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Mayor Must Decide

F A lot of outside advice were offered to Mayor Hills at this point, it would not only cast an ill-fated question on his judgment but invite confusion where none is wanted.

In the vote of non-confidence against Alderman Casey as board of works chairman, the Mayor faces the first serious test of his present position. Frequently compromise is a useful and justified course, but in this case there is no room for it. The lines are too sharply drawn and nothing less than an emphatic answer will do.

The Mayor does not need to be told that he has a good council and that, in the recent elections, some very decisive returns were recorded by the voters. Ahead lie problems which may make this one look small in contrast. Undoubtedly Mayor Hills is more aware of these facts than anyone.

So the decision rests squarely with him. If there is disagreement with his choice of action—and there is no reason to suppose there will be—it will soon express itself. Meanwhile it is his privilege to speak first.

Alcan's Debt

TO PAY off its outstanding bank loans and to obtain cash needed for the completion of its building program, the Company has borrowed an additional \$50,000,000 through the sale of Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. debentures bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. The Company has thus increased its debt to the public by the considerable sum of \$50 million.

The previous public financing was in April 1953 when \$30,000,000 par value second preferred stock bearing 5¼ per cent interest was issued. Before that Alcan had sold two other debenture issues, one of \$50 million and the other of \$90 million. Thus, in the last few years, Alcan has borrowed \$220,000,000 from the general public through these financings alone. Over the years to come this great sum must be repaid to the investors who, in many cases, are you and I if we own insurance policies or have savings accounts since most insurance companies and banks keep our premiums and deposits at work earning interest by buying such securities.

The borrowed money together with other funds have been and are being used to build new plants, and thus create new payrolls. In the Province of Quebec, large sums of money were spent to erect two new powerhouses on the Peribonka River, and to add a 71,500 ton smelter to the existing facilities at Alcan's Isle Maligne installation. Alcan subsidiaries also spent around \$10,000,000 to improve services and supplies to Alcan.

Out in British Columbia, the vast Alcan project, started in 1951, is moving steadily along towards the completion of the first phase in mid-summer of this year.

It takes a lot of money these days to build anything, and it also takes a lot of vision to plan the manufacture of the aluminum and the sale of the metal in the markets of the free world so that the debts will be discharged. Each one of us in Alcan can rightfully take pride that we play a part on a team that is doing so much to build our country—not only for ourselves but for our families and the generations to follow us. —Alcan Press, Kingston

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Mr. Knight, MP, was speaking the other evening on parents and children, and incidentally, defining the word "homicide." Said Hansard, in reporting him: "The parents go off for an evening's entertainment. They come back to find the children as well as the house in ashes. That is one thing."

About the only thing you can say in favor of being fully occupied is that you haven't time to notice the weather, observes a contemporary.

Premier St. Laurent is expected to take off from Japan, or elsewhere in the East on or about March 17, following a world flight. It's a grand tour, even if it does mean landing in San Francisco.

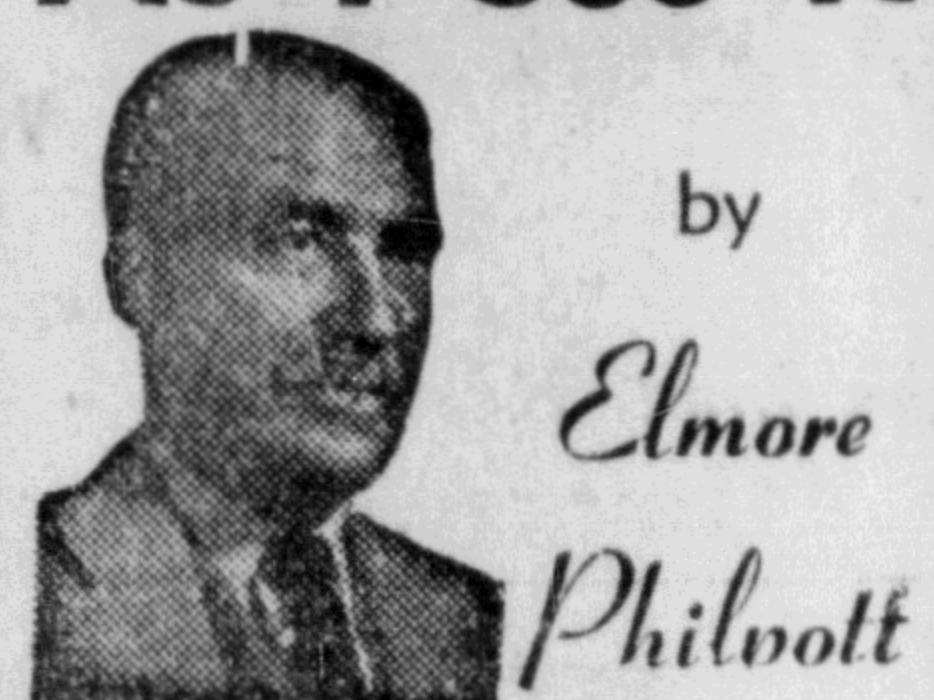
Eric Nicol, the columnist, says all of us have to take Sunday

off, no matter what the weather is like. So he has a suggestion. Instead of having a fixed day off each week, why not pick the first one you see. Not a half bad idea, although involving a few complications.

Eight thousand more emigrants, fresh from overseas, due in Halifax in another few days. Not one will even begin to realize the size of Canada until after the first 25 or 30 years.

O CANADA
It's generally thought that in Canada railway porters get their meals on the trains as part of their wages. Nothing of the sort. They pay in the diners, getting one-third off. Here was a chance to spring money making wagers. We are so all-fired wise and who ever imagined the porter, with his little whisk, had to pay his shot.

As I See It



by Elmore Philbott

To Speed Houses

THE NEW national Housing Act has now been passed unanimously by the House of Commons committee.

It was strange but true that such a complicated and extensive measure could go through the entire committee stage without a single division or vote. This was chiefly because the committee members, or all parties tried very hard to meet each other's wishes. It was also a considerable tribute to the tact of the chairman, David Croll, MP, of Toronto-Spadina.

THE NEW Act is designed to build at least 135,000 houses per year instead of the 105,000 which Canada actually did build last year.

To do this it will be necessary to attract new mortgage money. For the first time in the history of Canada, the chartered banks are to be allowed to lend money on mortgages. But all mortgages, provided from all sources under this Act, are to be insured by the federal government agency. This striking feature takes most of the risk out of the transaction so far as the lending institutions are concerned.

IT WAS a strange experience to sit in the committee, cross examining the witnesses, and hear and compare what they were saying with the speeches they made at that very moment in another part of this House of Parliament.

On the floor of the House of Commons, MPs were claiming that we were in the beginning of another depression and that we had more than 500,000 unemployed.

But only a few yards away, in the committee room, the heads of the construction industry in Canada, and the spokesmen for the labor unions, were predicting higher wages in the house construction field. They were also predicting a shortage of building material, at least when the new Housing Act reaches the peak of its activity this year.

To me, the two things did not seem to tie together. I just do not see how there can be widespread demands for higher wages, and higher prices for materials, if we are anything near the saturation point in the market for homes or anything else.

ONE OF the interesting facts which emerged out of the testimony is that section 36 of the new Act provides ready-made machinery for any municipality to go ahead with a large scale low rental housing scheme.

The City of Vancouver, for instance, could secure federal financing up to 75% of the total cost of any low rental housing project, provided only that it could secure the co-operation of the province to the extent of the remaining 25%.

Moreover, there is no restriction on how the province would have to put up its 25% share of the total cost. It might arrange for the municipality to finance part of its one-quarter of the total cost. Or it might arrange for private investors to do so, on its behalf.

The only stipulation is that the province must assume one-quarter liability on all such projects—and that the dwellings must go to people of genuinely low income.

WHATEVER may have been the mistakes of the past, the machinery is there now for future action. The new Act will make it possible for scores of thousands of people to buy their own homes, on long term, and for a down payment of 10% in most cases.

But a more important provision is that the new Act carries a ready-made, standing invitation whereby every city in Canada can get plentiful, low cost rental housing for families which do not earn enough to buy or rent homes for themselves in the open market.

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THIS IS HOW many books you'll have to read before you get your diploma, Harriet Carrol (left), a senior at Marymount College in Los Angeles, tells freshman Joanne McKay. Harriet is the daughter of Hollywood songwriter Harry Carrol, author of such hits as "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" and "Trail of the Lonesome Pine."

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The battle for election of a National President at the next week's meeting of the Progressive Conservatives shapes up as a warm one. It will be between two of the party's most interesting figures—the veteran Hon. Earl Rowe and the comparative tyro George Hees, M.P. for Toronto-Broadview.

The past is approximately equivalent to that of Party Organizer. And from the standpoint of exercising this function the PC's are in the fortunate position for once of being unable to make a mistake, regardless of which candidate they choose. Both have what the position takes: capacity for hard work, dynamic and abundant energy, forceful, aggressive and attractive personality, and, finally, quick and good political judgment.

But it is interesting to note that if the PC's should choose Rowe they would be returning directly to the great A. D. McRae organizing tradition. General McRae was the organizer for former Prime Minister Bennett in the 1930 campaign. He was widely regarded as the architect of the noteworthy victory won by the party in that election. Similarly, the extent of the party's defeat in 1935 was attributed by many to Bennett's failure to retain him for that campaign.

Rowe was one of General McRae's intimate friends. He was associated with him in many party projects and was a close

Police Scatter Demonstrators

TEHRAN, Iran (Reuters) — Police fired in the air today and successfully scattered demonstrators calling for the election to Parliament of former foreign minister Hussein Fatemi, missing since he was reported "torn to pieces" by mobs last August but later reported to have fled the country.

The demonstrators handed out leaflets in Tehran's main streets proclaiming Fatemi as underground leader of the national resistance movement. They urged the population to elect him to Parliament during the current balloting in the capital. Fatemi served as top spokesman for Mohammed Mosedeg's government which was overthrown in street riots last August. Gen. Fazlollah Zahedi's succeeding government preferred treason charges against both men, sent Mosedeg to jail for three years, and has been hunting Fatemi ever since.



MARINE SGT. Thomas L. White of New Haven, Conn., proudly holds sad-eyed Muldoon, his entry in a dog show held by the First Marine Division in Korea. The pooch, who claims to be a "small-scale St. Bernard," won first prize in the puppy class. The trophy Muldoon won is almost as big as he is.

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Report From PARLIAMENT

By E. J. Applin (MP for Skeena)

The Berlin decisions of the Four Powers to summon a conference in Geneva April 26 to negotiate peace settlements in Korea and Indo-China—or, more accurately, to explore the possibility of achieving settlements—has been criticized with some bitterness by the South Koreans and Nationalist Chinese; and some U.S. Congressmen fear it is a form of recognition of Communist China. There appears to be little warrant for such fears and more reason to agree with Mr. John Foster Dulles, the U.S. Secretary of State, that the conference agreement marks an important advance, breaking as it does the long deadlock at Panmunjom. We all know that the Communists want Red China admitted to United Nations membership and they are determined that she shall succeed to the position now occupied by Nationalist China as a Security Council Power. But this Geneva conference is to discuss Korea and Indo-China and to this discussion "other interested states" are invited. Korea and Indo-China are two very troublesome but localized problems and I am sure we all welcome any prospect of their settlement. The Hon. L. B. Pearson advised the House of Commons that Canada received formal invitation to attend the Geneva conference and has accepted the invitation.

One of the most popular members, Bert Herridge, CCF, Kootenay West, has been away ill for two months. We were all delighted to see him back in his place on March 1st. It happened that on that day there was a recorded vote, all parties in the House gave him a big hand—the traditional way of welcoming back a popular member who has been ill.

John Dickey, parliamentary assistant to Mr. Howe, has tabled a government publication, "Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1954." I am trying to get enough of these to supply the banks in my district, and if anyone else would like one, I will gladly supply him.

One of the more colorful members of the House is W. K. (Bucko) McDonald, of Parry Sound, Muskoka, Liberal. Old-timers will remember that some twenty years ago, Bucko was one of the best-known professional hockey players in Canada. He has been a Member since 1945.

John Diefenbaker, a few days ago directed a question to the Postmaster-General asking him whether his attention had been drawn to complaints with regard to unreasonable delays in the delivery of mail to those in the armed forces in Korea. The P-M-G replied that it was the first intimation he had had of such complaints. I know that on my short visit to Korea I found no complaints at all of delays—al-

A few days ago, Mr. Speaker broke a tradition in the House when, on the opening of a session he introduced to the House a visitor in the Gallery. It was an occasion which fully justified his action, as the visitor was Mr. Dag Hammarskjold. The Speaker said that we were all pleased and proud to note the presence in our gallery of one who is devoting his brilliant talents, vast experience and dynamic energy to the realistic application of the high purposes and principles set forth in the United Nations charter, the Secretary General of the United Nations. Speaking both in English and in French, Mr. Speaker addressed Mr. Hammarskjold directly and said to him "We marvel at your splendid career as a statesman and a diplomat which is a source of inspiration for us." The Speaker then reminded the House that Mr. Hammarskjold was elected Secretary General of the United Nations on April 7, 1953, less than a year ago, but had already won general admiration and respect. The Secretary General

student of his organizing methods. His selection as National President presumably would herald, therefore, a return to the McRae organizing technique—reckoned as the most effective which the party has known in more than a quarter of a century.

George Hees, on the other hand, has a completely reverse appeal which nevertheless carries a high degree of potency. It is characteristic of Hees that he borrows nothing consciously from the past. A person of boundless energy, enthusiasm, and high sincerity, he has made a study of the present-day problems of winning elections and tailored up-to-date organization methods to fit them. They have worked in his own case and where others have tried his formula—he has written an ABC pamphlet on organization, they have had an impressive measure of success.

LETTERBOX

The Editor, The Daily News:

I believe that Alderman Lyons, seconded by Ald. McLean, moving a vote of non-confidence in the chairman of the board of works, Ald. Casey, were both voting against themselves.

Basing their motion on a charge that Ald. Casey invited the works mechanic into a discussion on proposed purchases of machinery against the council's wishes, it transpired that this same mechanic has been sent along with the engineer to purchase this same machinery—by the common consent of city council.

It would seem that if the idea of the mechanic accompanying the engineer to purchase the machinery was approved, then by that same act, the discussion of said purchases prior to purchase is also approved in principle.

Or else there was no sense in sending the mechanic along to assist in purchasing a product the engineer had already decided upon.

EDWARD W. GREEN, Prince Rupert.

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