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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1959

Only one standard

THERE is only one standard of honesty. An individual is honest or he is not. If democracy as we cherish it is to prevail for the future welfare of mankind its standard will need to be unquestioned and unquestionable. The days of the false front are drawing to a close; democracy challenges every single facet of life, seeking and probing for the truth that will not bind men, but set them free. The more we say that democracy is our banner the more sure it is that a single standard of honesty, trust, probity is needed to make good democracy's claim to leadership.

That standard must be the best. The shock of what has happened south of the border on a few leading TV programs does not rest so much in the fact that some individuals have shown a grave error of judgment in lapses from an ethical code as in the fact that in too many instances that was accepted as a part of the means of entertainment. There is nothing entertaining about duplicity in any of its manifestations; only a warning that human direction is being lost and paths chosen which can lead only to disaster.

Strange, is it not, that even the issue of ethics should play a part in the international and political tensions of the day. But that is so. We of the West are watched by millions in the world to see how we behave. In the current clash of ideologies around the world one lapse, one exhibited weakness becomes magnified out of all proportion to its incidence. The exception then is taken for the rule, and democracy suffers in consequence.

For thinking individuals there is only one acceptable standard of honesty, in all of its applications. It is not required only of a few but of everyone, each in his own place and station. On that basis only can democracy hold its head up in the world, advance its principles and plead that it has found the way to freedom and honor in widening human circles.

—The Victoria Colonist.

End discrimination

Winning of the right to buy liquor and beer and consume it in their homes by some 8,000 Natives on 16 Ontario reserves focusses attention on the discrimination against Natives in British Columbia's liquor laws.

Natives feel this discrimination keenly, as they do every other form of discrimination that affects their everyday lives. Quite properly they resent it. Whether there should be greater or lesser control of liquor is another question. The question that concerns Natives is that they are subjected to restrictions which are not imposed on white citizens.

Just legislation requires that whatever restrictions the government may decide on be applied equally to white and Natives and no false concepts of "paternalism" can excuse the present discrimination.

The fact that the Natives in Ontario decided the question by referendum vote speaks for itself. Natives in British Columbia should have the same opportunity to say what they want in the way of liquor rights. —The Native Voice.

VICTORIA REPORT By James K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—Most of the women of Switzerland do not want the vote; they are quite content to let the men run public affairs. Which probably means Swiss women are more content, less bossy, than the women of North America.

Now, there are people in this country—including some women—who insist that domestic unhappiness started in earnest when women received the franchise, and who is to gainsay that viewpoint?

In Switzerland a large group of women are so determined that women shall not have the vote that they have banded together in The Federation of Swiss Women against Female Suffrage.

The Federal president, Mrs. Gertrud Haldimann, brave soul, puts it this way: "To make political decisions, you must read the newspapers, and a woman who does her housework and looks after her children, has no time to read the newspapers."

Such a sentiment, of course, sets most North American women into a fury; but the truth undoubtedly is that most women do not read the serious parts of the newspapers—and a lot of men don't either.

Mrs. Haldimann, wise woman, perhaps, a woman of vision, then puts forth a view that will enrage all North American women, and secretly please their husbands, yes secretly, since in a matriarchy which North American society has largely become, no husband dares to express to his wife, or any other lady, what he really thinks, unless he knows they agree.

Here's Mrs. Haldimann's view, a slap at the ladies of North America, which will start them a-screaming: "If North American husbands have to spend their time washing dishes, they have female suffrage to thank for it."

That might well be true; the franchise brought to women of this continent the urge to run public affairs, and if they can't get elected to high office, and very few can, they spend their time at talky, gossipy meetings, and to get to the meetings on time, they rush off and leave the men to put the kids to bed, wash the dishes, and sometimes mop the floor, and do the washing. Women will say this is not true, but very frequently it is, and so ashamed are many of the men at their weakness, that they deny it too.

While women in B.C. have had the franchise for 41 years, only 10 have been elected to our Legislature, though hundreds have run—which leads this column to suspect that women, though saying women should have more say, actually vote against the women candidates.

Here are the 10 who have made history: Liberal Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith; Liberal Mrs. Helen Douglas Smith; C.C.F.'ers Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, Mrs. Laura Jamieson, Mrs. Grace MacInnes; Liberal Mrs. Nancy Hodges; Conservative Mrs. Tilly Rolston; S.C.'er Mrs. Lydia Arsens; and now in the Legislature—C.C.F. Mrs. Lois Haggen of Grand Forks—Greenwood, and S.C. Mrs. Buda Brown of Vancouver-Point Grey.

Odd, too, is the fact that British Columbia voters will never have anything to do with a spinster when it comes to elections to the Provincial Legislature.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Border dispute result of Red China arrogance

By STEWART MacLEOD
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Despite the serious implications of the India-China border wrangling, there appears to be no indication that the dispute will boil into major warfare.

If Red China's Premier Chou En-lai intended fulfilling large-scale territorial ambitions, foreign observers say, he would reasonably be expected to assemble invasion forces near the disputed areas. This hasn't been done.

If, on the other hand, the Chinese want only a few miles of the disputed frontier, the territory—rocks, jungle and mountains—seems barely worth the effort. India's Prime Minister Nehru is the first to admit it.

♣ ♣ ♣

On the face of it, the aggravating Chinese actions along the McMahon line—accepted by India as the frontier—appear to be based on little more than arrogance. With Nehru maintaining a firm but philosophical approach to the threat, and Khrushchev adopting the unusual role of peacemaker, a blowup should be averted.

Relations between China and India began deteriorating sharply last March when Chinese troops invaded Tibet and the Dhlai Lama found sanctuary across the Indian border. Nehru, who has always shown a high degree of tolerance toward his Chinese neighbors eventually condemned their actions. Then border skirmishes broke out between Indian and Chinese troops and the flow of protests between Delhi and Peking turned into a flood.

Some observers feel the Tibet issue led Chou to this needling of Nehru. There have been other suggestions that the Chinese premier wanted only to attract some attention while Khrushchev was stealing headlines with his American tour. Another opinion is that Chou really wants the extra territory—Nehru terms it "a few mountains"—and at the same time test Indian resistance.

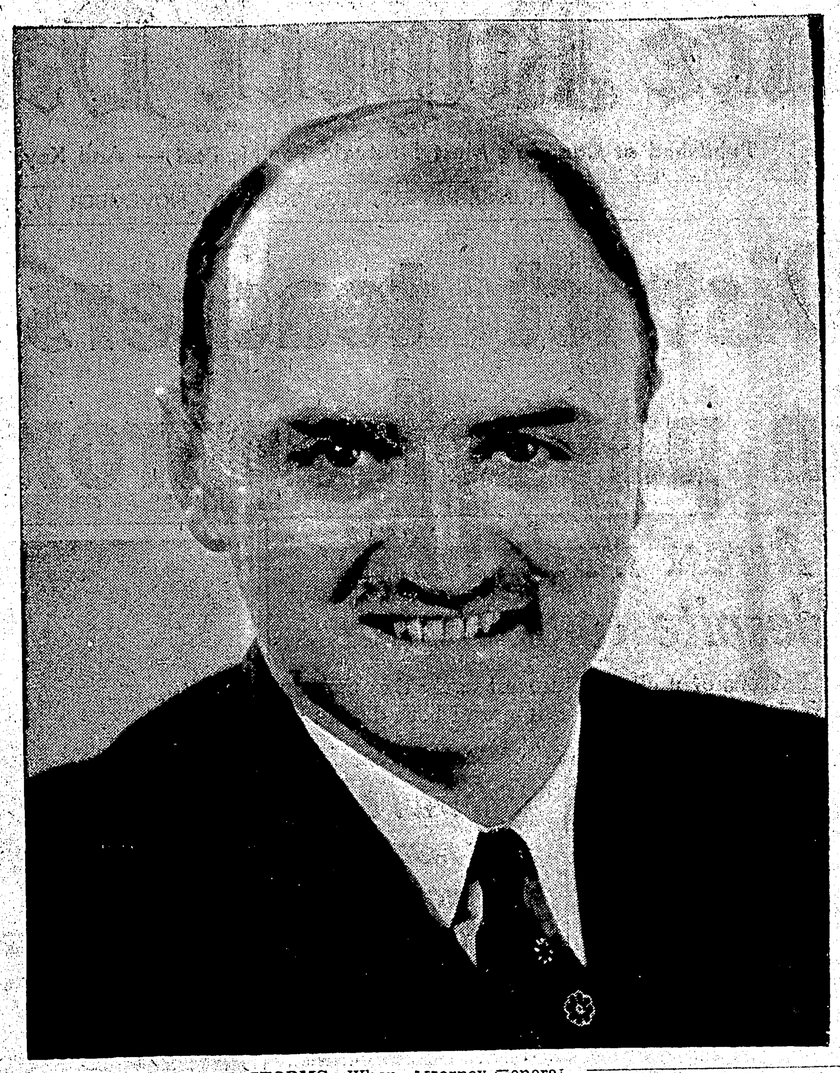
♣ ♣ ♣

Khrushchev may be truly sincere in his efforts to get differences settled. Russia has been giving India extensive economic assistance to combat Western aid, and when American arms were sold to Pakistan, Khrushchev was reported to have offered Russian weapons to India.

If the offer were accepted—there has been no indication from Nehru that it will be—it could mean that Chinese border patrols would be staring at Russian guns. At a time when Khrushchev is anxious to maintain cosy relations with Peking, such implications could be disastrous.

Anyway, Khrushchev would never want India driven any closer to the Western camp. India, ironically, was the country that sponsored a proposal to have Red China admitted to the United Nations. Losing this support could only be construed as a Communist setback.

Because of this, it's surprising China risked the dispute.



WEATHERED A LOT OF STORMS—When Attorney-General Robert Bonner was sworn into Premier Bennett's Social Credit cabinet in 1952 he was 32, the youngest man to hold the office in the history of British Columbia. Since then he's weathered a lot of political storms, including Opposition demands for his resignation over his handling of corruption charges against a fellow minister. The Premier once called him the best attorney-general in Canada. A skilled debater, the Vancouver-born lawyer represents Vancouver-Point Grey constituency in the legislature. —CP photo.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

Margaret L. Murray made a name for herself as the publisher of Canada's liveliest weekly. Her Alaska Highway News was rich with slang, insult and rough, kindly praise of good actions.

Mrs. Murray often used the columns of her paper as a substitute for letter-writing. Instead of replying to a correspondent directly, she would send a letter to the printer.

An unwary friend who wrote to Mrs. Murray ran the risk of having his letter appear in the News.

Some time ago Mrs. Murray handed the Alaska Highway News over to the next generation. But she wasn't able to stay idle for long.

Last month at the age of 71, Mrs. Murray published the first number of another frontier newspaper, the Fort Nelson News, 250-odd miles along the Alaska Highway northeast of Fort St. John.

She's running her new paper in the same rip-roaring way that made the Alaska Highway News famous from coast to coast.

Here's an editorial from the Fort Nelson News that gives the flavor of Mrs. Murray's prose. I make no comment, one way or the other, on her opinions:

"This is an appropriate line for ex-mayor Don McKay of Calgary, who for 14 years whooped Calgary up from a mediocre cow town to the most publicized and loved city in all Canada.

"Don got ulcers, from drinking civic cocktails with the hoi polloi from Timbuctoo or to hell and gone. He got fallen arches from standing in line receiving civic functions.

"He got hangnails from frustration over small-minded officials who took the kudos off Don's suffering and success and then let Don down with a paltry expense account, a niggardly salary and a jealous executive.

"The people of Calgary have a good deal to answer for in the shabby loyalty they did not give Don, when he was under the gun for a few bags of cement.

"Don also got censured for taking a trip some guy paid for, who likely had a 'conshunts' feeling after cleaning up on some deal after a million satisfied customers had come to Calgary to see Don McKay—at Stampede time.

"The people make thugs out of their public men nowadays. They expect public men to do a job and then when it is done in style like Don's, they persecute him for the methods he had to use on their behalf.

"CALGARY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME."

That's Mrs. Murray—a loyal frontier publisher who speaks up for her friends and her beliefs with revival-meeting eloquence.

"If the Public Utilities could only have taken over," she says of Fort Nelson, "what a sweeter winter we could have had, but we'll just have to hold our noses and congratulate ourselves that Tokyo smells a darn sight worse.

"Look at all the conversation pieces we are building up at the rugged northland of Mile 300. All the rest of our lives we can be telling how we roughe dit at Fort Nelson the winter of 1959 without plumbing, paving or pouring water.

". . . Money . . . is tight . . . (but) there will be plenty of folding money earned the next five months and everyone will forget about the uneasy waiting time.

"Let's all shove the corners up. Let's smile for the joy of the living, keep our fingers crossed so that we will treat the workers well who will come to Fort Nelson for the first time. Practise consideration and fair dealing.

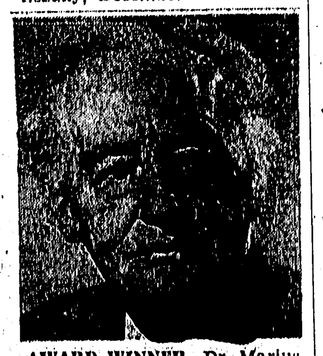
"Let us make the most of the opportunities for ourselves, but let the other guy get a break too."

Civic questions . . . and answers

This is one of a series of questions on city affairs, problems and projects on which Mayor P. J. Lester has offered to provide answers. Questions should be sent to "Civic Questions and Answers," City Hall, Prince Rupert. The answers do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the whole or individual members of City Council.

Q. I expect to be out of the City on election day, will it be possible for me to vote?

A. Election day this year is on Thursday, December 17. There will be an advance poll on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 15 and 16.



AWARD WINNER—Dr. Marius Barbeau of Ottawa has been awarded a medal from the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians for the best Canadian book of the year for children in English, Dr. Barbeau, retired head of the National Museum of Canada, won for "The Golden Phoenix." —CP from Natl. Film Board.

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

Urdu, official language of Pakistan, is a mixture of the old Persian and Arabic.

The Packsack of Gregory Clark

An old retired postman of my acquaintance, letter carriers they are called nowadays, telephoned me to bring him up some of my fine guinea fowl feathers, dyed a lovely pale bronze color, which I got from Scotland, and with which are tied a particular trout fly entitled in my honor the Sneaky. My old friend amuses himself in the winters tying flies.

He was in bed when I arrived. It was that notably foul day last week, with sleet, wild wind and rain flying horizontally. When I came into the sunroom where he lay, I immediately expressed my sympathy.

"Heck," said the old postman, "I never felt better. But I always stay in bed in weather like this. I just love to lie here by the hour looking out the window at the rain and the sleet. I love to hear the rain lashing the window glass. I leave that window slightly ajar so the wind will moan and whistle. And I just lie here and snuggle, thinking of all the thirty-five years I spent, six days a week, winter, summer, spring, fall, in every kind of storm and cold and heat, carrying a great big bag of mail and marching my route."

"And thinking," I added, "of all of us tens of thousands of people right now who are out in it."

"Oh," he said, "nothing is better than a blizzard, and I get up at the break of day to sit at my window and watch the poor creatures wading through it."

The old postman's payoff, we can call it.

The lighter side

Policeman: Didn't you hear me holler to you to stop?

Woman: I didn't know it was you. I thought it was someone I'd run over.

Wife: Now you've done it. The maid quit. She said you talked to her insultingly over the phone.

Husband: Ye Gods! I thought I was talking to you"

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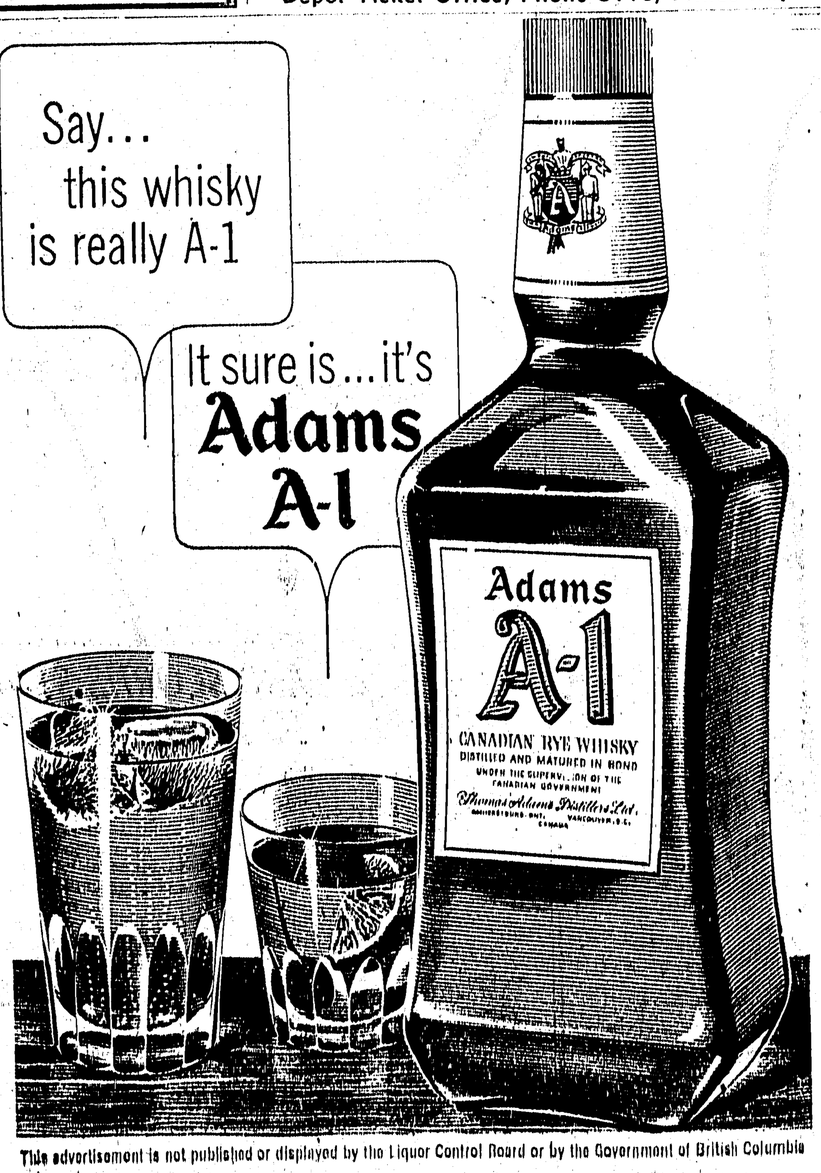

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