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# Sawmill should be valuable asset to city

NOTHING gives a city a boost in morale more than the start of a new project and that is just what the sawmill to be constructed here by Prince Rupert Sawmills Limited, has done. It's nearly two years now, since the proposed plant was first mentioned and announcement yesterday that work is about to start should wipe away any pessimistic thoughts anyone might have entertained.

There is no doubt about it, the sawmill will be a valuable asset to the city. At first, while the operators find their feet and discover what markets there will be for their products, it will be a small but expensive operation. However when the mill reaches the 100,000-board feet per shift capacity for which it was designed it will not be something at which to scoff. If markets are readily available, (and there should be considerable local buying,) then the sawmill will be able to expand its facilities as well as its payroll. All going well addition of a planer mill will complement the initial stage and also give district lumber users the opportunity to purchase finished lumber at lower prices than it has been bought here in recent years.

It is encouraging to have a Vancouver firm investing risk capital in this city. Addition of an extra diesel unit at the drydock plant by Northern British Columbia Power Company this summer should erase any fears the sawmill operators might have had about power.

We sincerely hope the sawmill venture proves successful. Not only will it provide more employment and more money for the city but it will give Prince Rupert additional stability it can always use.

# Rainbow over Cyprus

News that the premiers of Greece and Turkey have agreed on a peace plan for Cyprus is like a rainbow after a storm.

The Cyprus quarrel has cost thousands of lives. It has set at odds three allies—Britain, Turkey and Greece. It has seriously weakened the Eastern Mediterranean defenses of the free world. Britain's garrison on the island has had to be a police force, while its effectiveness as a mobile strategic reserve to protect Middle Eastern petroleum has been hampered.

The plan proposes immediate independence for Cyprus with the retention of British military bases there. Greece would thereby give up the demand for titular possession of the island; Turkey would renounce its demands for partition. The independence of Cyprus would be guaranteed by NATO, with the establishment of a NATO sub-command composed of Greek and Turkish troops.

The plan now goes to London, where approval is considered certain. For the people of Cyprus, this development means an end to bloodshed, hatred and terror and concrete hope of return to normal living. For the Western alliance, it means that a dangerous political strain, caused by an intramural quarrel, is soon to be removed. —The Toronto Telegram.

# Dreary creed

Socialism is a dismal creed, and its practitioners are expert at taking the joy out of life. Proof of this is found in a directive issued by the East German communist regime telling dancing teachers to "develop and teach dance steps which correspond with the socialist outlook."

Freedom to dance, without instructions from the state, is a simple pleasure, but even this small freedom must be regimented behind the Iron Curtain so that dancing may be "harmonized in the socialist manner."

What many who tolerate some measure of socialism in the name of expediency forget is that its advocates by no means confine their efforts to economic doctrine. Their ultimate objective is absolute control over the lives of every citizen, so that art, literature, music and even sport cease to be pleasures, but exist only to serve the grim ends of power-hungry authoritarians.

—Fort Erie Letter-Review.

# Better trade balance

Canada's trade balance improved last year in two ways. The trade deficit (excess of imports over exports) was reduced by about $21,400,000; and a better balance was struck between trade with the United States and trade with the rest of the world, especially the United Kingdom.

These improvements were the result partly of world trade conditions and partly of policy. Exports were down, but only by about one per cent., reflecting general conditions. Imports were down by eight per cent., or about $427,000,000, reflecting the slowdown in the Canadian economy, including a substantial reduction in foreign investment.

Effects of the Government's policy of encouraging trade with the U-K show in the statistics. Imports from the U-K were up one per cent., exports up five per cent. Imports from the U.S. dropped 11 per cent., exports to the U.S. fell one per cent.

Although the effects of the Government's emphasis on improving trade with the U-K, the Commonwealth and other overseas countries are partially concealed by recession and reduced foreign investment, the distinguishable results are encouraging. So is the fact that the decline in exports was held to one per cent., a result of aggressive salesmanship, including credits and aid for purchase of wheat.

—The Toronto Telegram.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

# Only military base issue endangers Cyprus peace

By KEN METHERAL
Canadian Press Staff Writer

On the face of it, there is nothing in Britain's proposed program for an independent Cyprus to delay an early settlement of the vexed Cyprus problem.

The greatest single danger all along has been the issue of Britain's retention of any form of sovereignty over the military bases she wants on the island for strategic purposes.

Significantly, the relevant clause in the British program carefully avoids use of the word "sovereignty." It says the "strategic needs of Britain on Cyprus should be established in such a manner that they cannot be challenged now and will stand indefinitely."

This is interpreted in London as meaning that the British government will probably be satisfied with a long-term lease—possibly 99 years—on the bases.

This would follow the pattern of United States bases in Britain and other parts of Europe, which are subject to the authority of the country concerned—unlike the enclaves Britain and other colonial powers once maintained under their own flags in foreign territory.

To many Cypriots, insistence on the use of the word sovereignty would have implied the continuation of colonial rule and an infringement of their long-sought independence.

But the Cypriots have no desire to see the bases abandoned. Archbishop Makarios has repeatedly said he has no objection to them remaining. Indeed, he is one of the first to admit that the bases are necessary to the island's security.

The remaining British points—a full reconciliation between Cyprus communities on Cyprus, a reconciliation of Greece-Turkish friendship and that the Cypriots themselves be given an opportunity to develop their institutions for self-government and independence—are in accord with the London agreement on Cyprus drafted by the prime ministers of Greece and Turkey.

The absence of any specific reference to the Commonwealth indicates that Britain, Greece and Turkey are agreed that this is a matter for the Cypriots themselves to decide.

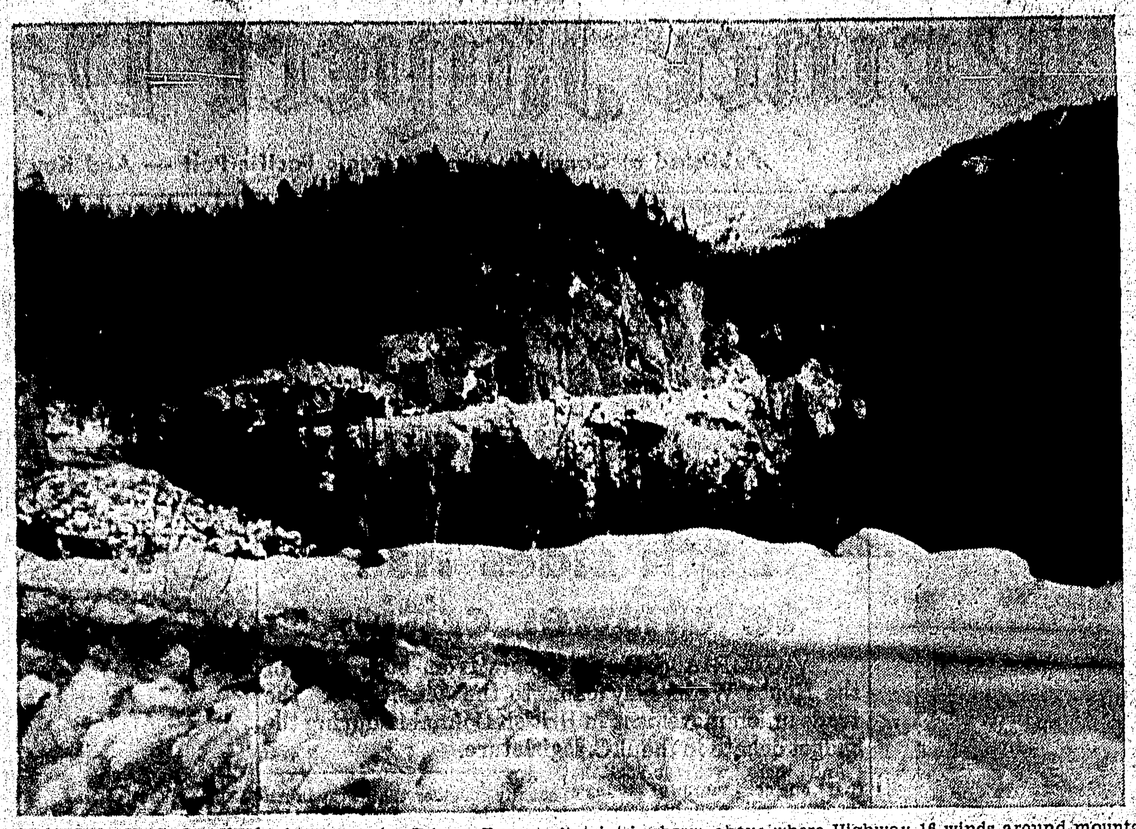
Archbishop Makarios has said he has asked to be Commonwealth leader there if a large majority of independent Cyprus community wish to make Britain, Greece and Turkey more active.

Turkish Cypriots also want to maintain the Commonwealth link, but the more nationalistic sections of the Greek Cypriot community and pro-union elements don't [illegible]

## Tell us facts of life

From The Edmonton Journal

Premier Manning need not resort to secrecy in the modern fashion by hiring a press agent. He will earn the gratitude of the Canadian people if, with the assistance of the news media in the circumstances, he will tell them the facts of their economic life, as he sees them. Governments by millions of Canadians do not know how to meet and tell them just the kind of facts they want and have been, since British parliamentary institutions and court procedure first developed, accustomed to get. Today Britain's parliamentary institutions and court procedure are what Canada and Australia and the rest of the world are going to copy or get out of the world altogether.



BREATH-TAKING BEAUTY of scenery in Prince Rupert district is shown above where Highway 16 winds around mountain above Rainbow Lake, about 15 miles from the city. Picture also gives an idea of terrain through which road-builders had to construct highway. Part of road to "summit" is seen at left while another section goes around sheer rock bluff in centre. —Staff photo by Dick Ayres.

# Retail lobby at it again

From the Calgary Herald

A vigorous campaign against the principle of free enterprise and against the interests of the general public is now being waged by the Retail Merchants Association of Canada.

Strenuous efforts are being made to impose upon Canadian business, through government legislation, what amounts to state control of private business.

The Retail Merchants Association is advocating repeal of a law passed in 1951 which forbids the manufacturers fixing the retail or end-sale prices of their products.

In other words the organization is seeking government support for the principle of guaranteed profits without regard to variations in efficiency and enterprise as between one individual merchant and another. Such a state of affairs would be totally at variance with the philosophy of free enterprise upon which our economic system is founded and would represent a setback for the cause of freedom.

In one pamphlet recently issued by the Retail Merchants Association appear statements which utterly distort the realities governing store-customer relationships.

The exercise of customer acumen in looking for bargain prices is condemned. The exercise of careful management by storekeepers in order to offer bargains is railed against. What is advocated in effect is that all shops regardless of size, capability, overhead or quality of management, be compelled to sell the same article at the same price regardless.

Not only would retailers be robbed of initiative, the public, and this is most important, would have to pay willy-nilly a fixed, fat price for its merchandise. No longer would the canny housewife have any reason to exercise shopping talent to keep the budget down. No longer would hard-pressed families be able to plan economies. No longer would inefficient business be required to smarten up or quit. No longer would efficiency set the price—the retail monopoly would set it.

That, in ultimate terms, is what the Retail Merchants Association would like to see happen. And that is what the public should devoutly hope will not be allowed to happen and will insist that the government does not allow to happen.

The government must keep its hands off competitive private merchandising except in the limited field of public protection against fraud and criminal practices. Loss leaders are not fraudulent. Neither are bargains. Customers take chances when they go into business. Chance is what makes life interesting. Kill it entirely and free society itself will go under.

## Civic questions . . . and answers

This is one of a series of questions on city affairs, problems and projects to which Mayor P. J. Lester has offered to provide answers. Questions should be sent to "Civic Questions and Answers," City Hall, Prince Rupert, together with name and address. The answers do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper.

Q. If I paint my house, do my taxes go up?

A. No. Painting your house is considered as normal maintenance and does not affect the assessment on your house.

# Emphasis on education

From the Wichita (Kansas) Eagle

A longer school day, a longer school year and more homework.

These are among the "seven musts" listed in an article by Dr. Lawrence G. Derthnick, U.S. Commissioner of Education, published in Parents' magazine.

Dr. Derthnick believes children need more time in school because there is so much more to learn in many fields than there was 25 years ago. He bases his recommendation for more homework on a survey of more than 1,000 high school principals.

Some other Derthnick ideas: Scholarship funds for worthy students to be set up by community organizations; consolidation of one-teacher elementary and small high schools; more aptitude and counseling services; more funds for education to alleviate the classroom and teacher shortage.

One hears so much these days about education and the need for greater emphasis on it there is an inclination to rebel and recall that our grandfathers and fathers did well with much less in the way of formal schooling and educational facilities.

This is true. But they grew up in a much simpler, slower society. Today the youth who doesn't get as much education as he can—or the parents who don't see to it that their youngsters do the same—are being foolish.

Strengthening American education is an important part of building and maintaining the free world's strength. For as surely as we are here today, the tomorrows will belong to educated men—and the world will belong to the nations that master the knowledge of the ages.

## Land of dreams

From The Meaford (Ontario) Express

Too many in this country are living in a land of dreams and unreality. How long will it be before the union leaders of this country will realize that new gains in work hours and wages cannot come unless they are matched with more production and a greater desire on the part of all workmen to match the energy, skill and ingenuity of surrounding nations, some of whom would have no qualms in taking over Canada.

## NOT STRIPED-PANT CURTAIN

From the Vancouver Province

It would be refreshing if we were not surrounded at every turn by a clumsy phalanx of top-hatted gentry reminding us Canadians who are growing tired of seeing the same old faces pushing themselves into the limelight, equally refreshing we expect to the Queen herself.

## Mixed

From the Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Over the years speakers have produced quite a variety of mixed metaphors.

Recently a conference of meat traders in Britain a worried delegate said: "I believe we are hiding our heads in the sand and looking around for a scapegoat."

But members of Parliament need not take a back seat when it comes to mincing and mixing metaphors. The late Humphrey Mitchell, former Minister of Labor, rolled up a high score in that department. One of his best: "When it comes to digging down and working out a solution, he can carry the ball faster than anyone I know."

## Home

From the Springhill Record

It must not be forgotten that the people of Springhill have their roots here, where generation after generation had labored in the mines; they have their own homes here, which is all that many of them have to show for their years of toil; they have their families around them, and they are happy here. They do not want to move—and who can blame them. Many of them could find new employment if the Federal Government decides to build the new prison in this area. That decision would be

## Big stakes here

From The Montreal Star

One of the points of difference between Canada and the United States over the hydro-electric resources of the Columbia river has been resolved in Canada's favor. The United States has conceded that Canada has a substantial interest in what are known as "downstream" benefits. That is to say, if U.S. interests build a dam and power plant on the lower Columbia by means which affect the level of the river on the Canadian side, Canada is entitled to compensation in one form or another.

The Columbia, some people may think, is of concern only to British Columbia, but millions of horse power are involved, the proper disposition of which can materially affect the growth of the nation as a whole. More than this, the decisions made about the Columbia river will apply to other streams, notably the Yukon, with its great power potential, and other rivers which rise in Canada and reach the sea across the Alaskan Panhandle. There are big stakes at issue here.

## Coldwar

From The Woodstock (Ontario) Sentinel

Now that we have brought such killers as smallpox, typhus, typhoid, diptheria and polio under control, more time can be and is being devoted to tracking down the mystery as well as the misery of the common cold.

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