

### Not Prince Rupert!

CENTRAL British Columbia Airways is to be congratulated on the inauguration of its new line between Prince George and Terrace which is marked by a successful guest flight yesterday, of which is recorded elsewhere in the Daily News. Prince Rupert will join with other communities of the central interior district in wishing the best to President Russ Baker and his company in the operation of a service. It will be a big step to that part of the country, marking as it does growing development of transportation services in an area which is going ahead by leaps and bounds. If the experience of other air services which have been established in this part of the country, such as those of Canadian Pacific Airlines and the Charlotte Air Lines out of Prince Rupert, is accepted as any indication, the traffic will soon reach such volume that the company will be having problems in coping with its size. Finding of the necessary aircraft and facilities are already serious-impeding air travel in and out of Prince Rupert. In connection with the new service of Central Airways, Prince Rupert, of course, has one big drawback—that is that lack of landing field facilities. This situation renders it impossible for the field to be extended to the coast here. It goes without saying that it would be done had we had a field. But we may have some justification in looking forward again more hopefully to the possibility of the Rupert getting this air field. Representations made only a few days ago on the floor of the House of Commons at Ottawa when E. T. Appleton, MP for Skeena, told of the shame of a city of the size and exceptionally strategic importance of Prince Rupert still being without the facilities for modern commercial air service. The assurance of the minister of transport, Mr. Applewhite had spoken, that the case for an air field would be reviewed was encouraging.

### Pacific Pact

THE FACT that the United States, Australia and New Zealand are to negotiate a security pact in the U.K. will take no part has given rise to a lot of comment and speculation. It has been noted in more than one quarter that this signifies a drawing away on the part of Australia and New Zealand from the Commonwealth and from their connections towards a new association in which they would be linked rather with the U.S.A. and the U.K. But that does not necessarily must appear a little strange to some people. It is possible and compatible with the existence of the Commonwealth that two of its members sign a treaty of alliance with a state outside the Commonwealth, by themselves and without other members. But there is nothing strange, or even new, in the U.K. and Canada—the two North Atlantic Treaty. It seems just as natural that specific Commonwealth states should sign a treaty which applies to their own area. That seems exceedingly illogical. But the first thing to be realized about the Commonwealth is that although it is completely illogical, it has, none the less, a very real existence. The U.S.A. Government appreciates the position perfectly well and the Atlantic Treaty Association, like the informal conversations which have taken place already, has started on the assumption that links between the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand are so strong and complete that their existence and their permanence can be taken as a matter of course.

### Scripture Passage for Today

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice."  
Philippians 4:4.

### For the MEAL that REFRESHES

BEST OF FOOD  
FINEST OF COOKING

FOR TAKE OUT ORDERS PHONE 200

### BROADWAY CAFE

### State Houses Sell Rapidly

By J. C. GRAHAM  
Canadian Press Correspondent

WELLINGTON, N.Z. (P)—Since it announced late last year that state rental houses could be bought by tenants, the New Zealand government has sold homes valued at \$3,000,000. It is continuing to sell them at the rate of 60 a week.

Apart from the original announcement, no direct approach has been made to tenants and no advertising campaign has been undertaken. Houses are being sold as fast as the staff can handle valuations, preparation of titles and transfers.

The government is thus implementing its housing policy on "Own Your Own," and at the same time disposing of a liability which was costing the taxpayers about \$700,000 a year.

Under the former Labor regime a large number of government-built houses were rented at low rates to the public. The government became easily the biggest landlord in the country, with whole suburbs of state houses to rent in some towns. Well designed, built and equipped, the detached houses are built to hundreds of different plans to avoid uniformity.

The Labor regime refused to sell houses to tenants, however, so that although the rentals were low, occupants could never acquire a private interest in them. At the same time rentals were fixed at a rate which would not pay interest on capital cost.

### NO COMPULSION

When Prime Minister Holland introduced the selling plan last year there were about 34,000 state houses built throughout the country. There is no compulsion to buy. Houses are sold to occupants only and if a tenant does not wish to buy he is guaranteed undisturbed occupation on a rental basis.

Houses are sold at current replacement values payable over a period of years with interest at three per cent so long as the buyer occupies the house himself. Houses can be bought outright for cash if desired. A reduction of 10 per cent is made in the form of a suspensory loan which is written off after the purchaser has owned and occupied the house for seven years. Under a mortgage insurance scheme for which a small premium is charged, any balance owing on the house is automatically written off if the breadwinner dies under the age of 60.

The result of these arrangements is that in many cases weekly payments by home buyers are very little more than they were paying as tenants.

The government is continuing to build many state houses for the duration of the existing acute housing shortage, but it hopes gradually to reduce construction.

### As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

### STRAY BITS ON ROME

Rome, Italy — It is a little more than a week since I reached Rome, but that time has made all the difference in the weather. The warm April sun has now chased the chill away.

Lord Boyd Orr (a rugged old Scots Presbyterian) has played hockey from the conference on world government for a special audience with the Pope himself. My wife and the only other Canadian lady here are being shown the sights of Rome by a nun of the (mostly American) Catholic Order of the Holy Family of the Nazareth. Down below my hotel room, in the warm afternoon, the sidewalk cafes are thronged with customers.

It seems like a good time to clean up my desk of odds and ends, and my stray Rome memos.

ONE SAY'S "COPS' armbands." It means, Elmore, remember to write a bit about the Roman police. Some wear armbands reading ENGLISH, FRANCAISE, DEUTSCH. These mean that this particular police officer speaks the language named.

The policemen are very obliging here. I came out of our convention the other night fairly late. I wondered how the dickens I would get home to our hotel. I shouted to one of the several policemen at the door: "Where do I go to get a taxi—where do I get a taxi?" He said something to me in Italian and dashed off. In a minute he was back on a bike telling me to wait there. In about five minutes he was back escorting a taxi. He refused a tip.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE old saying, "when in Rome do as the Romans do." They are the worst jay-walkers here I ever saw.

Also, the thousands of visitors who throng the sacred sites here have anything but completely holy ways. At St. Paul's Church for instance, the guides show you the spots in the fine stone pillars where visitors have stolen thousands of the little bits of the

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Prince Rupert Daily News  
Thursday, May 3, 1951

colored glass which go to make up the mosaic pattern.

Come to think of it, anybody who would actually steal a souvenir from a church must be a pretty queer duck. I hasten to add that people from all the world and, of course, of ALL religious connections, visit these shrines.

MY IMPRESSION is that Communism has visibly faded in Italy since my wife and I were here before, just two years ago.

Right now, the Italian Convention of the Communist Party is going on here and placards about it are on thousands of walls. But the advertising looks artificial. Two years ago, you could hardly find a wall in Italy that did not have hand-chalked Communist slogans, mostly against the Atlantic Pact.

ITALY IS VISIBLY more prosperous—or perhaps I should say less visibly impoverished—than it was two years ago.

Of course, all things are relative. By our standards, millions here live in appalling conditions. But, as measured by conditions in India, these people are well off.

ALMOST EVERY Italian that I meet seems to understand English to some extent. Also, just about every educated Italian speaks French. This morning for instance, I heard Madame Montessori, the world-famous child educationist, in one of the finest speeches I have ever heard. Like all other Italian speakers at this conference, she spoke in French. The Scandinavians and Dutch also speak in English, as do all

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