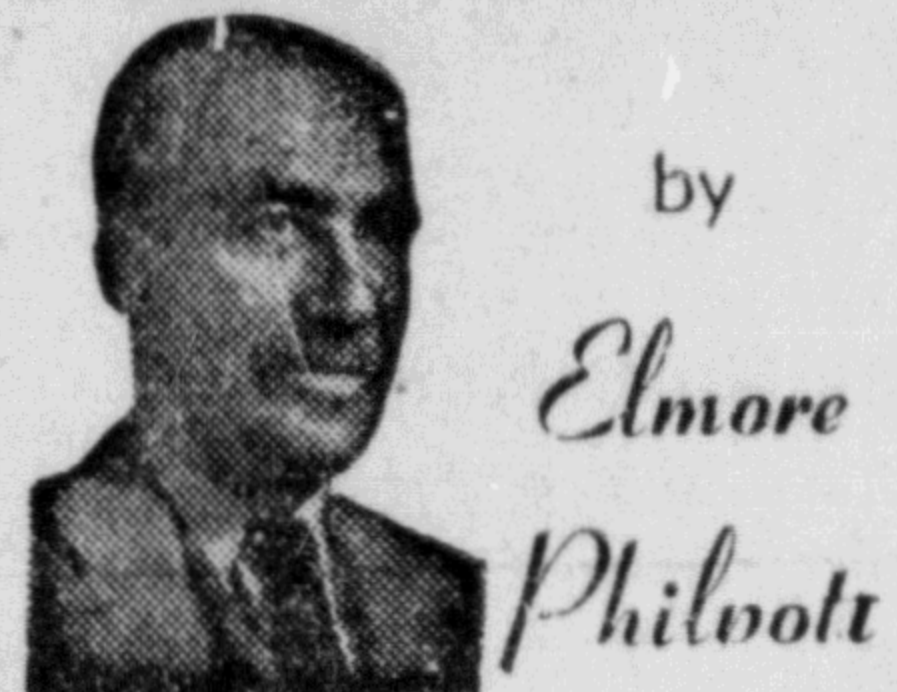


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As I See It



Starve Reds Out?

THE MOST astonishing thing about the recent debate on international affairs in the House of Commons was the suggestion made by John Diefenbaker that Canada should refuse to sell food to Communist countries.

Parliament has heard about the same suggestion from the leader of the Social Credit group, a few weeks earlier. But coming from the Social Crediters it had caused no great lifting of eyebrows, for that party has always taken what most MPs consider an appallingly reactionary line.

However, John Diefenbaker is recognized in Canada as a true progressive. He has long been the most foremost champion in Canada of the idea of a constitutional Bill of Rights, to guarantee to every Canadian certain democratic privileges. He is just about to leave for Jerusalem, where he is to make a series of lectures on the subject of civil rights and liberties in a democracy.

How then, could a humanitarian like John Diefenbaker advocate anything so reactionary as an attempted blockade of food shipments to Russia, and other Communist countries?

MR. DIEFENBAKER himself gave the basis of his reasoning to the House of Commons. He argued that Russia was in the throes of a real agricultural crisis, due primarily to the fact that agricultural production had actually declined in the last 25 years, notwithstanding the great increase in Russian population, which in fact, much more than overcame the frightful losses suffered by the Soviet in the Hitler war.

Therefore, Mr. Diefenbaker implied, the western nations might bring the Soviet empire toppling down by the simple expedient of not selling the Communists any food.

ONE ASTONISHING feature of Mr. Diefenbaker's suggestion was that it was directly contrary to others made by some of his own front bench party colleagues. J. M. Macdonnell, the Conservative financial expert, is clearly on record as favoring more trade with the Communists countries.

Moreover, on the very same afternoon that Mr. Diefenbaker made his suggestion that we should try to starve out the Russian regime, another Conservative front-bencher, Donald Fleming complained of the vast quantities of food that Russia was selling to Britain. His charge did not seem to gibe with the Diefenbaker thesis of acute food scarcity in Russia.

I AM diametrically opposed to the suggestion by John Diefenbaker, because I think it is both immoral, impractical, and the very kind of thing much more likely to bring on a third world war than to bring the Kremlin masters toppling down. In the first place it would be against the principles of decent, kindly folk everywhere — for even in wartime the planned starvation of civilians is a measure of extreme gravity. But apart from that—it just would not work. If Canada did not want to sell any of our surplus wheat to Russia, there would be plenty of middlemen who would buy it from us and sell it to the Reds. The immediate effect would be to deprive Canada of some of the export markets we may badly need.

The famous Asphalt lake on the island of Trinidad covers about 100 acres.

TRAVEL TOPICS

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THE 100-FOOT HIGH STATUE of Christ the Redeemer towers above a Brazilian Air Force Gloster Meteor as it circles Corcovado Peak, at the entrance to Rio de Janeiro's harbor. The twin-jet plane was made in England.

OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

The question that is troubling many of Parliament Hill's more conscientious corps of observers at the moment is whether the Canadian delegation at the coming Geneva Conference is going to have to stand up and be counted on either the United Kingdom or the United States side of the controversy over Communist China.

It is taken for granted that one of the main issues of the conference on which a settlement will be sought will be the admission of Communist China into the United Nations. The Soviet argument in favor of such a course is unpleasantly basic, namely, that Communist China comprises almost 20 per cent of the world's population and that no lasting settlement of international questions can be reached if so large a slice of the world's population is ignored.

The impression in Ottawa diplomatic circles is that the United Kingdom, albeit reluctantly and unenthusiastically, is disposed to accept the basic realism of the Russian argument. There is no similar belief, however, that the United States has any such intention. On the contrary, all signs indicate that Washington is prepared to be intransigent on the Chinese issue.

A situation of this kind in the conference would place the Canadian delegation in a definitely uncomfortable position. With no middle position possible in the controversy, it would face the difficult choice of supporting either Washington or London policy. That is a choice that—at least on any major scale—Canadian diplomacy has managed successfully to avoid in the past.

The general belief in the Capital is that the Canadian inclination is to support the British policy as being more in accord with the realities of the situation. At the same time, there is a more than usual reluctance to the idea of landing at cross-purposes, with Washington policy. One reason is the sense of obligation felt here for the close economic co-operation currently being received from Washington. In the critical matter of the world wheat surplus, of the dependence of whole sections of the Canadian economy upon United States tariff policy, as well as in the costly field of continental defenses, Washington policy is showing itself definitely sympathetic to Canadian interests. Ottawa understandably doesn't want this climate of co-operation to change.

Thus there is a feeling that the whole situation is delicate and that the Canadian delegation at Geneva may have to face

decisions more difficult than any made hitherto in our relatively tranquil diplomatic past. In short, Canadian diplomacy may have to grow up suddenly and stand on its own feet at the Geneva meet.

Ray... Reflects and Reminisces

Ranch-style architecture has been adapted to every kind of structure we can think of, outside of lighthouses. And even this is not without a novelty of which we can provide a sizeable variety.

Of the 31 United States college students who arrived in Canada for a delayed visit, 25 realized that Canada is bigger than the United States. But we are prepared to wager that not one of them hailed from Texas.

To own or not to own—a house? Costing twice as much and more today, as well as then. We remember all the items 46 years ago.

The universe is commencing, at last to get an idea of what a third world war would mean. There wouldn't be a fourth, and just what sort of a universe would we have without a fourth, and trying to get along with something or other that might possibly pass for it. No! There must be a New Deal.

A physician remarks that "hard work does hurt many people." Perhaps because they dodge any violent exertion with it.

The name McClymont has appeared in a type off and on, recently. Long ago, we first met Bonny Tommy McClymont, newly out from Glasgow, who came to the coast to spend the rest of his active and interesting life at Prince Rupert, both from the municipal and civilian standpoints. He performed valuable service as a pioneer citizen.

Early to bed and early to rise will never make you wealthy—that is—unless in between—you do something. You may be a bit late retiring.

Dress yourself nattily, young man and you'll win those promotions that will make you rich enough to go around looking like a bum. But the devil of it is we happen to have more old clothes than dollars.

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All Aboard By G.E. Mortimore

Some people have names that provide raw material for gags and puns. Take, for instance, a man named Munday. "Well, I guess it just isn't your day today, Munday. Haw, haw!"

"You look kinda blue today, Munday. Blue Munday, yuk, yuk!"

Those are the jokes that a man called Munday hears. The people who make the jokes, and tie themselves in knots laughing at them, wonder why Munday just stands there with a weary look on his face. The reason is not hard to find, Munday has heard the joke before — perhaps 10,248 times before.

A farmer delivers eggs to me at the office. Whenever I bring back a bundle of empty egg-cartons for him, someone is sure to remark: "Going into the egg business, eh? Haha! Heheh!"

At first I gave a faint chuckle to indicate that I saw something funny about the notion of myself in the egg business. But after the 20th time of hearing, some of the shine began to wear off this sparkling little jest. My chuckle sounds a trifle hollow these days.

A colleague and I were discussing the matter of worn jokes and trite remarks. He pointed to a patch of plaster on his face.

"I'm waiting for someone to say: 'Cut yourself shaving, eh?' I'll hear it any minute now."

"When they say it," I suggested, "tell them they are mistaken. Tell them you keep

Trapped Miners Rescued TOKYO (Reuters) — Eight coal miners were rescued Friday after having been trapped 600 feet underground by a cave-in at a coal mine in Kitaku in the southern Japanese island of Kyushu. The trapped men were supplied with food passed to them through a ventilation pipe.

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Review Death Penalty

IT IS not easy to go along with the contention which has gained some publicity lately that capital punishment should be abolished. There are too many instances of murder when anything less than full price would be inadequate.

At the same time it must be recognized that, like the death penalty meets the demands of justice, it may be failing to eradicate the crime. Cases of innocent people being executed are so well known that juries frequently hesitate to convict when death is the penalty. Even if they are certain of the accused's guilt, they are apt to experience that instinctive reluctance to be party to taking a life.

This has led to a condition in which murder is actually the safest crime a Canadian can commit.

Another reason for abolishing the death penalty is seen by D. B. Macdonald, chairman of the Canadian Welfare Council's delinquency and crime division.

"The brutalizing presence of the death penalty among us tends to strengthen those factors which bring about murder and crime in general," he says. "We believe murder is less likely in a wholesome social atmosphere than in an atmosphere fouled by the morbidity, melodrama and horror associated with executions."

His remarks point up the fact that the responsibility for crime does not rest with the individual alone. Crime is a symptom of an underlying social disease, and the criminal is only the weak spot where the disease breaks through. In many ways the criminal is product of his environment, and the failure to provide the child with the kind of environment that will make it possible for him to become a law-abiding adult rests with the community as a whole.

Complete abolition of the death penalty is not a solution. When a life is taken without answerable cause, the law must be allowed to go the limit—allowed but not compelled. If the mandatory death penalty for convicted murderers were eliminated, Canadian law would come closer to meeting the requirements of Canadian life.

Unhappy Millionaire

IT IS a trite saying that money does not bring happiness. Some people may dispute that and content themselves by saying that it is at least a great help. Perhaps it is, but there was a striking illustration of the trite saying when a doctor in Detroit committed suicide by taking poison although his assets added up to \$5,000,000.

One would think that a man who had about 5,000,000 at his command, or even 1,000,000, could feel he had enough of the world's comforts to overcome any personal griefs he might have, but this man's troubles, whatever they might have been, were so overwhelming, or at least he brooded on them and thought they were, that he felt life was not worth living.

It takes something very serious to grieve a man so much that he could not assuage them—or, if there was only one thing troubling him—with the comforts and pleasures that money can buy. Yet all his millions could not solve his problems.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal

LETTERBOX

The Editor,
The Daily News:
While printers ink may be preld over the pages of your paper in argument against the removal of the drydock, I feel he question must be approached in a more direct manner.
Therefore, I intend to move a motion at the forthcoming Monday meeting, requesting the government to send a cabinet representative to Prince Rupert at the earliest possible date to view for himself the whole situation on the spot and see for himself

the disadvantage that will be imposed on our whole basic industry, fisheries and other heavy industry, if the plant is dismantled and removed in its entirety.
Therefore, I hope any person seeing merit in such a proposal, after due consideration, will be present and support it, or more effective means if devised.
I feel some direct action must be taken, otherwise we will lose out, and quick action is necessary. Governments move slowly.
GEORGE B. CASEY.

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Red Cross Drive

VANCOUVER — A wide drive for funding Canadian Red Cross has the \$400,000 mark—two weeks ago. The objective, drive Eric W. Hamber said Thursday, Kelowna, and West Vancouver had their objectives. has collected \$175,000 and \$250,000 objective.

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