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Time for parking meter installation overdue

ONCE again, as the police descend on Third Avenue overparkers, as they do from time to time, a feeling of resentment is engendered. There shouldn't be any such bad feeling because those persons who do park on Third Avenue for more than an hour at a time, know full well what the consequences are. At the same time there must be a feeling of frustration burning in the breasts of motorized shoppers who wish to park near where they plan to do business. They fail, more often than not, because either the cars the owner of the store or his employees are occupying the sought-after parking spaces.

Yet the store owners have their frustrations too. It is a well-known fact that by 8 a.m., sometimes earlier, it is almost impossible to find a parking space on any of the side streets and to go down to Second Avenue only results in arousing the ire of the Second Avenue merchants.

It is nearly a year now since City Council passed its amendments to the City Parking Traffic and Parking by-law, which authorized council to install parking meters at anytime it saw fit.

That time has been reached. It is imperative that council act soon before it finds itself in Dutch with the voters, especially the car-driving members of the electorate. Until parking meters are put in, or ordered, no individual or company is going to institute off-the-street parking. The moment the meters are in, drivers will be looking, gladly, for places where they can pay a monthly rent for parking and know that they haven't got to play musical chairs with the meters and the parking zones.

A person with enough gumption to make the first move and build a parking lot will be booked up solid before his project is finished. It is our sincere belief that City Council is burying its head in the sand about the parking question hoping that it might solve itself. It won't. It is becoming worse every day.

The uses of monarchy

The practical advantages of monarchy must be getting some wistful attention in Washington these days. It is very useful to have a clearly understood distinction between the head of the state, who performs ceremonial and symbolic acts, and the political leaders who negotiate and administer policy.

A British (or Canadian) prime minister need have no hesitation about visiting Russia, talking to Khrushchev—or indeed having a few words with anyone whose views he wants to examine. No one is going to assume that the visit manifests approval of the host's policies, or even gratitude for his taste in alcohol or services. If the British prime minister wants to make a gesture of friendship, he does it through his advice to the Queen. She can symbolize the national attitude—as she did, for example, when she drove through London with the German president—and there is no doubt in anyone's mind about the meaning of what she was doing. (What's more, the number and variety of royal relatives and representatives make it possible to distinguish nice shades of interest and approval.)

On the other hand, the American president cannot avoid considering the symbolic effect of what he does. This made it extremely difficult for him to handle such awkward undertakings as Mikoyan's unofficial visit and Khrushchev's offhand invitation. As a political leader, he should certainly take up the challenge implied. As a symbolic head of state, he would prefer to remain aloof until the negotiations are successfully completed and a gesture of accord is clearly in order. There may be many times between now and 1960 when Mr. Eisenhower will regret that George Washington declined a crown.

—The Financial Post.

U.S.-type pensions costly

The report of Professor Robert M. Clark on the U.S. and Canadian pensions systems points there are difficulties in adapting the whole aspects of U.S. social security to Canada's old age pensions scheme. Professor Clark says it would be costly and that it would be 10 years before the benefits comparable to those paid in the U.S. could accrue here.

The principle of contributory pensions has much to commend it. The present two per cent tax on salary, personal and corporation income was intended to cover the cost of pensions and the deficit runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. It stood at $158,202,444 in January, for ten months of 1958-9.

Professor Clark says a contributory plan would be complicated and would take two years of planning and organizing to implement. His massive 861-page report will be carefully studied by Government officials in Ottawa.

First consideration must be costs, including administrative costs, in relation to benefits. Unless a scheme can be devised that compares favorably with the present system on this basis, there is no ground for proceeding further.

—The Toronto Telegram.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

No lack of topics for Macmillan, Eisenhower

By GEORGE KITCHEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

A broad range of world problems will face Prime Minister Macmillan and President Eisenhower when they get together this week to formulate Allied policy on West Berlin.

The Berlin crisis unquestionably is the No. 1 item on their agenda, but no one expects they will spend more time on the subject of Berlin than they do on, say, the subject of Africa when they meet at Washington and at Eisenhower's Gettysburg farm retreat in the Maryland mountains. Talk will be subject alone.

Actually the talks are to take place within the framework of Allied and French Foreign Ministers' talks on Berlin policy. Both are agreed that no solution must be made in Berlin and Eisenhower, judging from his address to the American Legion Monday night, does not see anything in Khrushchev's new East German talks that would be acceptable.

The talks can be expected to encourage the West Berlin military or otherwise. The United States, of and West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt goes through with his threat to give East Germany authority to deny the West access to West Berlin.

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And Macmillan can be expected to urge upon Eisenhower a review of U.S. and British policy on disengagement—the thinning out of troops, both Western and Soviet, in central Europe. The theory of disengagement, which has gained considerable support in Britain and Western Europe, is highly unpopular in Washington.

Apart from the Berlin crisis, the two leaders have a host of other problems awaiting their attention. They likely will review the middle Eastern picture, including the recent abortive uprising in Iraq, and the general problem of disarmament, including the West's unsuccessful attempts to reach agreement with Russia on an atomic test ban and on measures to prevent surprise attack.

The discussions also can be expected to branch into fields of prime concern to Britain and the U.S., with Macmillan seeking measures to promote greater trade between the two countries with a view to increasing the United Kingdom's dollar-earning capacity.

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Britain, like Canada, has been hit by the recent imposition of mandatory controls on the importation of foreign oil into the U.S. Though not an oil producer herself, Britain controls rich oil lands in the Middle East and has a vast tanker fleet which stands to lose dollars as a result of the U.S. action.

Britain has also been hiked by the recent American action in lightening quotas on imports of woollen goods. This has hurt Britain's woollen industry and reduced the country's ability to earn export dollars.

Both of these items provide a springboard for Macmillan to launch a general discussion of Anglo-American trade.

Few if any of the non-German subjects ordinarily would warrant such top-level study, but Macmillan probably will take advantage of his Washington visit to get Eisenhower's views on them.

A timely warning

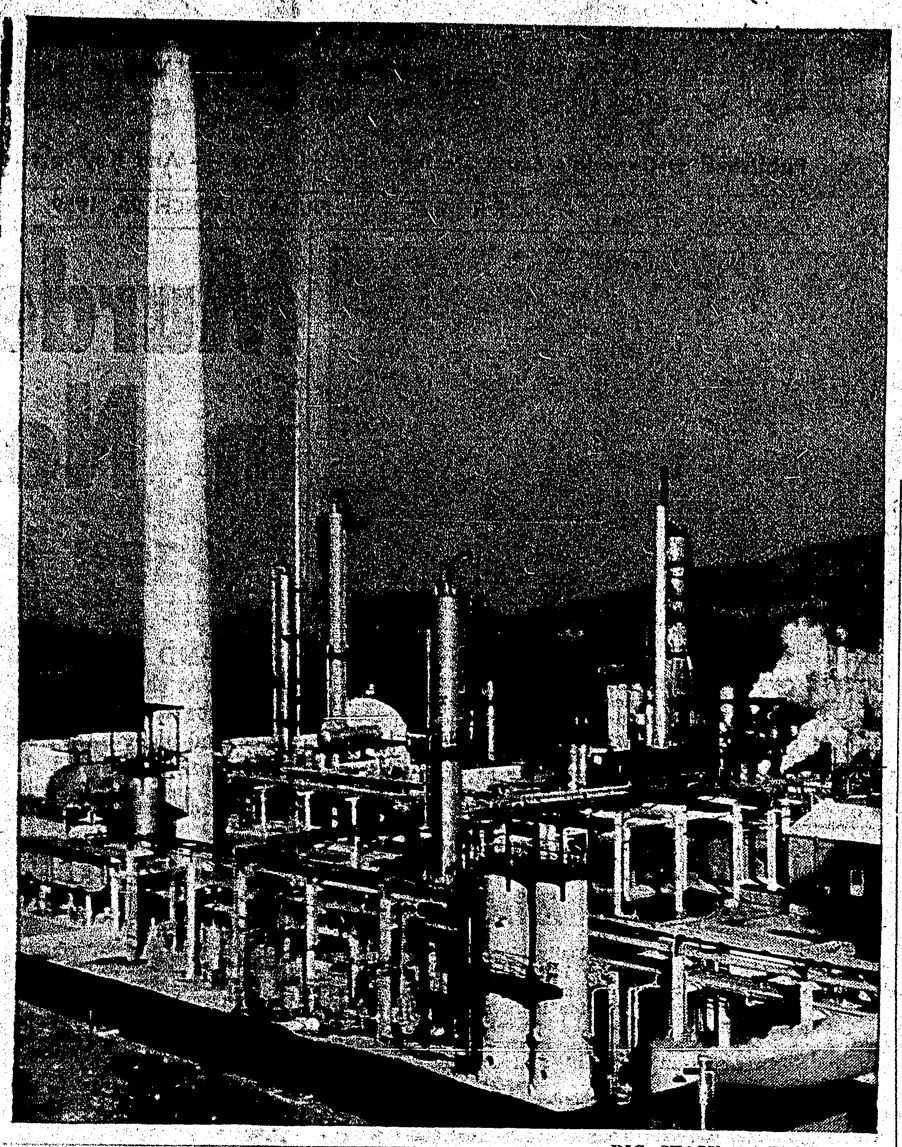
Three convicts escaped were given a month's [illegible] sentences Monday night. They were told [illegible] more other sentence they might [illegible] for escaping [illegible] jail.

What gave impetus to the warning was the fact that a convict—not from management—was from Terry H. Bean, business agent of the local Culinary Workers union. In writing an open letter of warning, Mr. Bean said "Taxpayers are being asked their money to enable direct [illegible] construction to some buildings [illegible] a [illegible] and even our bread and butter, [illegible] and industrial building, shows a marked drop in quality."

Contractors who want to build more cheaply, and builders who want to keep wages down, and convict foremen willing to cut a few corners from the various crews contracted by [illegible] officials.

Mr. Bean's remarks are applicable to many [illegible] the convict foremen.

—Telegraphic Union Record.



BIG STACK — BIG NAME: Dominating feature of the newest unit to be added to Shell Oil Company of Canada's refinery at Vancouver is this 200-foot stack. Tongue-twisting name of the $2,000,000 unit is distillate hydrodesulphurizer. The operation employs a patented process designed to reduce sulpher content of distillate oils through the use of hydrogen. This process is becoming increasingly important in the production of fuels of still higher quality for diesel, heating oil and aircraft applications.

All Aboard

By G.E. Mortimore

The two little boys are not tall enough to look over the editorial office's swinging gate but their father can hear them coming.

There is a high pitched shout from the office lobby and a face appears in the swinging door. A boy clutching a knitted rabbit hurtles across the room and lands on his father's knee.

The boys' father, who had been seated at a desk trying to do some work, leans away as though from a heavy wind, and braces himself for the arrival of his younger son.

Sure enough, the younger son (holding a shapeless black woollen dog) slams through the swinging door, points himself towards his father, sails through the air and lands with a bone-cracking thump on the other knee.

While the two boys pummel and tug at their father (both talking at once) their mother makes her leisurely way in.

"Get them out of here," the boys' father says.

"Money please," she replies.

"Daddy, says the older boy, "give us a ride in the thing. In the train."

The vehicle he has in mind is one of those big waste baskets on wheels.

So the boys' father lifts both of them into the waste basket and trundles them around the desks and chairs and back to the starting place.

Luckily, it is early in the day, and there are not many people in the place. It seems to Daddy that the indulgent smiles of his co-workers are beginning to look a trifle strained.

"Get them out of here," he repeats to the boys' mother, talking from the side of his mouth.

Without a word, Mummy stretches out her hand, palm uppermost. Daddy plants a banknote in it. Promptly the boys' mother shepherds the two little creatures through the door and vanishes down the lobby, shooting a sly grin back over her shoulder.

The boys' father settles back in his chair and applies his fingers tentatively to the typewriter.

"Aahh!" he sighs. "They're out of here. But it's blackmail."

Wearily, he removes a piece of sticky candy from his desk and gets back to work.

No comment needed

From The Financial Post

Dr. Linus Pauling, in his book entitled "No More War," says that all of the explosives released during the whole of World War II, by all participants, on both sides, amounted to the equivalent of three million tons of TNT. Thermonuclear bombs have now been produced, and exploded, with a single bomb releasing an explosive force equal to that of 15 million tons of TNT. In other words, we now have in one bomb five times the total amount of explosive force set off during the whole of the second world war.

Up, up, up go the taxes in new state of Alaska

From The Anchorage Daily News

The amendment to the employment security commission act removing any ceiling from taxable wages, means increase of more than 100 per cent to both employers and employees of Alaska.

This is a terrific wallop, to say the least.

Alaskans were already paying the highest employment security taxes of the nation when the legislature two years ago raised the taxable ceiling on wages from $3,600 to $4,200. At the same time it provided for the employee to kick in with one-half of one per cent on his earnings up to $4,200.

Under an amendment introduced in the senate the $4,200 ceiling was wiped out and employment security taxes will now be applicable under the amendment on all wages earned during the year.

To point up just exactly what this means to wage earners and employers assume that a tradesman or a salaries worker in Anchorage earns $8,400 gross pay a year. He will be taxed one half of one per cent on this paycheck or $420. Under the present formula for EBC he would be taxed only up to $4,200 of his total salary which would be $210.

Thus his salary tax will exactly double under the legislature's amendment bill.

For the employer the situation is somewhat darker. Assume this small firm employs 20 persons who earn $8,400 each per year. This is a payroll of $168,000. Under the present formula the taxable portion of this payroll is $84,000 which at 2.7 per cent is $1,768 as his contribution to the EBC. Upon adoption of the senate amendment it will immediately become $3,536.

These are the kind of taxes that not only have back breaking repercussions on business and small industries already established, but which cannot help but have disastrous effects on those eyeing Alaska as the proverbial "land of opportunity" or more realistically, for planned investment.

The legislators are not only biting the hand that feeds them, they are taking the arm off at the elbow.

Such a tax as they propose is striking at the basic economy of Alaska. It affects both the wage earner and the wage payer alike in one fell swoop. This is dangerous business.

Billion dollar paycheck

From The Ketchikan Daily News

If all the people now on the federal civilian payroll lived with their families in one new city, it would be the second largest city in the U.S.

Sen. Harry F. Byrd has announced that 2,301,000 people now collect their pay from Uncle Sam. And their paychecks now total more than a billion dollars every month. What is more important, their paychecks come out of our paychecks. Government workers averaged 11 per cent pay raises during 1958, but few taxpayers did.

Many of these men and women are engaged in programs which many citizens feel to be non-essential or even detrimental to the welfare of the nation.

But even if every program the government now conducts were to be continued, Sen. Byrd assures us that more than 150,000 jobs could be abolished without impairing efficiency in the slightest. This is slightly more than six per cent.

Today, the federal government is running in the red and is having great difficulty in borrowing money it needs to make up the deficit. In the face of these facts, Sen. Byrd's suggestion is just plain common sense.

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