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Spring! beautiful spring!

SPRING, beautiful spring!! Ah! this weather is enough to make a man feel young again. Stirs the blood. Creates the urge to get outdoors, enjoy that new-born warmth in the sun, makes a guy feel like taking a couple of days off to go fishing.

Laz, days they are though, if work crops up . . . work like digging up the garden. A couple of shovel turns later, however, it doesn't feel too bad. Might as well set to and do a good job. Had some good spuds out of this patch last year. Might add a little to it this spring. Feels good to get your muscles working again. Must do a little more maybe. Not in as good shape as we were once.

Feels good though to get up a good sweat. Think the sweater can come off. It's warm enough in the sun so that the wind doesn't feel cold. Ah!! This soil is getting better every year. Lovely out here in the sun. Look at that humming bird! Didn't think they came this far north.

Nothing like exercise to make one feel alive again. Makes you wonder how you can get through the winter, sitting around a stuffy old house. A guy should get out into the fresh air more.

Time for a rest, I guess. Don't want to overdo it. Sun's pretty near gone now anyway. Better put the sweater back on. Need a rest anyway. Amazing how one's muscles go to pieces. Sure chilly now. Better put the things away. Get at that patch again when we have a minute. Hmmm! back aches a liddle. A liddle? Good hebens, don't tell me that we've dod a code. It wad so dice and warm oud dair. Guess we stayed oud too long afder de sun wed down. Well woulden thad frost you. First dime oud and we det a code. Thad's wad I beam. Sping, boodiful sping!!

REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT By FRANK HOWARD

Some of the results of the spirit of competition are being experienced in the House of Commons these days—or should I say these nights.

It is budget times and the debate lasts for a period of eight days.

Budget speeches are usually droll enough that they don't attract too much attendance in the House. Many of the speeches made by Members are read from a prepared text and there is no guarantee that the Member prepared his own speech. When a member reads his own speech it is usually done in dull, dry and monotonous tones. This sort of thing is what leads to absenteeism and snoozing (although to be quite honest I have yet to see a member fall asleep in his seat here).

It's bad enough for a member to have to speak to an assembly which sometimes just manages to muster a quorum (20) and is oftimes disinterested. But when that member has to compete with a telecast of the National Hockey League playoffs, it is almost too much.

Just off from the House of Commons is a Members' sitting room that has a television set in it. Most Members pay no attention to this TV set except at news time. But with Toronto and Montreal battling it out for the Stanley Cup the room is filled to capacity.

I spoke in the Budget debate on Thursday, April 16, the night of the fourth Stanley Cup playoffs. In order to keep those Members who were in the House informed about the progress of the game I arranged for another Member to bring me the results of the game from time to time. This way, I was able to keep up with the game and announce to the members who were in the House the events which were happening in the other room.

At one stage the Speaker, in a very jovial way, asked the House if I had unanimous permission to place the hockey score on the record. No one objected.

Any time now we can expect that the government will ask that the House be allowed to sit beyond its normal hours. This request is a perennial one and arises primarily because the government does not manage its agenda arrangements too well. Relatively little is introduced in the earlier months of parliament. Consequently there is a rush towards the end of the session. Legislation is introduced in great bunches and the order paper becomes clogged with material to be dealt with. This results in members not having the full opportunity of studying the legislative program with the detail that is necessary. It's too bad that it has ever been thus.

Non-political heresy

Student antics designed to alarm and astonish their elders are a standard feature of the Canadian spring. What is interesting and instructive is not the antics themselves, but the forms they take.

This year, for example, the annual outbreak has taken the form of blasphemy. At such widely separated universities as Acadia and UBC, authorities have had to take scandalized note of what the students have to say about religious doctrine. The students argue that they had no blasphemous intent, but merely wished to provoke consideration of the ideas involved, instead of unthinking acceptance.

What's interesting is the way in which politics and religion have changed roles in the past twenty years. In the 1930s when a student newspaper alarmed the administration, it was usually with the questioning of orthodox political or economic doctrine. Now apparently, it's religion.

This is not healthy for politics and economics.

One reason for the switch in student targets is almost certainly the pious and unctuous attitude adopted toward political and economic thought by their elders—especially their elders in the United States.

The notion that anyone who questions the economic or political status quo must be a communist; the notion that western political institutions are too fragile to stand close inspection—these attitudes, so common in the statements of public men, must have convinced today's crop of students that it is much more prudent to be a religious heretic than to be a political or economic heretic, even briefly.

—The Financial Post.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Both sides arguments weak on Berlin issue

What baffles many Britons about the dispute over the Berlin air corridor is the weakness of the arguments put forward by both sides.

Russia's case for imposing a 10,000-foot limit on the corridor is based on the alleged requirements of Soviet and East German military aircraft which are purported to zoom about the upper air in such profusion that an interloping Western cargo plane constitutes a menace to air safety.

If the argument has a virtue, it is that of simplicity. The same cannot be said for the reasons advanced by the United States for its insistence on breaking through the ceiling.

The U.S. claim is split between the practical consideration that it is uneconomical to fly its modern planes at low altitudes and the planes at low altitudes and the question of principle that required the Western powers to assert their right to navigate the corridor at the height of their choice.

A number of subsidiary points from both sides deal with the wides questions of Berlin and Germany in particular and world peace in general, but have little direct bearing on the flights themselves.

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EASIEST TO DEMOLISH

Perhaps the Russian stand is the easiest to demolish. Bearing in mind that every aircraft using the corridor must file a flight plan covering all details of its passage, it would appear improbable that the Russians cannot find enough East German air to accommodate their planes while the Western transports come through.

But the American side of it fares little better. The entire 100-mile corridor from Berlin to the West German border can be flown in less than half an hour by a modern aircraft, which presumably would have to spend some of that time reaching the 10,000-foot level aftre takeoff or letting down from it before landing.

While these geographic factors limit the potential savings of high altitude flying, the attempt to establish principles of airlift operation in event of a new blockade are even less realistic.

If the Russians chose to cut off the overland routes to the capital, it is accepted that the West would do everything in its power to supply Berlin by air. The Russian choice would be as simple as it was in 1948—to permit the flights or to stop them.

MIGHT PRECIPITATE WAR

Interference with Western supply aircraft at any altitude during a land blockade of Berlin probably might precipitate war. With this in mind, the Russians let the planes through last time. Once again, the decision would be up to them.

The view widely held in Britain is that the arguments are not only pointless in relation to future blockades but harmful to the prospects of the East-West negotiations to come. Not all Britons agree that the dispute was deliberately created for this purpose, but almost all—including the government—deplore its timing.

A Bible Thought for Today

The thing that I greatly feared is come upon me, and that of which I was afraid is come unto me. Job 3:25.

PHOTO WINNER—This photo of a little boy's twisted bicycle after a traffic accident won the spot news award in the annual photo contest of the Commercial and Press Photographers' Association of Canada. Lorne Pridham of Harvey Studio in Fredericton took the picture. Photographers from eight provinces were among the winners in the 12th annual contest. Winning pictures go on tour across the country following an appearance in Toronto early in May. Photo serves as graphic warning to parents who allow their children to ride bikes too big for them. —CP photo.

LETTER BOX

FORMER RESIDENT WRITES

The Editor,
The Daily News:

It is more than seven and a half years since we left Prince Rupert for Napa, California. Since then we have had many contacts with the people of Prince Rupert. Because of these contacts, we have been able to keep abreast of the many events which take place in your community. Of course, the paper which we receive regularly is one of the most important contacts.

Our daughter Mardell finished her high school work in Napa and now is completing her four years of college at Pacific Lutheran College in Parkland, Washington. She is working on a music major and will have her senior piano recital on April 14. She is graduating on May 31 and then she plans to be married at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland on June 12 to Mr. Jerrold Olson, a class mate from the college. Jerrold is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Roy Olson. Rev. Mr. Olson and I were classmates at the seminary.

Napa is a rapidly growing community. It has just about doubled in population since 1950. If the people just outside the city limits are included, the post office services more than 35,000 people. Many of the people who live here are working in the naval shipyard at Mare Island and the Benecia Arsenal. We have some but not a great deal of manufacturing locally. The Kaiser Steel Company has pipe mills here which employ a large labor force. The Basalt Company and the Rough Rider Inc., are the other large employers. The Napa Valley is a grape growing centre and we have many wineries.

Mrs. Soiland and I have enjoyed nearly perfect health since we have been here. We have often spoken about our many friends in Prince Rupert. It would be a pleasure to be able to visit them again.

Earl Soiland,
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer,
Napa, California.

WORD OF THANKS

The Editor,
The Daily News:

May I ask for a little space in the News just to say a word or two of thanks to all who have been so kind during my recent stay in the hospital, and to let friends know that I am now living at 952 Arm Street in Victoria.

I would appraceiate a card or letter from those who can find time to write.

Mrs. Robert McCarthy,
Victoria, B.C.

MISSED CONFESSIONS

The Editor,
The Daily News:

I enjoyed very much "Dutch" Cline's story of the Hazelton Townsite rivalry and remember a lot of it.

In his opening remarks, in speaking of other worthies, he said they were like the Queen of Sheba once said "they didn't tell the half of it."

I was in hopes that further along, Dutch would come up with some of the old Queen's Confessions. They would be interesting, and I know Dutch would know some of them.

Wiggs O'Neill,
Smithers, B.C.

All Aboard By G.E. Mortimer

North America likes to portray itself as a continent of social democracy, where a ditch-digger is just as good a man as a merchant prince.

But this regional myth, cherished by both Canada and the United States, is far from reality.

In fact, both countries number in their population a high percentage of snobs and climbers—people who work themselves into ulcers and heart attacks trying to prove that they are better than their neighbors.

Vance Packard in the current Look magazine tells of the struggle for "symbols of status."

A symbol of status may be anything from the key of the executive washroom to a university degree or a plush mansion with a socially correct address.

"One place where this status seeking is most vividly apparent is in the thousands of new one-layer suburbs where many Americans are establishing homes.

"The home, as shrewdly merchandised today, s much more than a family nest. It is becoming the nation's prime status symbol, the most favored way to stake a status claim."

Unbelievable as it may seem to some people, clever salesmen have learned that American status snobs are suckers for fractured French tags in seal estate advertisements: "Une maison Ranch tres originale avec eight rooms, 2½ baths . . ."

They are also suckers for "prestige" gadgets like clothes dryers and air conditioners. Some people buy such machines strictly for use. Gadget snobs buy them for show.

Mr. Packard's depressing chronicle of human vanity raised echoes from my own experience. I remember how, in the house where we once used to live, some neighboring children used to make sneering remarks about our possessions.

In fact the children came from a family that had hocked its income for about ten years ahead, to buy those prestige gadgets. The parents had a clean, well-furnished house and empty minds.

Although I knew that these neighbors were dull people whose opinion didn't matter, I couldn't help feeling a little hurt by the children's sneers. And I felt sorry for the children, too, born as they were into such a mean-spirited house.

Dulles always in "hot water"

This is the second of two articles assessing the impact on international affairs of John Foster Dulles' career as U.S. state secretary.

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP) — When John Foster Dulles took office as state secretary six years ago his avowed purpose was to "wrest the initiative" from Russsia and put the U.S. and its allies on the offensive in the cold war.

He never succeeded in achieving this objective.

His major contributions to the development of U.S. foreign policy have been, with few exceptions, on the defensive side of cold war strategy.

EXPANDED ALLIANCE

Foremost among his accomplishments, perhaps, is the vast expansion he engineered in United States alliances and military commitments over the world. He inherited the North Atlantic Alliance, which he helped create, from his predecessor, Dean Acheson. By building on the coalition pattern thus established, Dulles extended U.S. commitments in the Far East, Southeast Asia and the Middle East to such a degree that Soviet-Chinese Communism now can hardly thrust out in any direction without risking U.S. retaliation.

A crisis arose last year when revolution overthrew the pro-Western government of Iraq. Dulles and President Eisenhower feared that other friendly regimes would topple.

Against threats of Soviet counter-action the president dispatched U.S. troops to Lebanon and British forces went into Jordan.

The Lebanese action was another in a long list of moves dramatized under Dulles' policy of "brinkmanship."

Dulles was in international hot water for a time last year with his insistence on supporting Nationalist China in its defence of the Chinese coastal islands, Quemoy and Matsu, against Red attack.

Dulles' theory of brinkmanship holds that it is necessary for the U.S. again and again to face up pto a Communist challenge in some vulnerable area of the non-Communist world and to go to the brink of war to defend a free country against conquest.

In 1956 Dulles found himself faced with perhaps the worst and most dangerous crisis of his state department years. It involved the seizure of the Suez Canal by Egypt.

The British and the French government then in power grew tired of what they considered his defeatist attitude on the Suez issue. They attacked Egypt, following an attack by Israel.

Dulles was caught in the dreadful dilemma, as he saw it, of having to back the chief U.S. allies or having to denounce their action and see the Atlantic coalition split wide open.

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