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TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1961

Terrace can be proud of new hospital

The residents of Terrace and district are to be commended and envied on the opening of their $883,000 hospital. They are to be congratulated for their long, hard fight to obtain funds to match the government grants and see their project come to fulfillment. They are to be envied because they have a wonderful, modern hospital to serve the community and surrounding areas. The two-storey building with its full range of hospital services includes diagnostic and emergency facilities, major operating rooms, laundry services and administrative offices.

Saturday's opening ceremonies came after seven years of planning and hard work, canvassing, changing plans, and finally the transfer from the old hospital building which has been serving as a hospital since 1948 and which was built for the army in 1940.

To men like veteran hospital board member and chairman B. R. Dodds and Dr. Stanley Mills, Saturday's dedication of the new building must have seemed like the end of a long journey. A village which once had only a rail link with the nearest big hospital, that in Prince Rupert, now is a thriving community with its own modern hospital that can be enlarged from its 40-bed capacity to 50 beds when expansion is needed.

Terrace's feat serves as an example to Prince Rupert, still getting by with its renovated 50-year-old hospital, the directors of which propose to improve the present facilities in either the near or distant future. It's not clear which.

The people in and around Terrace, the many members of the different hospital boards and the Terrace and District Ratepayers Association deserve a great deal of credit. They can be proud of a job well done.

Better U.S. relations

One of the problems to which the Kennedy administration soon must address itself is the deterioration of relations between the United States and Canada.

Two issues are largely responsible for the recent deterioration. One was the failure of the Canadian government to follow the lead of the United States in embargoing trade with Castro's Cuba. The other was the new Canadian budget which removes a good many incentives to foreign capital to invest in Canada.

American businessmen whose firms were seized by Castro are concerned by what they regard as Canadian efforts to cash in on their neighbors' misfortunes.

However, the Canadian government has insisted that it will not permit the "bootlegging" of goods of American origin to Cuba. Thus it has refused to permit export from Canada of United States goods which are prohibited exports from the United States direct to Cuba under our export conrtol regulations.

In removing many of the incentives to foreign capital to invest in Canada, the Canadian government contends that in a sense it is putting the Canadian corporation on a par with the foreign branch plant for the first time in many years. The government says this is possible because investment funds now are available in Canada.

Just as the Canadian government has the right to determine its own foreign policies toward Cuba's Castro, so, too, it has the right to determine its own policies about its domestic development. As good neighbors, we should continue to respect Canada's independence — including its right to make independent decisions which do not always agree with our own. — *The Minneapolis Tribune*

Ethnic issue trifling one

Was it worthwhile for the government to destroy 7,000,000 census forms over the issue of "Canadian" or "ethnic origin", that seemed a trifling matter to some? To our mind, it was.

Every Canadian citizen is conscious of his citizenship as a Canadian and will be proud to note it in the census question reserved for this. The question on ethnic origin, or of what origin this or that Canadian may be, in no way minimizes his loyalty or attachment to Canada. This information will not only have historical documentary value, but will also show the contribution of each ethnic group to the growth and development of Canadian life as a whole.

— Ukrainian News (Weekly), Edmonton.

High Canadian toll

Even though the traffic slaughter on American highways is a matter of grave concern year in and year out, there is some slight satisfaction in knowing that the U.S. is not at the top of the list of nations with high traffic tolls.

A British survey shows that Austria leads the Western nations with a count of 23 deaths per 10,000 vehicles on the roads; Italy, 17; West Germany, 15, and Canada, Britain and France, eight. The U.S. brings up the rear of this list with six. Still it's nothing to be complacent about. — The Buffalo Evening News

Inbred public opinion worse than none at all

A royal commission in Ottawa is inquiring into whether Canadian magazines are threatened by competition, mainly American, that is basically unfair.

That seems a prosaic enough investigation but, as was to be expected, the overtones of evidence are those which pose to Canadians the question (1) Is Big Chief Enterprising Eagle to the South taking our cultural scalps? and (2) Should we erect a barrier behind which distinctive Canadian reporting and comment can flourish on subjects which concern Canadians? . . . .

We have a word of caution for our Canadian friends. The means is held to justify the end, but not all ends are justifiable. An inbred public opinion can be dangerous as no opinion at all.

We form our American public opinion — and this is true of other free nations — not just on the basis of what we ourselves say about ourselves and our policies, but also on the basis of what others (non-American) think or say about us — other governments, other peoples, other writers, other publications.

Out of the clash of thought and reasoning, and out of the unions of thought, also comes an informed public opinion. It ends up as being an all-American opinion, but it hasn't all-American roots. Contrast, clash and compromise have helped to form it.

Truth is indivisible and Canadians won't achieve the ultimate truth about themselves if every component factor in the formulation has to be stamped "Made in Canada".

— The Detroit News

REACTION TIME REDUCED

Driving when using happy pills" dangerous

Special to The Daily News

VANCOUVER — Beware of "happy pills" when driving, warns the B.C. Automobile Association upon the advice of medical experts.

Noting that an increasing number of Canadians are taking tranquillizers for anxiety and decongestants for colds, the BCAA said that the alertness of a driver often is considerably reduced by such pills.

"Dizziness, sleepiness and, in extreme cases, even fainting spells can result from taking both tranquillizers and anti-histamines", the auto club said. "It is easy to see why a motorist under the influence of these drugs could be a menace on the highway."

The BCAA quoted Dr. Jonathan Cole, chief of the psycho-pharmacology service centre of the U.S. National Institute of Health, as saying that the pills tend to reduce reaction time and to impair co-ordination, both of which are essential to safe automobile operation.

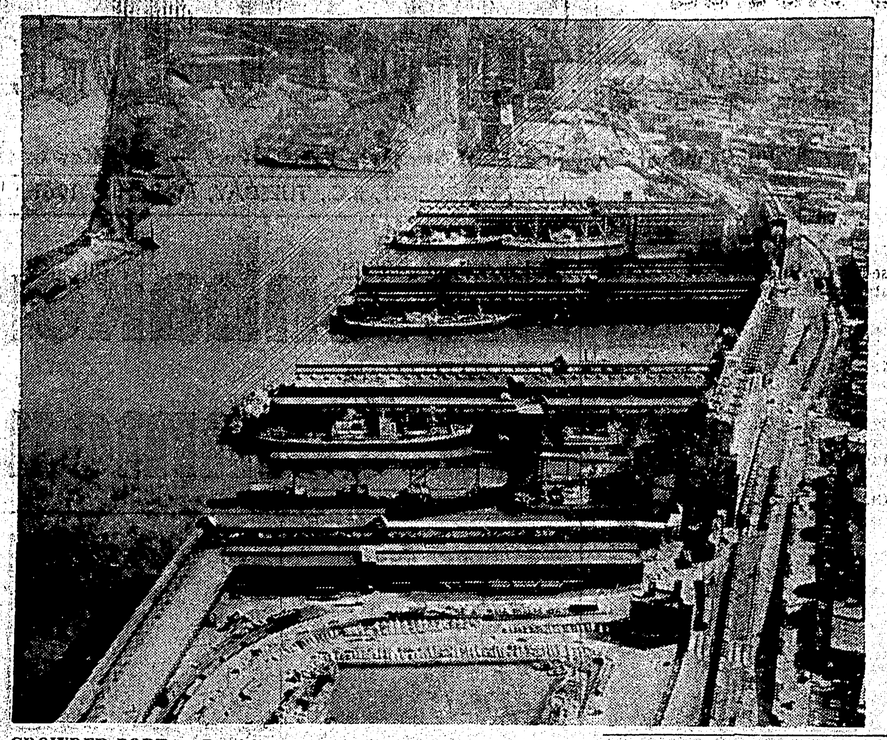
Cited also was a statement by Dr. Robert Felix, director of the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, in which he said the new calming drugs, in eliminating anxiety, may also reduce the caution that is vital to safe driving.

While emphasizing that not everyone who takes a tranquillizer becomes an unsafe driver, the BCAA listed the following facts obtained from the two experts about the drugs:

- Anyone taking tranquillizers should consult a physician before driving a car. This is also true when a person is taking a more than usual amount of anti-histamines.
- Extensive studies of the effect of tranquillizers on driving skill have yet to be completed, but there is little doubt that the drugs reduce the efficiency of some drivers.
- Some extremely unstable persons may improve their driving skills with transquillizers, but this is the exception.
- Drivers are more likely to be affected adversely by tranquillizers if they are using them for the first time or are taking more than two pills at a time.
- Tests at the National Institute of Health showed that patients under the influence of tranquillizer drugs registered lower scores in physical co-ordination.
- The effect of tranquillizers varies from driver to driver, because some persons handle drowsiness better than others.
- Not all brands of tranquillizers affect driving ability to the same degree; some are more potent.

A Bible Thought for Today

I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord. Psalm 118:17.



CROWDED PORT — Berthing space in the main section of the port of Montreal, the so-called old city waterfront shown in this aerial, is getting too crowded, say three architects who undertook a study of the port's physical problems for the Montreal port council. They suggest dispersal of freight-handling facilities over a wider area, leaving more room in the main section for passenger terminals and an administrative centre. — CP Photo

Victoria Report by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—The Legislature seethes and bubbles and boils for hours, and then settles down to a drowsy whisper for hours.

That's the way it always is during a sesion; when politics rears its fascinating head there's uproar; when the humdrum of the people's business is being discussed, there's boring quiet.

The uproar can burst forth at any moment; that's what makes tht Legislature so interesting. You never know what might happen right on the spur of the moment. There's never any warning—only an explosion.

Premier Bennett one day got up and should have caused an explosion right then and there, but he didn't. He was making a speech about how terrible Ottawa is to B.C. when, of a sudden, he said his government might, one of these fine days, be forced to take over the B.C. Electric, if Ottawa doesn't pony up with some more money for this province. That's all he said, and next day he wouldn't be smoked out, said he would not add or subtract one word from what he had already said.

The Premier's B.C. Electric announcement caught the CCF completely by surprise as it did everyone else. So amazed were CCF'ers to hear the Premier talking that way that they could not believe their ears, and so, being stunned, they sat as if dummies. Overnight they flew into cold fury when it had sunk in what the Premier had said—the Premier stealing the CCF's brightest jewel.

Opposition Leader Strachan said the Premier had been dishonest with the people because, in last September's election, he had opposed the CCF platform plank calling for the government to take over the B.C Electric.

Now, the Premier's about-face, to Mr. Strachan, was the very height of political gall, double-talk, two - facedness, and double-cross, and everything else bad, and the government should, forthwith, resign. That's what Mr. Strachan said—and he meant it, and his voice trembled with rage as he shouted.

The government, of course, will not resign, and it should not; it was elected six months ago to make decisions, not to resign every time the oppositionists say it should. If oppositionists had their way, we'd have an election every month, until the opposition was the government, and then there'd be no election for four years, though the new opposition would always be saying the new government should resign forthwith. Ah, politics—dear politics. What would we do without you?

Oppositionists — and SC'ers would be the same if they were in opposition, and they will be the same when they are—are always calling for resignations. If they can't get the whole government to resign they'd like attorney-general Bonner and Highways Minister Gaglardi to resign, and they keep hammering away on these two to do so, but they have no intention of resigning, they taking the view a free people voted them into office, and there they intend to stay until the next election.

CCF opposition to the increase in the gas tax received a nasty bump when the CCF government in Saskatchewan upped the gas tax, too. How lucky can Premier Bennett get? What a break for him. What an embarrassment for Mr. Strachan and his group, who say that in Saskatchewan there's all this and heaven, too. CCF'ers will continue their opposition to the B.C. gas tax increase, of course, being committed to it, but they won't be quite so noisy about it they otherwise would have been.

gems of thought

The past, the present and the future are really one—they are today.— Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The purpose and motive to live aright can be gained now. —Mary Baker Eddy.

It is now and in this world that we must live. —Andre Gide.

To eternity itself there is no other handle than the present moment. —Blaise Pascal.

We shall never have more mean. tI is just common huways had, all the time there is. —Arnold Bennett.

Today's pioneers are building tomorrow's progress. —Thomas J. Watson.

Quote and unquote

T. Harry Thompson:

"Honed to a fine point, words can stab like a stiletto. Let us think twice, therefore, before plunging such a weapon into the flesh of another human being."

♣ ♣ ♣

Dr. Frank Crane:

"Efficiency is doing things, not wishing you could do them, dreaming about them or wondering if you could do them."

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

The PACKSACK

Of Gregory Clark

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To no member of the family, old or young, is the mud-month of March more disagreeable than to the dog of the family. Eleven months of the year, a dog leads the life of Riley around the house. Then, boom, comes March, and all is changed. Suddenly, everybody is yelling at him. No sooner does he pop in the door than all hell breaks loose. Even that kindest of souls. Mother makes wild grabs at him as he darts past. As for Father, who is always something of an enigma to a dog, unpredictable, given to remarkable moods, Father becomes a terror, shouting and chasing as though with murder in his heart.

As far as the dog can make out, it all has something to do with his feet. The way they grab him up and wipe his feet suggests to him that these otherwise estimable creatures, people, don't know it is muddy out. It all seems very unreasonable to a dog.

However, I know of dogs that have been trained to understand about March. One cocker I know is trained not to enter the house unless there is a newspaper spread just inside the door. He will stand ten minutes, like a setter fixed on point, until the paper is spread. Then he steps in, lies down, rolls over and offers his paws to be wiped. Privately, I find him otherwise a very stuffy dog.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

Drug companies are making fat profits from illness. They have been doing it for years. The proof against them is beyond question.

Careful investigators have found manufacturers reaping profits of 50 to 1,000 per cent on individual medicines. They have found drug companies earning net profits of 20 per cent and upwards, after taxes.

"Ah, but we need money for research, to find new life-saving medicines," the companies answer. Humbug. Investigation in the United States in 1957 showed that industry was carrying out only 32 per cent of medical research.

Government was backing 62 per cent of research, in dollars. Foundations and universities were backing the rest. Furthermore, a great deal of industrial research was, in one way or another, market research, aimed above all at making money.

Major breakthroughs — such as insulin, penicillin and Salk vaccine—have been largely the result of non-industrial research.

The plain fact is that manufacturing druggists are making too much money, and they are making it at the expense of human suffering.

♣ ♣ ♣

There is only one way (I think) to curb their greed: Let the government go into the business of making and wholesaling drugs.

What about "free enterprise" and "competition?" A government drug firm will bring about real competition for the first time in years.

At present, drug firms have the chance to consult one another on prices, and squeeze the public—meaning the sick people—for every cent they can get. As soon as a government drug company enters the field, prices can be lowered to a reasonable, competitive level.

This has nothing to do with "free enterprise" or "socialism"—whatever those words mean. It is just common humanity. And a government that acts on this plan will gain thousands of friends.

Short sermons

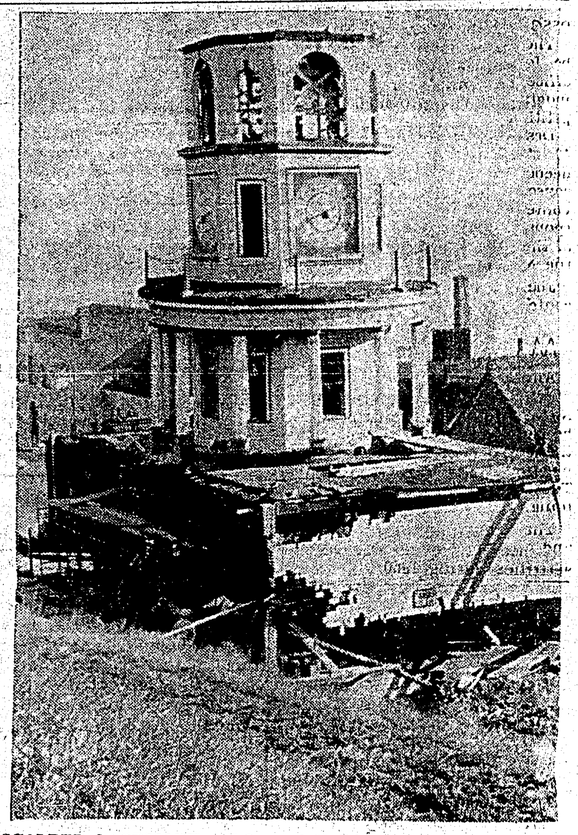
It's no secret abroad what we are paying in taxes; our friends over there are spending it.

♣ ♣ ♣

It takes a while for a man to realize that the best night spot can be found in his little-old-comfortable bed.

♣ ♣ ♣

When you feel like criticizing the younger generation, just remember who raised them.



SCALPED LANDMARK — One of Halifax's outstanding landmarks is undergoing a major repair job. Workers have chopped off the top and part of the base of the 157-year-old Town Clock on Citadel Hill. Prince Edward, father of Queen Victoria, had the clock built in 1803. — CP Photo

Parks Board

Sports Organizations requiring the use of City Parks must submit their playing schedules and times when parks are required, in writing, to the Parks Commission by Monday, March 13, 1961.

Bruce Sinclair,
Secretary,
Parks Commission.

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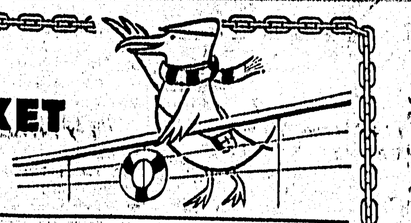

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