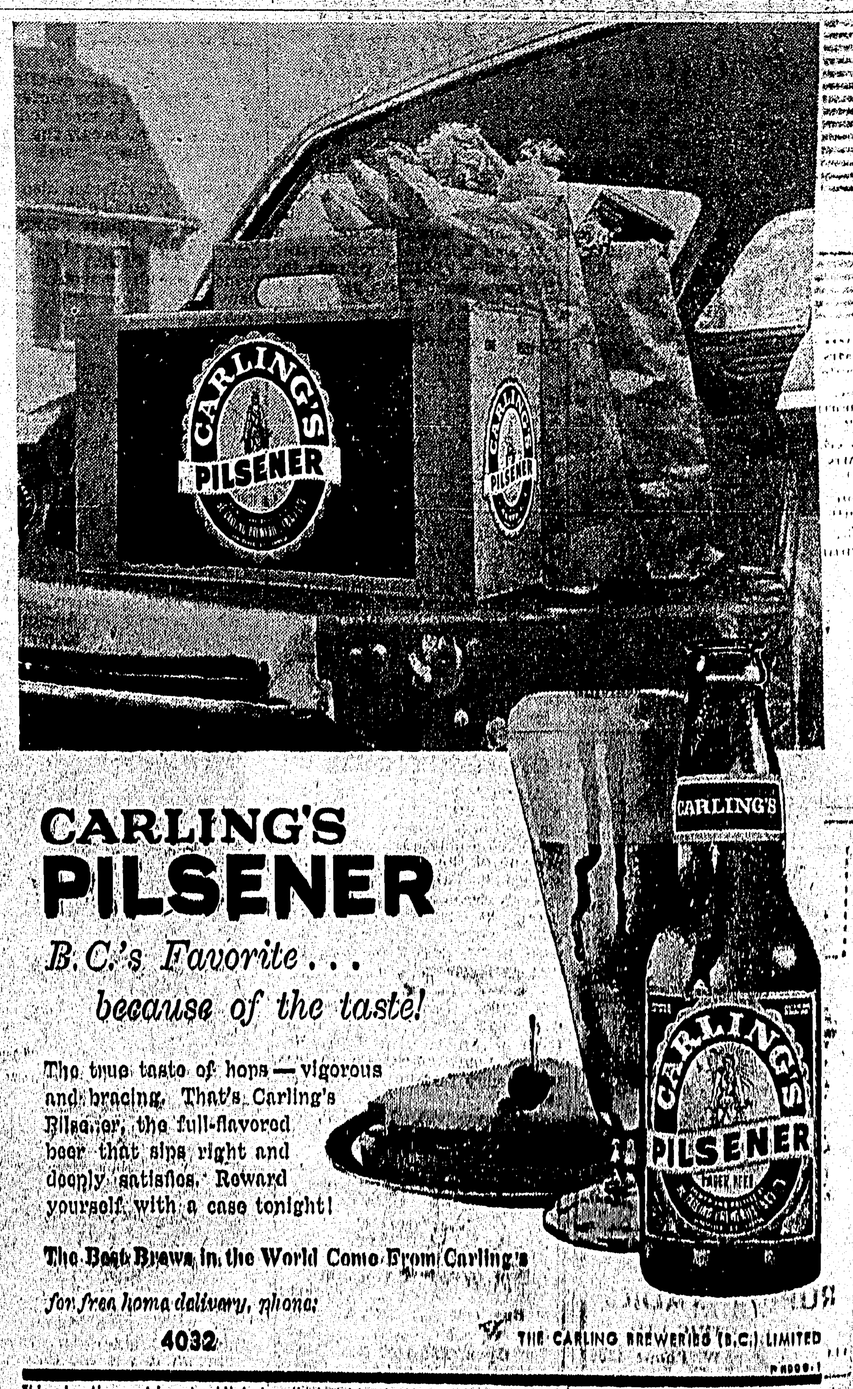

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