1910 — PRINCE RUPERT DAILY NEWS — 1959

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1959

..."Greater love hath no man.."

A man of considerable spiritual stature has gone from our midst with the death of Rt. Rev. Horace G. Watts, Bishop of Caledonia, and the loss to his family and to the diocese is overwhelming. There are few among us who have the dedication and sincerity of purpose to want to die "on the job" as did Bishop Watts. Most of us, with human frailty in the face of illness, would seize the opportunity to slacken our pace, to extend our life span, even by a few months.

Not so Horace Caledonia, a indefatigable man who spent more than half of his life as a man of God working for God and His church. Two years ago he was warned that he must relinquish some of his more arduous duties, slow the tempo of his activities or the result would be disastrous. Immediately he queried the extent of his reprieve in the event that he did "take it easier." When he learned that it was a matter of a few years either way, he felt that the difference was so slight that he preferred to continue to minister to the needs of his diocese to the best of his ability, whether it proved a threat to his health or not.

There could be some who criticized his decision, but in our humble opinion, when a man is forwarned, he should have the privilege to choose the manner in which he prefers to die. To most men this insight is not given.

A much-travelled man, revered throughout the Church of England in Canada and the Anglican church of today for his missionary zeal, Bishop Watts worked continuously to bring Christ to those with whom he came in contact in China, Japan or Canada. Perhaps the burden was too great. Possibly Bishop Watts never learned to conserve his energy but none can dispute the greatness of his purpose, his intent or the result, for in Christ's own words "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for another". In this case it was for Christ himself.

Flaw in the law

Fair-minded people everywhere in the province will applaud Magistrate Beevor-Potts' recent dismissal of a charge against a Nanaimo man of being in possession of liquor in a public eating place. The circumstances of the case were simple and not unusual. There was no suggestion that the accused had any intention of drinking unlawfully in the restaurant. All that the prosecution had to support its case was the fact that he had two cases of beer with him in a place where the act says no one may have liquor in his possession.

That was the full extent of this man's "crime". He had bought the beer in the usual way at a liquor store. If he had left it outside in a car the law would have been satisfied. But because he hadn't a car and couldn't very well leave the two inviting cartons sitting on the sidewalk he took them into the cafe and put them on the floor beside his seat, just as a housewife might do with a bag of groceries on her way home from the store. On the evidence presented to court it was a perfectly innocent action: the sort of thing any citizen might do without the remotest thought that he was breaking the law.

If a strictly legalistic view were taken of this prosection it might be held that Magistrate Beevor-Potts erred in dismissing the charge. But from the viewpoint of commonsense and simple justice no error is apparent. There are times—and this certainly was one of them—when the courts must take into consideration the intention of the legislature as opposed to the wording of a statute as enacted. It can scarcely have been the intention of B.C. legislature that a charge of unlawful possession of liquor should lie against anyone in circumstances such as these. The magistrate's wholly commendable decision serves to draw attention to a flaw in the act which needs remedying.

—The Victoria Colonist.

The threat of strontium 90

Two conclusions emerge from the reports of the U.S. Department of Defense and Atomic Energy Commission that the fallout of strontium 90 from nuclear tests has been htavier than expected. Efforts to get an agreement for banning or controlling tests must be redoubled; and research into the effects of radiation and neutralization of the fallout must be stepped up.

The most alarming feature of the U.S. reports is that the experts miscalculated. Any increase of radiation is harmful. The AEC says the level of strontium 90 in the worst belt of fallout across northern Canada and the northern U.S. is far from the danger point. But it is increasing much more rapidly than they expectde.

Strontium 90, a deadly isotope that causes bone cancer or leukemia, falls to the ground in rain or snow. It is absorbed by plants and transmitted to humans through them or through animal products, such as milk.

The Geneva talks on control of nuclear tests are presently bogged down because of Russian resistance to adequate inspection. Fallout respects Russians no more than Canadians or Americans. Perhaps this common enemy can be the source of an accord.

For the ordinary Russian, or Canadian, or American it is of little consequence whether civilization is wiped out quickly by nuclear war or slowly poisoned by fallout. The onus for preventing either rests with the leaders of East and West.

—The Toronto Telegram.

Boycottmanship

The British Columbia Federation of Labor has suggested a world-wide boycott of ships and goods from Newfoundland because of what Premier Smallwood is doing to the unions in that province. Oh, fine. And do we get to have a world-wide boycott of ships and goods from Britain Columbia because of what Premier Bennett is doing to the unions there with his celebrated Bill 43.

Premier Duplessis is certainly a tough cookie where unions are concerned, so let's have a boycott on ships and goods from Quebec. Alberta is cracking down on the Brotherhood of Teamsters, so put Alberta on the global blacklist. And considering how the unions responded to the report of the Ontario legislature's select committee on labor relations, we might include this province too.

In fact, to simplify things, we might have a world-wide boycott of ships and gods from all the provinces. Put up picket signs in every corner of the earth saying, "Canada Is Unfair!", and telling people not to buy from her. That will do Canada's labor movement a lot of good—as the English say, a fat lot of good.

—The Toronto Globe and Mail.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Price of concessions may weaken Allied stand

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
Associated Press Staff Writer

In the fateful debate over Berlin, Soviet Premier Khrushchev is still ahead.

This became evident with the windup of intensive consultations here among policy-makers of the Western powers during the last week.

A communique Saturday stressed the solidarity of the Allied stand against yielding to Soviet pressures for withdrawal from West Berlin. The position thus redefined for what a critical diplomat called the umpteenth time is essentially a negative one. It does nothing to challenge Khrushchev's hold on the initiative.

On the positive side the NATO foreign ministers stressed their desire for negotiations with Russia. But there was no indication that any imaginative, bold or especially new approach had been generated.

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Perhaps the idea which most impressed delegates and observers came from Canada's spokesman, Defence Minister G. R. Pearkes. He proposed that the Western powers study the possibility of having UN observers on the supply lines to Berlin. That, of course, would require agreement by Russia.

Behind the stout declarations of solidarity there ran a thread of concern about concessions that might be made to Russia. Behind the repeated official insistence on the unity could be found evidence of disunity of critical points.

Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd of Britain, for example, represents a government pressing for extreme flexibility in dealing with the Russians over German issues. West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano represents a position of much greater rigidity than even his own government in Bonn was believed to hold two weeks ago.

The consensus of the council on the problem of concessions was summed up by diplomats in a simple formula: No concessions to the Reds which were not matched by concessions from the Reds.

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Strictly as a bargaining matter this may be a weak principle to guide a coalition in negotiating with a dictator. The coalition always faces the danger of division over the price to pay for concessions it wants from the other side.

Indeed, the mere talk of any kind of concessions worries some Western authorities who believe the NATO ministers might better have expressed their bargaining positions in terms of what is required to make the kind of settlement they want in Germany.

KREIGHOFF SALE IN LONDON—This painting by the 19th century Canadian artist Cornelius Kreighoff is expected to bring upwards of $3,000 at a sale of his works in London April 22. It was purchased for about 20 cents at a jumble sale by Mrs. E. L. Bartlett of Bideford, England, and shows Hudson Bay Indians at a portage. The painting measures 13¾ inches by 21⅝ inches and is signed and dated 1865. It is one of a group of about 10 Kreighoff paintings of life in 19th centry Canada to be sold at Sotheby's in London. —CP photo.

Two schools of thought on stenos

From The Toronto Telegram

Does a pretty stenographer boost office morale or distract fellow employes? There are two schools of thought on this subject.

One holds that a steno doesn't have to be attractive but it helps. It helps to spread euphoria among the office staff. It reflects the good taste of an employer, who thereby secures a pleasant introduction to his customers.

On the other hand, the contrary school maintains that beauty is not soothing but disturbing. Business suffers when beauty intrudes.

Out in Iran, one of the government ministers is a follower of the latter school. He has turned thumbs down on a beautiful candidate's application for a typist's job.

Of course, if this attitude were to take hold in the Occident, wives might worry less. But think of the poetry that would be lost to the business world.

ARCHBISHOP OF PAKISTAN

KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuter)—The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, arrived here by air from London to start a five-week tour that will include India, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong.

— ALL ABOARD —

By G. E. MORTIMORE

An enemy of hospital sweepstakes has this to say:

"Why is it that people who advocate legalized sweepstakes fail for this utter bilge of saying the profits will finance hospitals?

"The only reason that the Irish Sweep can finance Irish hospitals is that it sells millions of tickets all over the globe and is a unique institution.

"Any elementary student of mathematics can tell you that if every province, or even if every country, in the Western world went into sweeps for financing hospitals, the returns would be infinitesimal and most of the sweeps would collapse anyway just like the old chain letters did.

"Take Canada alone. If every able-bodied adult, say 5,000,000, all bought $3 tickets (which they wouldn't, of course) the total pot would be $15,000,000.

"Using your Irish sweep proportions this would give a net profit of $3,750,000. Even allowing four sweeps a year, you would wind up with an over-all profit of $15,000,000 for a year.

"This is nothing more than a mote in the eye toward hospital costs, which in B.C. alone run to $40,000,000 a year just for operating expenses.

"By all means let's have sweepstakes and the fun of the gamble. But don't let's delude ourselves into any kind of illusion that they will finance hospitals.

"Even if we explored the vast market for ticket sales in the United States (which would be illegal there, of course) we'd still run far short of any profit that would be sizeable enough to bite into the hospital costs."

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With all respect to this critic's views, I believe that he is mistaken.

Who said that sweepstakes would finance the whole cost of hospitals? I'm afraid my critic has built a straw-man type of argument, so as to look impressive when he demolishes it.

A big percentage of hospital costs should be met out of taxes. Health should be a public matter, just as much as roads or schools. Part of the costs of hospitals might be paid by the patients themselves, to deter imaginary invalids. But I think the scale of co-insurance payments should vary according to ability to pay. It could range from zero, for welfare patients, and 25 cents a day for people of low income, to about $2 a day for people in the highest income bracket—proof of income to be supplied by the federal income tax branch.

As I say, a good percentage of hospital costs should be paid from taxes. The sweepstake is a useful and painless form of taxation. It is the only tax in the world that people actually enjoy paying. Along with their ticket, they buy a dream of wealth. It isn't so obsessive a dream as to damage the character; just a happy fantasy that brightens dull lives, and it is not taken too seriously.

My critic says that the Irish sweep is successful because it is "unique." He is wrong.

There are several state-sanctioned lotteries running in the world, and most of them sell tickets beyond the boundaries of their own nation. Australia alone has not one lottery, but several. The last I heard, they were making good profits.

If every country, or even every province, did run a sweepstake, the returns would still be substantial. They would not be enough to pay the entire costs of the hospitals—but who said they were required to do so? If they paid some of the costs of the hospitals, took some of the burden off the general taxpayer, they would serve a useful purpose.

However, I believe they would in fact raise an enormous revenue. It is all very well to talk about every country having sweepstakes. That will never happen. The Americans—our biggest potential foreign market for tickets—are far too sanctimonious to have a sweep of their own.

A large number of Canadian sweep tickets would be sold in the United States. Receipts could be far more than the $15,000,000 which my correspondent suggests.

Furthermore, a Canadian sweep would be less expensive to run than the Irish is. There would be no need for a Canadian sweep to hand such large sums to a private trust.

Another argument against sweepstakes is that they are gambling, and therefore immoral; and that they encourage the "something for nothing" mentality.

Where in the Bible is there any warning against gambling? Anyway, sweeps are a mild form of gambling. I never heard that they had impoverished anyone.

The "something for nothing" argument is humbug. Why pretend that the rewards of our society go only to the virtuous and hard-working? The fact is that a fair number of people become rich by cheating and taking advantage of other people's weakness.

A fair proportion of wealth is captured by people who are not only worthless to society, but actually harmful. Sweepstake winners are a mixed lot of ordinary people. Scattering wealth to them at random is not an evil process in itself. Some of them may make evil use of the money. But so do those who get windfalls through the other chances of life.

The sweepstake adds a touch of fairy-tale adventure to brighten this dull world.

BULAWAYO, Sothern Rhodesia (Reuters)— An African prison guard who admitted smuggling out a letter from a former African leader detained in Khami prison was sentenced to six months in prison at hard labor for contravening the federal Prisons act.

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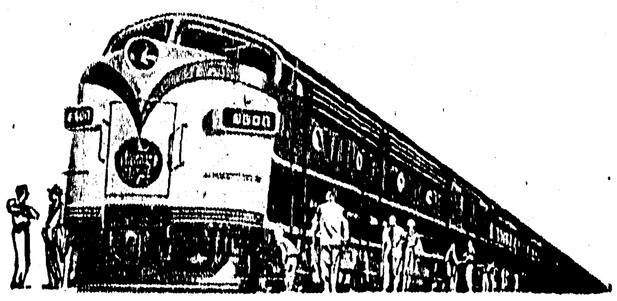
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