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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1959

Let parliament act on flag issue now

WE are cheered on the one hand by Ontario Premier Frost's action in designing what looks like a reasonable 100 per cent Canadian flag and on the other by the fact that J. A. Picard, president of the Native Sons of Canada, has come to his senses and apologized for his plan to label members of parliament as patriots, enemies or cowards depending on their attitude towards the Native Sons' version of a flag.

Earlier in the week Premier Frost had the Union Jack on the Ontario Legislative buildings replaced by the Red Ensign. It was a somewhat drastic step but, we believe, a step in the right direction. His own design, places 10 maple leaves around the Canadian crest which should satisfy most critics. Certainly Parliament never seems to find time or take the trouble to act on the flag question. Back in 1946 a parliamentary committee accepted a design for an official all-Canadian flag, but the group's report was never acted on by the government.

Let us hope that Mr. Frost's action will force the government into action now.

Mr. Picard's action and subsequent retraction was more serious. Any MPs answering "yes" to the question of whether they favored the Native Sons' flag design were to be called patriots; those answering in the negative were to be called enemies and a refusal to reply would draw the coward label. "I realize it was in poor taste," Mr. Picard said later.

Mr. Picard was so right. Any time it becomes a crime to express an opinion in Canada, Mr. Picard wants to start screaming for a bill of rights before worrying about a flag. If memory serves us right the Natives Sons flag is formed of two triangles with a maple leaf dead centre. It looks more like a distress call than a national flag and is about as Canadian as a hot tamale. We have no intention of quarreling with the Native Sons, who without a doubt, next to the Indian, are Canada's second-ranking citizens. So if it's all the same to them we'll let parliament decide the flag issue as well as the adoption of "O Canada" as a national anthem. There are many of us, in Canada, who though we've only lived here three or four decades, still like the unrestricting ties with royalty. We still like to sing the hymn asking for continuance of the Queen's health. And by the same token, while Governor General Vincent Massey is without question a great Canadian, he doesn't inspire the same loyal emotion in one's breast as does Queen Elizabeth of Britain and the Commonwealth.

Sold

TOO often our age appears a harsh one from which most of the graces of life have fled. Then all at once something turns up with the gentle reminder that there are fine things happening every day.

It may be something simple, such as this news item from Washington D.C.

District of Columbia police recently auctioned off about 100 unclaimed bicycles. For the first bike up, an eleven-year-old boy bid. The bike was sold for a good deal more.

Each time a bike came up, the youngster hopefully exclaimed, "One dollar."

Now the man in charge, by name Robert Weschler, had been at the business of auctioning stolen or lost bicycles for 43 years. It did not escape his notice that the youngster's heart seemed to be set firmly upon a racer. Every time a racer came up the hopes soared, only to be cruelly dashed.

Before long there was just one racer left. The bidding climbed to $8.

"Sold to that boy over there for $9," said the auctioneer. He took $8 from his own pocket and called on the eleven-year-old for his dollar. The boy counted out the money—in nickles, dimes and quarters.

For a few moments the rush of joyful pride in his new possession drove out every other thought.

He was wheeling it away when, after a few feet, he stopped. Carefully parking the precious bike he went back, threw his arms around Weschler's neck, and cried.

—The Montreal Gazette.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

U.S. now hesitant about test ban treaty

By GEORGE KITCHEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The United States is experiencing some obvious and understandable second thoughts about the wisdom of entering into an atomic test ban agreement with the Soviet Union.

Less than a month ago, Washington was exhibiting high optimism that the Soviets might finally be ready to strike a workable agreement with the U.S. and the United Kingdom, the two Western atomic powers, and that it might be signed some time this year.

But now American officials, and some elements in Congress in particular, are plagued by doubts about whether it would be prudent to go along with a test ban at the present time.

★ ★ ★

It's likely that the doubts will increase if the Russians do not respond positively to a new concession by the U.S and Britain. On Monday the two Western countries dropped their demand that duration of any test ban treaty be linked with progress in disarmament.

The change in mood developed after a panel of U.S scientists reported to President Eisenhower new evidence indicating that underground atomic tests actually are much harder to detect than was believed last summer when technical experts from Russia and the Western countries agreed at Geneva that an adequate test detection system was feasible.

Eisenhower promptly placed the evidence before Eastern and Western delegates now meeting in Geneva to see if they can work about an agreement based on the earlier conclusions.

The report added fuel to the long-standing controversy in U.S. scientific and political circles over whether a ban on all nuclear tests would, in fact, be in the national interest. Some feel it would hamper the development of new weapons in the U.S.

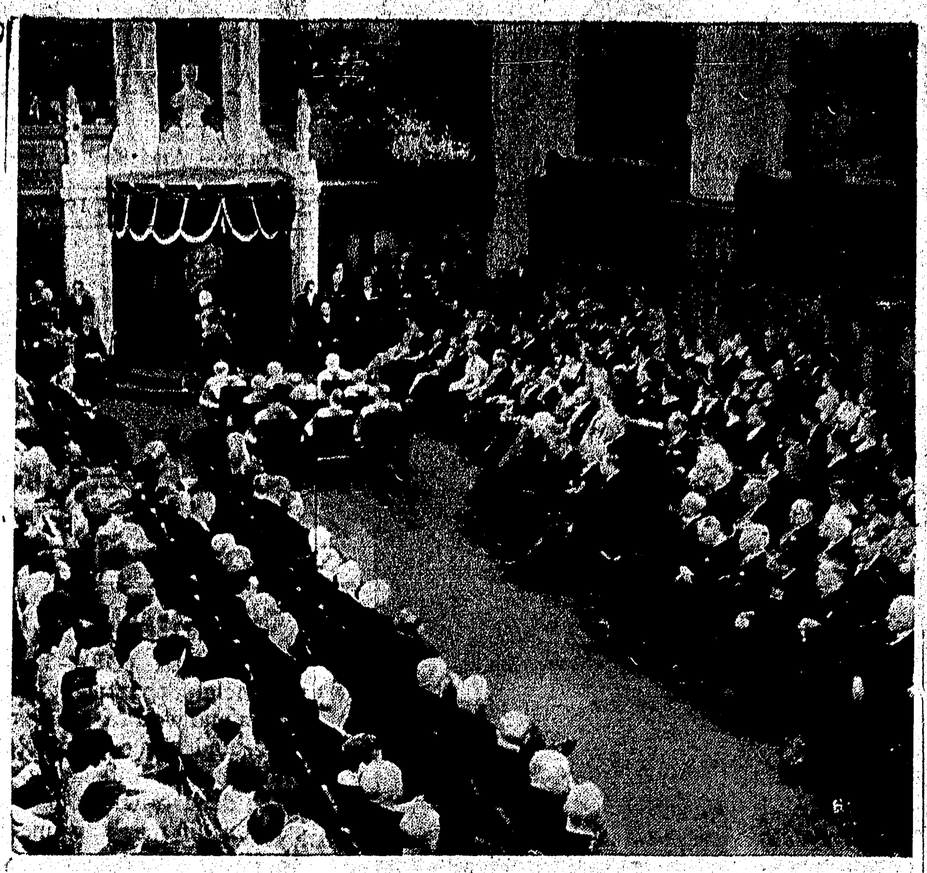
And it gave weight to the arguments of those congressmen who oppose a ban on the grounds the Soviet, under their system of tightly-controlled internal security, would be more likely to "cheat" on an international prohibition than would the Western powers.

The panel, basing its conclusions on new data obtained from underground tests conducted in Nevada last October, reported that it may be as much as 10 times more difficult to distinguish between an underground nuclear explosion and an earthquake than previous had been thought.

The upshot is that American officials now believe the worldwide 180-station control system for a nuclear ban, approved at the East-West scientific conference last August, may be only 50 per cent effective instead of 90 per cent, as previously estimated.

Before this new assessment had been made, it had been estimated that a nuclear power trying to cheat on the ban would run a 90-per-cent risk of being caught once the proposed 180-station system was functioning. The risk now may be reduced to 50 per cent—five chances in 10 instead of nine in 10 of being caught.

The report, released by the president's science advisory committee, makes it unlikely the U.S will sign any agreement on suspending tests until full account of the new findings has been taken in the development of a control and inspection system.



SPEECH FROM THE THRONE —Governor General Vincent Massey reads the Speech from the Throne before members of the House of Commons and the Senate and their wives at the opening of the 24th parliament last Thursday. —CP photo.

All Aboard *By G.E. Mortimore*

Twenty-four states of the U.S. have adopted laws compelling telephone party-line users to give up the line for an emergency.

This fact comes from an article entitled "Is Your Telephone Really Private?" by Leonard Gross, in the current Pageant magazine.

If they refuse to yield, party-line hogs can be summonsed before the magistrate.

"In New Jersey a few months ago, a baby died while its parents tried to make an emergency call to hospital and two women refused to give up the party line.

"In Marin County, California, a few years ago, the wife of a chef went through a nightmare argument with the other subscriber to her party line while her husband was fighting for his breath and life.

"Twice she tried to get help once from her doctor and once when her husband began to change color, for the respirator crew of the fire department.

"She pleaded and cried hysterically, but could not get the line. When the doctor and fire department arrived, her husband was dead."

That's one thing I have noticed about party-line hogs. They're stubborn. The more often you lift the receiver, the longer they keep talking.

They feel that they are being bullied. They make up their minds to hang on longer, so as to show their independence.

The party-line hog is a selfish and unpleasant kind of animal.

Ordinary decency should lead a telephone-user to hang up after there had been two or three clicks to indicate that someone else wanted to talk. To the telephone-hog, however, decency is an unknown word.

What need is there, in any event, for a telephone conversation to go more than five or 10 minutes?

A women's magazine recently printed a handy tip to housewives: install a blackboard in your kitchen, so you can write questions and answers silently to the children without interrupting your telephone conversation.

Why not ring off, talk to the children or cuff them smartly, and let someone else use the phone for a while? Things have come to a sad pass, when a magazine advises housewives how to hog the telephone.

There are two ways to check the telephone hogs: Pass a law similar to those in the United States, laying down heavy penalties for people who refuse to yield the line in emergencies; and put a time limit on ordinary calls. Anything over five minutes would have to be paid for, at a rate growing progressively steeper.

A system similar to this, I believe, is in use in some parts of Britain.

Sharp measures may be needed to pry telephone barnacles loose.

LETTERBOX

APPRECIATION

The Editor,
The Daily News:

On behalf of the Girl Guide Local association for the Prince Rupert district, I would like through your newspaper to express to the entire community our thanks for the support given to our Guides and Brownies during 1958. There has been a tremendous increase in our enrolment, with a consistent need for additional leaders, and the response to this has been most gratifying.

Last summer we were exceedingly fortunate in having a Guide Camp at Lake Lakelse for the entire Northern Lights Division. Without the generous co-operation of the citizens and merchants of our city, it would not have been possible for our Prince Rupert Guides to attend this camp, and we therefore extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way towards this very worthwhile experience.

To the members of the staff of the Prince Rupert Daily News, we wish to pay special attention. It has been most interesting to us to note that in a provincial record of Guide and Brownie press reports, Prince Rupert ranks near the top, and this is only by virtue of the generous space allowed our organization in your paper. Would you, please convey to your staff, and particularly to women's editor Grace Brown, our sincere appreciation for her efforts on our behalf.

It is co-operation such as we have been receiving from the community during the past year which encourages our Guides and Brownies to maintain this standard of Guiding in Prince Rupert.

Prince Rupert Girl Guide
Local Association,
per Mrs. L. S. McGill,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Speaking good French

From La Tribune, Sherbrooke

At the same time as we are claiming the rights of French and demanding that more extensive bilingualism be practised among our fellow-citizens of the English language, we ourselves are not showing much pride in this language about which we boast so much. Is not our love of French more a topic for inflammatory speech-making, rather than a profound conviction expressed by a willingness to speak it with an ever-greater perfection . . . If French is worth the trouble of being preserved, surely we should make the efforts necessary to speak it correctly.

Winter port

From Le Devoir, Montreal

It appears that Quebec must become a winter port in the near future. This would be an enormous advantage for the city, the region and the whole province. It is generally known that Quebec is a city very vulnerable to unemployment and more particularly to that of a seasonable nature. Winter navigation might remedy this situation to a great extent. And Quebeckers entertain the hope that such activity maintained through twelve months of the year would allow them to attract to their city a greater number of industries. In that event, Quebec would be the great winter port for the whole of eastern Canada.

"Musts" for poets

By John Betjenan,
British poet

"The art of writing poetry is keeping that natural ear for rhythm with which we are all born, and having something to say. I notice that a great many unpublished poets think that it is enough to write what they have to say in short lines which do not scan with the ones before, and which do not even have a rhythm of their own. You can only write in free verse when you have first learned to write in the strict traditional metres from which you intend to free yourself. Others write in the traditional metres, but they have nothing to say that has not been heard already and they use dead words which are associated with poetry and have become mere conventions and hackneyed phrases."

"Out to make a profit"

The Financial Post

After 75 years of heavy pummeling, businessmen are far too timid about proclaiming or even admitting, the basic facts of economic life.

That was the theme of a recent speech we liked by the boss of Sun Oil. His name is Robert Dunlop.

He said bluntly that business is "out to make a profit."

Dunlop said: "If we can demonstrate that business actually is 'out to make a profit' —and why it must do so if it is to survive—I believe we accomplish a good deal. We cannot do these things as long as we are defensive about profits—as long as we act as though we are almost ashamed of earning them."

"It is high time that we took the offensive on the subject of profits—to get before the public the true story of what profits we make and where they go," he said.

Canadian manufacturers in 1957 made an average profit after taxes of 5.2 cents on the sales dollar.

Of this profit, an average of 2.3 cents was paid in dividends and 2.9 cents retained. The mean average of profits in relation to sales over the last 10 years in Canada was 5.72 cents. The highest and lowest were seven cents in 1950 and five in 1952.

These profits were used, as Mr. Dunlop suggests, to provide plant and tools and jobs. Without an understanding of the function of profit, all sorts of nonsense gets attention.

DUNMOW, England (AP)—The 800-year-old tradition of the Dunmow flitch trials in this Essex town, whereby a flitch of bacon is awarded to the happiest married couple, may be resumed this year after a lapse of five years.

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Issued by Authority of Hon. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour