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The 'Sunshine Budget'

IN HIS BOOK "How To Win Friends and Influence People" Dale Carnegie never discussed tax reduction. He did not need to, as witness the example of Finance Minister Abbott yesterday as he knocked off a percentage here and a fee there. Even the opposition was applauding him.

There is no secret to it. It is a political stratagem as old as the parliamentary system itself. Yet it has never grown unattractive with age.

At the same time, not much of a case can be made against Mr. Abbott proving that he was motivated by purely political considerations. With or without an election in the offing, he was on firm economic ground in offering his "sunshine budget." Canadians have been saving their money, with the result that it has gone into industrial development and the country's productivity has increased. Canada, in brief, has become wealthier.

With a bigger pot to draw from, Mr. Abbott is able to reduce the percentage of his take and still come out ahead. He has done so with a fine eye for the little niceties. Cigarette smokers will appreciate his gift of four cents off a pack. Radio listeners will be glad to see their own particular fee eliminated. Cheque signers will exult at the demise of their three-cent stamp, and all will rejoice at having 11 per cent chopped off their income tax.

Although it is a budget designed to please the family, Mr. Abbott has remembered to give encouragement to our national industry. In a recent submission to him, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce said:

"Corporate tax rates at their present levels are so high that they are adversely affecting corporate saving at a time when vast amounts of capital are required not only for resource and other development, but also to finance a vigorous replacement of obsolescent plant and equipment in order to increase productivity, and to place a more solid foundation under our current wage rates."

Mr. Abbott has heeded the advice well, particularly as it affects smaller corporations. In doing so, he is not only encouraging little companies to expand but is also promoting an incentive to start new business. This should do much to increase still further the country's gross national product which Mr. Abbott views so optimistically.

To some extent, the Finance Minister must be considered lucky. To be able to produce a painless budget with an election not far off is more effective politically than a thousand brilliant speeches on the hustings.

Simultaneously, however, it must also be conceded that he has shrewdly evaluated Canada's blossoming economy. It is by no means all fluke that the hatchet man is now the sunshine man.

Diplomats Watching For New Trends When Assembly Reconvenes

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.—Diplomatic observers throughout the world are awaiting the reopening of the United Nations General Assembly for indications of any new currents in international affairs.

Oil Refinery One of Safest Places to Work

One of the safest places to work in Canada is an oil refinery.

The Montreal East Refinery of Shell Oil Company of Canada finished 1952 with a record of 1,473,395 hours of accident-free performance. Some 700 employees at this refinery worked 380 days without a mishap that caused lost time.

Last October Shell's Montreal East Refinery employees were presented with an Award of Merit and safety award pencils by the Quebec Industrial Safety League to mark one million accident-free man hours. The Shell refinery was one of six Quebec industrial plants to mark up this record.

By December 17 refinery employees had completed a year without a lost-time accident.

The Greek astronomer Hipparchus of the 2nd century BC is considered the founder of accurate astronomy.

The Assembly is scheduled to resume its seventh session, adjourned late last December, on February 24.

Although it is still impossible to guess what can come out of the session, observers here agree that the one outstanding problem among the items before the Assembly will be that of Korea. The first part of the Assembly had passed by a large majority a compromise Indian proposal. This proposal was designed primarily to meet the objections of U.N. countries furnishing forces in the Korean fighting to the forcible repatriation of prisoners of war. At the same time, it was to overcome objections to earlier proposals on Korea by the Chinese-North Korean allies and their Eastern European supporters in the Assembly.

This resolution, however, met with a sharp rejection by the Chinese and North Korean authorities. The rejection came late in the session and no new attempt to find an acceptable solution was begun.

Thus, the delegates of 60 countries once again have a chance to try to end the fighting in Korea. The way is open in almost any direction, say observers, for the last proposal obviously has not been effective.

At the same time, observers here are asking themselves whether the new administration in Washington might develop a different approach to be used by the United States delegates, who represent the country most deeply involved in Korea.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

Tobacco Road Appeal

PUBLIC OPINION overwhelmingly supports the Everyman Theatre in the appeal from the magistrate's verdict in the now famous "Tobacco Road" case. I hope they get the necessary funds.

If the Vancouver police chief, and prosecutor, believed "Tobacco Road" was obscene it was their plain duty to take it to court. But they should have done so by the usual summons process. When squads of police were sent chasing over the stage, and when highly respected actors of Vancouver were dragged off to jail like fighting drunks, street corner bawds, or bank robbers caught in the act, people might well wonder what was really behind this strange procedure.

The magistrate's contradictory verdict makes confusion worse confounded.

SYDNEY RISK, the universally respected chief of Everyman theatre, is (rightly) found Not Guilty. But the equally respected Dorothy Davies, whom Risk hired to direct the play he (Risk) picked is found Guilty. So are the college girls and young actors. How come?

Equally puzzling is this reasoning:

"Magistrate McInnes observed, although it hadn't been raised in evidence, that Everyman Company had been drawing poorly until it produced "Tobacco Road." Then the house was packed. The word went around that this was quite a play. The vast majority of the audience went to see the fifth of the play. The people who went to see that got what they wanted."

But how about the magistrate's own courtroom? Ordinarily he presides to only a handful of spectators. At this trial the place was packed out, and at times large numbers were turned away. Does His Honour seriously believe that only an obscene performance draws big crowds, in court—or just in theatre?

THE MAGISTRATE states "if the play was allowed in other areas it was because it conformed to the moral standards of the areas and where it was banned it was because it did not conform."

Is His Honour suggesting that Vancouver is so vastly superior to all the cities in 14 countries where the play has been performed since 1933? Does he think the Lord Chamberlain of Britain does not know his business, when he passed precisely this same play for performance in Britain last year? Are we better than New York, where it ran seven years? Was Toronto degenerate to allow two runs, adding up to seven months?

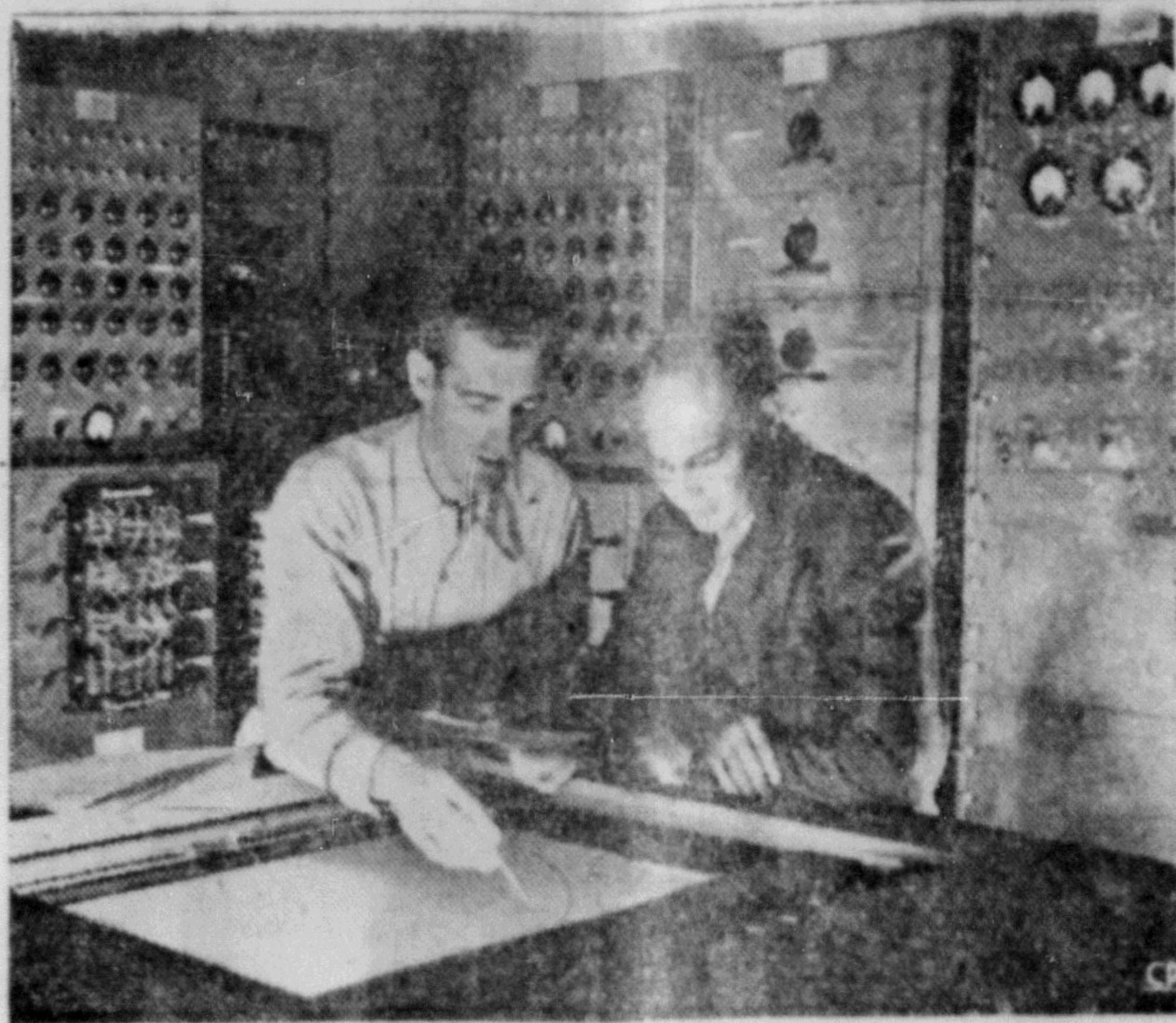
WHAT the whole farce shows to date is that the present system for dealing with alleged stage obscenity is ridiculously inefficient, and unfair. Had this trial been before a jury of ordinary people, acquittal would have been quick. Had there been no police interference, Tobacco Road would have been forgotten by now. Because of the attempted suppression a crude play will have a long run, in or somewhere near Vancouver, maybe just over the border.

Blackmail Charge Made In Visa Case

MONTREAL (CP)—The Herald says an immigration official, who claims he was blackmailed into the Italian visa racket, will be among at least six or seven men to be arrested as "high-ups" within the next few weeks.

This official is said to have had an affair with an Italian girl. He was "compromised" against his will and forced into the racket. He obtained a visa for a friend of the woman and was then threatened with exposure unless he continued to "play ball," the Herald story says.

Five men were arrested three weeks ago in connection with irregular immigration visas given to Italians. They were scheduled to appear for preliminary hearing today. A sixth man is being detained in England.



MAZES OF STATISTICS are fed into the electronic brain at the Canadian armaments research and development plant at Valcartier, Que., reducing the time-consuming job of computing complicated higher mathematical problems. The machine, largest of its type in Canada, predicts muzzle velocity, types of propellant and loading methods. Louis Ribichaud (left) and Reynolds Mitchell analyze the answer-curve to an equation on a weapon's performance.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Prehistoric tools are reported to have been discovered in Southern California. But in almost any household a wife can indicate where a prehistoric carpenter has been.

DAM THOSE EMERGENCIES

Certain parts of coast trees, ground fine and mixed with small quantities of fish oil are said to form a useful food in an emergency.

Experts do not agree on the origin of the grapefruit. But perhaps in the pyramids they might find the original joke about its squirt. — Hamilton Spectator.

A memorial in honor of Sir Robert Borden will stand on Parliament Hill, Ottawa. So announces Premier St. Laurent. It's coming to him. Had it not been for Borden's insistence, Canada's troops overseas in the first war might not have served as a single active fighting force.

British taxation is heavier as time goes on, until at last aristocracy in the old land is feeling the pinch as never before. For one thing, rich Britons have had to dispose of works of art, not that they wished to, but for need of cash. For example, a Pasadena Cal. citizen recently paid \$10,000 for Gainsborough's "Blue Boy."

NOW KNOW
Mr. Justice Gale of Brampton, Ont., addressing a jury recently, gave a formula for gauging degrees of intoxication of drinking drivers: one drink no offence under criminal code; two,

Germany Ready To Sign Pact For Paying Debts

LONDON (AP)—West Germany and her foreign creditors are scheduled to sign an agreement Feb. 27 outlining terms for settling more than \$5,500,000,000 worth of public and private German debts incurred since the First World War.

Completion of the agreement and plans for its signing were announced today by the foreign office. The accord was hammered out in two years of hard bargaining, supervised by a British-U.S.-French commission. The announcement said the creditor countries agreed to take Germany's loss of territory since the Second World War into account in calculating her ability to pay. They also agreed to review the accord if and when East and West Germany are reunited.

Exact amount to be paid was not disclosed. The debts include obligations owed by Germans to governments, banks, bondholders and private firms of 19 countries including Canada. They fall broadly into two groups:

1. About \$3,000,000,000 worth from the period between the two world wars. Some 40 per cent of this is owed to the U.S.

2. Cost of relief services furnished the West Germans by the U.S., Britain and France since the Second World War. The three Western Allies have poured \$3,778,500,000 into West Germany during this period. The amount which the U.S. expects to get back is \$1,200,000,000. Britain's share is \$420,000,000 and France's \$1,840,000.

Keen Hunters

TRENTON, Ont. (CP)—Three young men who shot 64 foxes this winter in Prince Edward county have collected \$192 in bounty. The hunters, all of Concession, are W. H. Moreland, Chuck Phillips and Allen Phillips.

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

When popular, smiling, able "Doug" Abbott took the floor in the House of Commons to deliver the government's budget, his performance was a swan song in duplicate.

Not only was he delivering his last budget as finance minister. (He delivered his first back in the spring of 1947.)

In addition, he will be entering upon the closing phase of his career as a parliamentarian.

Hon. Mr. Abbott, it is now learned from well-informed quarters, doesn't intend to be a candidate at the next federal general election, whenever it may come.

RESPECTED FIGURE

It was only a little more than a week or so ago that the news leaked out that "Doug" Abbott—entirely at his own insistence—was through with the generally thankless and always onerous post of Finance Minister. But at that time it was assumed that all he wanted was a change of place in the government. He was believed to have simply felt that he had absorbed something more than his due share of punishment as whipping-boy for the public in its discontent over the government's high taxation policy of recent years.

But now it is learned that Mr. Abbott doesn't seek just a change of portfolio. His intention is rather to sever all connection with public life. It is expected that he will return to his law practise in Montreal.

The finance minister will be widely missed on Parliament Hill. Amongst the MPs of all parties, he is easily one of the best-liked members of the House of Commons. He has no real enemies. By the government his admitted ability in the important fields of economics, finance and administration can ill be spared. No member of the cabinet works harder than does Abbott. None has a greater sense of fairness nor clearer standards of integrity. And none has a better combination of knowledge and careful, commonsense judgment. These are all qualities that, individually, are important, but when rolled up in one personality are wholly exceptional. The government will be at a real loss to replace them in any such balance in any other available candidate.

FINANCES

Reported reason for "Doug" Abbott's decision to retire is curiously appropriate to the post he has held for the past seven years. He is said to be retiring from the post of finance minister for financial reasons. After looking after the finances of the nation for a long time, he now wants a few years to look after his personal finances. No one becomes wealthy as a cabinet minister, especially if he is as scrupulously honest as "Doug" Abbott. In Montreal the finance minister will be welcomed as a big-money lawyer. He is said to feel the necessity of taking advantage of the opportunity while his earning power is at its height.

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