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

JOHN F. MAGOR, President
J. R. AYRES, Managing Editor

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department Ottawa

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1961

Second thoughts on Bill 42 and a denial

Usually when readers write in to disagree with this paper's editorials we accept whatever their criticism is in the same vein as we hope they accept our opinions. In other words we acknowledge that their remarks are what our legal advisers call "fair comment." However, we will not stand idly by when a reader not only berates us but accuses us of saying something which we didn't. We refer to the letter in the adjoining column from Angus Macphee, secretary of the Prince Rupert Labor Council, president of Local 708 of the International Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, former CCF candidate and exponent of the New Party.

Since he was a young man Angus Macphee has dedicated his life to working for trade unionism, in an effort to better the lot of the working man, a most worthy cause. To this end he has refused promotion to management, he has studied, he has educated himself far beyond his formal education and he has become a better-than-average orator. For this we respect him and we value his opinion.

We don't respect some of the methods he uses to gain his ends and we don't respect him for stating that this paper said things that it didn't. We say that because he knows, and we know, that there are a few of his fanatical followers who believe every word he says or writes, whether it is right or wrong.

We cannot find anywhere in the editorial to which Mr. Macphee refers, any suggestion that check-off and union shop were a " 'grant' from a benign government." In the first place, the words "union shop" were not used and dealt with at all in the editorial and in the second place it said the check-off was forced on management by the government.

What we did say and still say is that the government (of the time) "aided and abetted labor in making it compulsory that management use the check-off system of collecting unions' dues for them." We went on to say that the check-off system was "instigated at the request of labor" and "was a concession by management whose hand was forced by the government." Mr. Macphee admits this when he says it "was won, as all labors' gains were won — the hard way — by strikes in many cases." Certainly the check-off system was demanded by labor, certainly the signing of contracts rose and fell on the granting of it. Certainly the cause of labor was aided and abetted by the government when Section 9 was written into the Labor Relations Act making it mandatory that "Every employer shall honor a written assignment of wages to a trade union, etc." Who's kidding who, Mr. Macphee? Did the employers ask for check-off? Did the government suggest it in the first place, without pressure from labor?

As a matterof fact, check-off isn't compulsory unless asked. Many of the stronger unions (with active union members) and livewire shop stewards don't want or seek to have management check off their dues. They don't have to have the employer do their collecting for them in order that union funds won't fall apart at the seams.

As to the Toronto Daily Star editorial being more analytical, we agree. Unfortunately, unlike the Star, we are unable to sit in an "ivory tower" in the company of four or five analytical editorial writers doing nothing but write editorials. We have sundry other tasks and have to work quickly and sometimes are not able to give matters as much thought as we'd like to. That is why we published the Toronto Star editorial, because in the meantime we'd had a second look at Bill 42 and agreed in part with the Star writer. We could have cribbed the material from it and presented it as a local editorial but we didn't have time and preferred to be more honest. Like Mr. Macphee we lead a busy life and for that reason his letter castigating us was not received the day after our first editorial as we had anticipated.

Like the Star, we have always felt that the Social Credit government was anti-labor. We've said so before and we opened our last editorial by stating we felt that the Socred government had shown remarkable restraint. We also agree that what is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander and if legislation is going to be introduced restraining unions from donating members' dues to political parties then the same should apply to companies and corporations. However, there is a difference. While we suspect that large corporations donate funds to political parties, there is no proof. The labor-CCF parents of the New Party, however, tell us straight out that labor's contributions are going to a socialist party, which is disagreeable to many people, including trade unionists. Therefore, union members, along with directors and shareholders of companies, should be able to donate funds to any political party they favor.

As to Mr. Macphee's second paragraph, it is hardly worth answering. Anything written which is contrary to Mr. Macphee's thinking or opinion is "brainwashing." The Daily News published 13 type inches of story on the introduction of Bill 42, smack down the middle of the front page. The following day, also on the front page we published nine inches of B.C. Federation of Labor secretary E. P. O'Neal's plans on testing Bill 42. No one with an ounce of brains (except Mr. Macphee) could expect a six or eight page daily paper to give the same coverage to any event as the 44 to 48-page Vancouver dailies. A small matter of space is involved.

As for the freedom of the press, we still fight the battle as best we can without becoming boring, against those who view such freedoms with what Mr. Macphee terms "crass stupidity, or worse, negligence."

Perils in computerdom

On the man-versus-machine front, a recent incident in the U.S. offers hope that man, afterall, may not be relegated to limbo by electric computers.

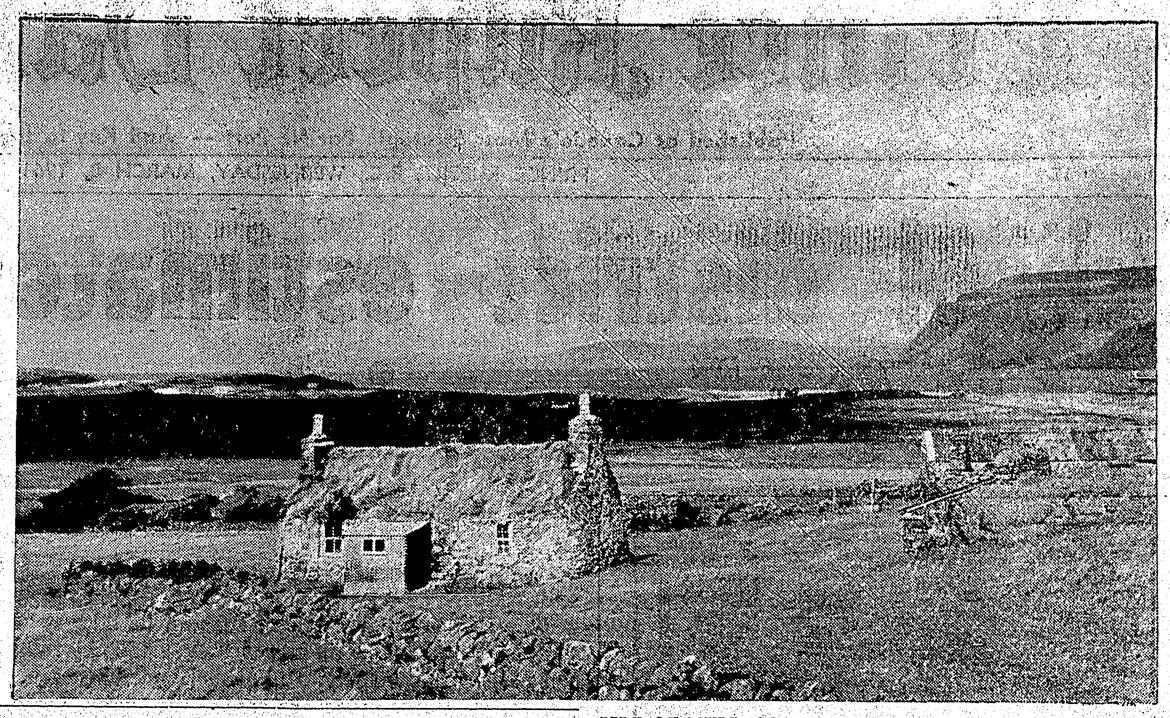
In the state of Washington, an electronic brain lost its train of thought for a moment when calculating the taxable value of property in King county. According to an item in the Wall Street Journal, it counted a card twice.

The result: Tax receipts for 1961 were expected to be sharply fatter and the new budget was drawn up on generous lines. It was only when some county agencies expressed surprise at getting such huge amounts to spend that mere man did some checking.

Out went orders to cut back expenditures by $1.8 million. One item that the tax assessor is now considering cutting is $150,000 for more electric computers.

All of which is reminiscent of the tale about a large department chain which invested in computers, put all its records on space-saving electromagnetic tape, happily destroyed the old documents and sat back to enjoy the marvels of this modern age. But one thing went wrong: Someone pushed the wrong button, cleared the computer's mind — and left the company without a past.

— The Financial Post



ISLE OF MULL, SCOTLAND — Half way down the west coast of the Scottish Highlands lie ten groups of islands, of which perhaps the most interesting is the Isle of Mull. On Mull lies Tobermory, which through the centuries has been the scene of treasure hunts for the Spanish galleon which was wrecked there after the defeat of the Armada in 1588. The surrounding lochs are perhaps the most impressive in the Highlands affording magnificent views on a truly grand scale.

— British Travel Association Photo

LETTER BOX

Editorial on new labor law "brainwashing" says Macphee

The Editor,
The Daily News.

Lest our silence on the matter be, at some future date, considered as acquiescence, I would like to state that the Prince Rupert Labor Council is, of course, opposed to the amendments to the Labor Relations Act, now known as Bill 42 and in disagreement with your editorial dealing with those amendments constricting political action.

Your editorial was pure brainwashing because you failed to give any press coverage to the details or implications of the legislation and no opportunity for your readers to assess the facts. This is a disservice to the community by extremely poor reporting.

The amendments are obvious class legislation and an equally obvious blow at civil liberties. To view it otherwise is crass stupidity, or worse, negligence.

All organizations, societies, clubs, associations or unions are formed for the purpose of allowing their members to take specific action on matters upon which there is general agreement. They are governed according to rules of procedure — now traditional — that protect the individuals and minorities while considering the life of the organization as a whole.

Unions are fundamentally protective associations of workers and an essential part of the capitalist system. To deny them, and them alone, under penalty of law, from using the accepted rules to make decisions on political questions is a declaration of class war. No amount of demogoguery about protection of the individual is theoretically or practically digestible to any intelligent person.

To forbid these accepted procedures (or even unanimous decisions) in the trade unions in order to guard against future political reverses is a blow at civil liberties.

It quite conceivably will be another group later. It takes even the arch reactionaries of Social Credit a little time to build the dictatorail fence behind which they hope to guarantee their perpetuity. Mr. Bennett's pomposity has revealed on more than one occasion that he would gladly forego elections.

Any active union member can tell you that these amendments go a long way toward crippling even the mildest form of the union shop, nullifying the Rand formula, restricting and denying the purpose of local, provincial or national central labor bodies, and of forcing us (as does Bill 43) to prove innocence under certain circumstances.

The check-off and the union shop, Mr. Editor, were not, as you suggest, a "grant" from a benign government. They were won, as all labors' gains were won — the hard way — by strikes, in many cases.

The amendment allowing the minister discretionary powers to conduct a vote on any contract offer is a hypocrisy and a farce. It is designed to cripple morally and financially the membership of our organizations. A vote conducted of the employers (four or five in the entire pulp and paper field) is patently ridiculous.

The legislation, like the Social Credit Trade Union Act, is class legislation, and it will be met with class retaliation. Even you must acknowledge that any other outlook would be myopia.

A. Macphee, Secretary,
Prince Rupert Labour Council

P.S.: The above was written prior to your reprint of the Toronto Star editorial. The Globe and Mail also takes a more analytical view. We are pleased that you ran the Star's comments. It is to be hoped that if press freedom is again threatened (as it was in Alberta) the threat will be recognized in your columns even if your views are not necessarily reflected.

Quote, unquote

Gen. Alfred Gruenther:

"When we are wrong, make us easy to change. When we are right, make us easy to live with."

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

Copyright: Canada Wide

An old friend came over and joined me at the lunch table and he sighed heavily as he sat down. He looked as if he had been up all night, and I suggested as much.

"Worse," he said, "You know the nice quiet street I live on? Twenty years I've lived there, and watched the little children grow up so politely. Nice people on our street.

"Well, sir, they're grown up now. Last summer, the oldest boy next door north of me got one of these little European sport cars. At Christmas, the oldest boy next door south of me, and we have a mutual side-drive, got a little European sport car. Have you any idea what it means to have a European sport car on both sides of you?"

I admitted I didn't.

"At all hours of the night," said my poor friend, "you are practically blown out of bed by one or the other of them arriving home, with a deep snoring roar, a few explosions, a couple of rowdydows, a bang and a swoosh. At any hour of the night, they may decide to go out, and that's like a jet warming up!"

"Why don't you speak to their parents?" I counselled.

"Heck" said my friend. "We haven't been on speaking terms for months!"

All Aboard

with G. E. MORTIMORE

Listen carefully as you unfold your newspaper, and if you have sharp ears, you may pick up a thin wail of pain.

It is the distress cry of a word being twisted out of its proper meaning.

Newspapermen aren't guilty of deliberate cruelty to words, but haste compels them to sling the little fellows around by the scruff of the neck.

Sometimes a word falls and fractures a syllable, or gets permanently crippled by rough handling.

A reader phoned to lodge a complaint about two words that often are mistreated: "Imply" and "infer."

"When I was at school at Galway in Ireland, my Latin master caned me for misusing those words," he said. "Imply means to insinuate or hint. Infer means to draw a meaning from what someone else says.

"But the newspapers often use these two words interchangeably. Whenever I see them wrongly used, I can feel those welts from the caning the Latin master gave me. He was fastidious about the proper use of English words."

"I'll do what I can to ease the suffering of those words, and make you feel better," I assured him.

Then I looked up the words in the *Concise Oxford*, and got a nasty surprise.

"Infer" was defined as follows: "Deduce, conclude . . . imply."

So I telephoned the reader again. "Sorry," I said. "It seems that your mistake has infiltrated the dictionary. You know how it is. If a sufficient number of ignorant people keep making the same mistake, it ceases to be a mistake and becomes correct usage. Too bad."

"It wasn't in the dictionary, I looked up," he said.

"It's in this one, though. But the battle isn't lost. We can get together and drum it out of the dictionary again. The error has got inside the stockade, but it hasn't necessarily conquered the fort."

"I hope not, because those two words have entirely separate meanings," he said

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

SERVING IN SO MANY WAYS
Everywhere in British Columbia

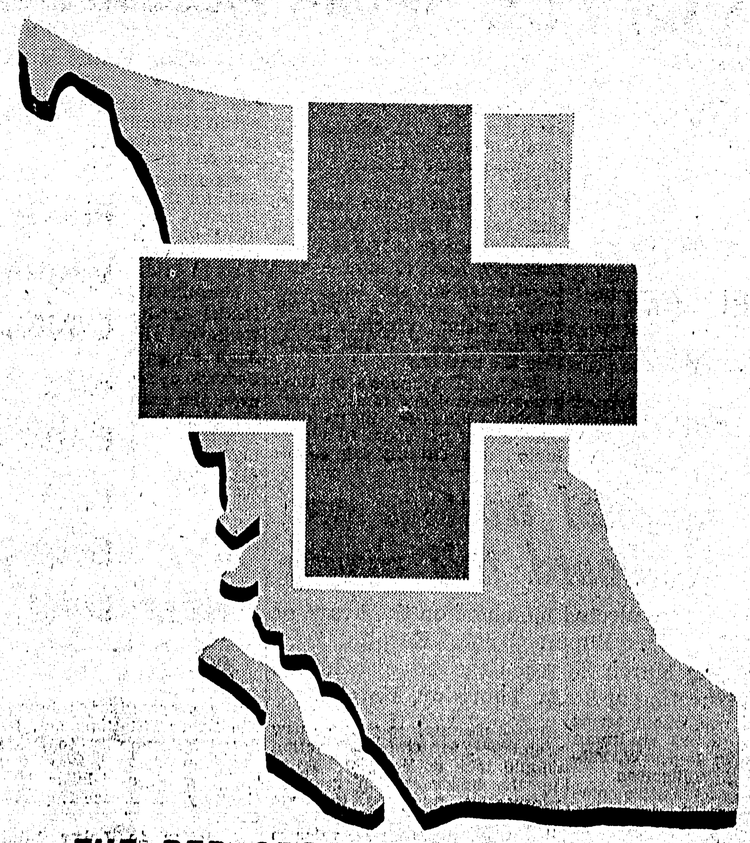
in 1960...

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE—The free blood transfusion service issued 60,000 pints of blood to British Columbia Hospitals last year. To pay for this would have cost the patients a minimum of $1,500,000.

VETERANS' SERVICES—Assistance to veterans include arts and crafts, hospital visiting, entertainment and welfare. Two Red Cross Lodges in British Columbia served 105,000 meals, housed 540 relatives of veterans gravely ill.

DISASTER SERVICES—Disaster at home and abroad saw British Columbia Red Cross assisting 150 burned out families at a cost of $19,000. Women's Work volunteers made tons of clothing and bedding used at home and shipped overseas to refugees and disaster victims.

JUNIOR RED CROSS—Junior Red Cross is Red Cross in the schools. Promoting good health and international friendship, this programme makes young Canadians good citizens of the world. Junior members in British Columbia number 122,248.



THE RED CROSS LOOKS TO YOU:

The humanitarian achievements of the Red Cross depend on your generosity. Your dollars provide and carry on the essential Red Cross services and programmes in your community.

This year—think of the many ways the Red Cross serves you and your neighbour—then plan your donation or pledge to the best of your means. A generous donation will do so much for so many in 1961.

RED CROSS
NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW

Objective: $4500

Campaign: March 18th

For further enquiries Phone 3307