1910 — PRINCE RUPERT DAILY NEWS — 1961

An independent newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.
A member of the Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulation
Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited

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Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1961

Opera should be fun for young, old

Once again a united community effort is to be asked to help bring Prince Rupert something that is entertaining, interesting and of educational value to young and old. On this occasion it is the Canadian Opera Company's presentation of "Orpheus in the Underworld," a hilarious story in song and action that tells of life among the legendary gods.

It has been announced early, even though not expected to be presented here until November, because a terrific selling job is needed by various city organizations to ensure the success of the venture.

Before the Vancouver Symphony orchestra was brought here there were many skeptics as to its success, its entertainment value or whether Prince Rupert residents were sufficiently interested to attend. The fact was that 1,140 persons attended the concert and enjoyed it either in part or in whole. Attending a symphony is a moving experience for adults and young people alike and helps one appreciate some of the glorious music that has been written by many of the world's most famous composers.

The same goes for opera. Not all operas are good or even interesting. Some have fantastic appeal and are repeated year after year in the opera houses of London, New York, Milan and Berlin to huge audiences. It is no different to books. There are good ones, mediocre ones and poor ones.

When Offenbach produced "Orpheus in the Underworld" 103 years ago (he also composed and conducted it) his parody of an old Greek legend became such a hit that it ran for an unheard of total of 228 performances.

With such an entertaining prospect ahead of us, Prince Rupert, parents and school authorities can prepare the children for what will be for many, an experience of a lifetime. The adults should want to go too, for the simple reason that it isn't every day, Prince Rupert has the opportunity to see full-fledged opera and secondly, because like the Vancouver Symphony concert, the only disappointed people were those who didn't go.

The accusatorial way

In 1953, Harold D. Rogers was arrested on suspicion of committing a murder during a New Haven liquor store robbery. For some six hours after his arrest he was questioned by police officers but would say nothing about his supposed crime. But then the officers worked a ruse. They pretended to issue an order that his wife be brought in for questioning. And at that point Rogers agreed to confess.

The next day, still incommunicado and without counsel, Rogers repeated his confession to a coroner.

He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death, the trial judge holding that the police trick "had no tendency to produce a confession that was not in accord with the truth."

But now the United States Supreme Court has overturned the Connecticut courts, in validating Rogers' confession and ordering his retrial without it.

Justice Felix Frankfurter, delivering the court's main opinion, made it plain that truth alone is not sufficient to justify the admission of a confession in evidence. It must also be truly voluntary.

"Convictions following the admission into evidence of confessions which are involuntary, i.e., the product of coercion, either physical or psychological, cannot stand," he wrote. "This is not so much because such confessions are unlikely to be true but because the methods used to extract them offend an underlying principle in the enforcement of our criminal law; that ours is an accusatorial and not an inquisitorial system — a system in which the state must establish guilt by evidence independently and freely secured and may not by coercion prove its charge against the accused out of his own mouth."

The court has said substantially the same thing many times before. But it cannot be said too frequently. Secret detention for the purpose of inducing a suspect to incriminate himself is inherently coercive. It is, indeed, a substitution of trial by police for trial by a court of law.

O. John Roges, a former assistant United States attorney general, has noted that criminal trials in our democracy do not abound in confessions, as those in Communist countries do.

This is no accident. It is because the Communist countries regularly employ trial by police. It is because theirs is an inquisitorial, not an accusatorial, system. — Boston Herald

Consumer caution

Surveys by several groups interested in consumer motivation suggested early in 1960 that the buying public was beginning to play it cautious.

There were indications, said the researchers, that consumers were getting a little more choosy about quality, performance and service. Likewise that they were somewhat reluctant to go further into debt for new appliances, new cars, etc., as long as the old ones were still holding up.

As 1960 closed out, these trends were strongly confirmed by a marked decline in consumer credit. The federal reserve board reported the October increase in consumer borrowing was the smallest monthly rise since the end of 1958, and it followed relatively slight increases in September and August.

Over-all, the 1960 total of credit outstanding now is expected to show an increase of about 3½ billion dollars, compared with a 6-billion jump in 1959.

Paradoxically, personal income is running at a high level and, for most people, credit still is easy to obtain.

The answer seems to be that in addition to displaying more buying caution, the public is diverting more income to savings and services, education and travel.

The relative conservatism of the 1960 consumer doesn't augur well for business condition in the new year. Businessmen themselves will be challenged to stimulate increased buying with better products and service. But this same conservatism suggests that many consumers may be doing some worthwhile stock-taking in an effort to avoid the credit overextensions of other recent years.—Minneapolis Tribune.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

de Gaulle victory enhances chances of peace

By ULYS H. YATES
Associated Press Staff Writer

Charles de Gaulle's impressive victory over army mutineers in Algeria has solidly improved his chances for negotiating peace with the Moslem nationalist rebels.

The quick and effective suppression of the four-day revolt led by a quartet of retired generals has left no doubt of the 70-year-old president's control of the army and his position of leadership in France and Algeria.

This new proof of his ability to dominate the bitter opposition of rightists in France and Algeria should prove a help in bringing peace with the rebel nationalists.

The Algerian rebel leadership has long wondered whether de Gaulle exerted enough control over European extremists in Algeria and the French army to impose a peace settlement upon them. This doubt has been a major factor in the rebels' hesitancy about sitting down at the peace table with the French.

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In January, 1960, de Gaulle demonstrated that he could dominate the volatile European population in Algeria when he smashed a week-long civilian directed uprising in Algiers.

But that victory left doubts about the army's loyalty to de Gaulle. Though no troops joined the civilians behind the barricades, the soldiers eventually had to be ordered by de Gaulle himself to clear the insurgents out. The troops who accepted the surrender of insurgent leader Pierre Lagaillarde saluted him.

The obvious desire of many army officers to keep Algeria French kept the hopes of the extremist settlers alive despite their January failure. The Europeans were fighting to preserve French dominance of a territory they had largely developed themselves. For career army officers who had been forced to retreat from Tunisia, Morocco and Indochina, Algeria represented the long chance for preservation of a remnant of the once mighty French empire.

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Together the officers and their French allies in Algeria watched with alarm as de Gaulle's manoeuvres brought closer the possibility of a negotiated peace and independence for Algeria.

When the rebellion came, many Europeans in Algiers, Oran and Constantine — the major Algerian cities — went wild with joy. What little news leaked out in Algeria seemed to favor the insurgents. No loyal army units moved to suppress them.

But the pattern of January, 1960, reappeared. Metropolitan France again rallied behind de Gaulle. Once again de Gaulle swung his massive prestige into the battle, calling upon loyalists to put down this new threat to his government. And once again the weight of that prestige began to work.

Faced with solid opposition from France, active opposition in the air force and navy and an economic blockade that would eventually strangle them, the insurgents must have known their cause was lost. Their collapse was swift.

WELL, LET ME SEE NOW! Here it is Friday and only now has anyone got around to mentioning that National Baby Week is observed from April 24 until tomorrow. However, I represent all the babies of the world 'cus I'm goodlooking, talented and lovable.. So there!

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

SCENE: A high school French class in the good old days.

Girl students are staring out the window, thinking about men with cars and bankrolls. Boys are staring at the girls, wondering what there will be for lunch.

The teacher, an English-speaking individual whose studies have taken him one year ahead of the class, is trying to catch the students' attention.

With any luck, the teacher will keep one jump ahead of the class, and most of the studentss will pass their examinations. But they won't learn French.

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Well, a few of them will learn Franch. The majority will not. They will go through the rest of their lives with the idea that they ought to know the language ,because they took a course in it.

But if a French-speaking Canadian or a Frenchman addresses them, they will comprehend barely one word in 10. They won't be able to make themselves understood at all.

For most of them the time spent in French classes will be largely wasted.

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Four years ago the B.C. department of education, sensing that something was wrong with the conventional system of teaching French, decided to try an experiment.

The department offered special salary grants to teachers who instructed "experimental" classes in conversational French for pupils of Grades 5, 6 and 7 in some selected schools.

Victoria was one of the places where this experiment was tried.

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I asked John Gough, Greater Victoria superintendent of schools, how it worked. "We're well satisfied with the progress made by these children," he said. "The first of them have arrived in secondary school. We find that the ones who have taken conversational French are about half a year ahead of those who have started French in high school."

Although the "experiment" was a success, Victoria is giving it up next September. From that time onward, there will be no more Franch in elementary grades, even as an experiment.

Youngsters will not be able to begin studying French until they are in their teens.

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The reason for this action is that the provincial government has withdrawn its salary grants. If the teaching of French at lower grades is to continue, local taxpayers will have to find all the money for it.

Nobody can blame Victoria for keeping down costs in this way. But the provincial government's reasoning is hard to understand.

French is one of Canada's two languages. Ideally, all Canadians should be able to speak it. In practice, all reasonably intelligent Canadians should know their second language.

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Surely the best way to master it is to begin early and hear it spoken in a natural way, by French-speaking people. The formal rules of grammar can come after a few years of exposure to the rhythms of French speech and song.

The Chant report, I understand, betrays a split mind on the subject. It says at one point that the teaching of French should start earlier; at another point that the teaching of French in lower grades has not yet proved fully effective.

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It may be difficult to decide which page of the Chant report to believe. However, I'm sure that the department of education won't have to search for proof that the best place to learn a language is in the play-pen; and failing that, in the early grades of school.

Quote and unquote

D. H. W. Henry, director of investigation and research under the Combines Investigation Act:

I am firmly of the view that effective enforcement of the Combines Act legislation in Canada is to be accomplished as much by preventing the commission of offenses as by discovering and prosecuting offenders after the offense has been committed.

"I can say with a degree of confidence that because businessmen have seen fit to examine their position under the legislation and in doubtful cases to discuss their problems with the Combines Branch, an unlawful course of conduct has in many cases been arrested before an offense has been committed.

"I am confident that the measure of effectiveness of enforcement is not the number of prosecutions or enquiries commenced under the legislation."

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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A lawyer of my acquaintance has been busy in recent months handling cases of swindles by what are called discount houses that sell under-priced goods to gullible citizens on terms that result in grief and loss or litigation to the poor emptor who didn't caveo. That's nearly Latin, meaning the buyer who didn't beware.

"If," says my lawyer friend, "there weren't millions of suckers in this world, tens of thousands would starve. Suckers are the lawful means of support of a goodly section of the rest of society, and I don't mean lawyers only. Our entire economy would collapse if you took out of circulation all the dimwits, fatheads, dupes, greenhorns and gulls. The trend of modern society is to make everybody intelligent. By education, enlightenment, communication, we are furiously striving to improve the mentality of the body politic. If the day ever comes that we succeed, and everybody is intelligent, and nobody buys but what he needs and what he can afford, industry and commerce will practically come to a halt."

My friend is the champion of the dupes. He fights for their rights with tooth and claw. He wears himself skinny studying and searching amid the monuments of the law on behalf of his clients.

But he thinks they are mighty stupid, even if they do keep the wheels of commerce turning.

Advertising Brings Local Results

Necessary move

From The London Economist

If the Commonwealth is looked upon as a bridge between the races—perhaps the best such bridge in the world today—it may well have been necessary to dispense with South Africa because the bridge would not stand the weight of Dr. Verwoerd's racialism.

But there are limits to the extent to which bridges can be built by pulling girders away. The demolition squad has done enough for the present.

Short sermons

The divorce rate is heading for a new high. Women are becoming wealthy by decrees.

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