

## Learn From Children

IN THE annual report of the provincial advisory committee on Indian affairs there is an encouraging passage which says:

"It is becoming increasingly apparent in British Columbia that the native Indian is adapting himself successfully to all aspects of the provincial economy. In order to make a living, he is a logger, trapper, mill-worker, master mariner, longshoreman, government official, cowboy, cattle-rancher, professional man, school-teacher, railroad-worker, farm-hand, miner, and is responsible for approximately 40 per cent of the catch in the B.C. fishing industry.

"These occupations are being followed successfully by the native Indian in competition with his white neighbor, and as educational facilities improve, an increasing number of Indians will take a greater part in the economic development of this province."

It is good to have this official assurance that the Indian is attaining a more responsible place in our society. At the same time, one is still left with the impression that the opportunities open to him are fewer and more limited than they should be, and that it is the white man's education as much as the Indian's which needs attention.

Possibly it is too much to expect that through education the white man can learn to drop the barriers which make his society so exclusive. Maybe all the self-improvement must be left to the Indian until he has established beyond all doubt that he has a right to an equal place.

But if this is so, it takes much of the meaning from the program to assist him. How can we explain logically our efforts to promote Indian education when tolerance and understanding are not included? The only word that explains it is hypocrisy.

To find a fresh approach to the problem, we might look to our children. In this, as in so many cases, they seem to have more character than their elders. A difference in race is not in their minds a bar to friendship. It is only bad advice from adults that will ever make them think about the matter at all.

Obviously this is an occasion when they should be giving advice instead of receiving it. When society learns that discrimination because of color is not necessary to its security and happiness, it will begin to have the wisdom of its children.

## OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

The Progressive Conservatives feel that already they have scored a good talking point for future political purposes in connection with the Russian trade issue.

Brigadier General George Pearkes, V.C., left, Esquimalt, British Columbia, and Hon. W. Earl Rowe of Durham, Ontario, have teamed up in recent days to establish that, when buying wood-pulp capable of being used in the manufacture of explosives, the Soviet traders cheerfully pay Canada in excess of the world price but that when buying pork for food purposes all that can be got of them is payment substantially below the world price.

The obvious inference is—so the PCs are prepared to argue—that Moscow is using its newly opened trade with this country to (a) bolster its source of raw material for its explosives program and (b) to secure bargain food for its people at prices

which Canadian families burdened with high living costs would welcome but which they are denied.

Literally speaking, the facts which Messrs Pearkes and Rowe are alleging as a result of government answers to questions which they placed upon the House order paper are substantially accurate. The pork of which Russia recently bought some 8,000,000 pounds cost the Canadian taxpayer 60 cents per pound by the time it was put in the cans. Although the figure for which Moscow bought it hasn't been announced officially, it is understood generally that it was 19 cents per pound. And of that 19 cents the Federal treasury received only 16.5 cents. The balance went as profit to the packing company which negotiated the deal.

Obviously the Russian dining tables upon which that pork is served will be fairly liberally subsidized by the Canadian taxpayer. And all the time the Canadian taxpayer will continue to pay the high prices for pork currently prevailing in the domestic market. Somewhere in the picture the Canadian consumer and taxpayer—they are one and the same individual—may be entitled to feel a grievance.

It's not quite so clear that the pulpwood exports which General Pearkes has uncovered are destined to assist in the Soviet State's explosives program. The government has admitted that 9,850 tons of rayon wood pulp have been exported to Russia at a price of just over \$170 per ton. That is substantially in excess of the world price, and General Pearkes is suspicious that the material is being bought without regard to price because it is needed for manufacture into explosives. But the government has replied that the pulpwood was of a nature which normally is used for the production of textiles. General Pearkes remains unsatisfied that normal use is intended.

## Civil Rights Suspended

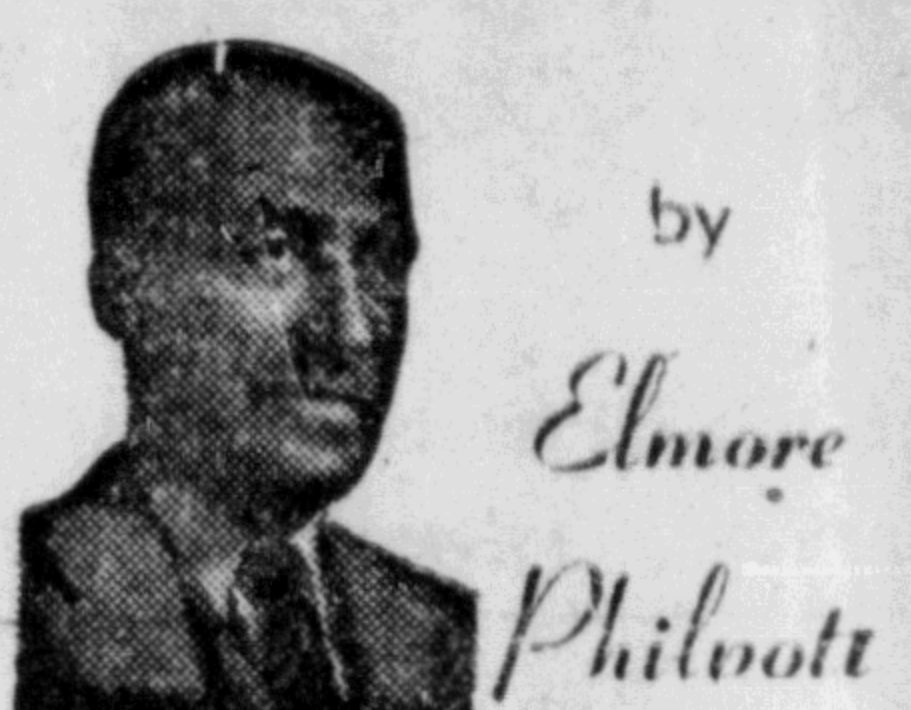
GUATEMALA (AP)—Guatemala's Communist-backed government today ordered a 30-day suspension of constitutional guarantees.

The action, taken at an extraordinary session of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman's cabinet, followed three weeks of rising tension following United States objections to delivery of a large shipment of arms from Communist Poland to this central American country.

Among the civil rights suspended was the constitutional article establishing freedom of expression and the press.

The cabinet said it was imposing the suspension in view of the "current situation." A week ago Arbenz charged that a well-financed plot of "serious proportions" had been uncovered against his government.

## As I See It



MP Puzzle

THESE are the days when an MP should have as many lives as a cat.

Here are the jobs I am supposed to do today, as an MP:

Sit in the House of Commons from 11 till one, from two thirty till six, and from eight till ten o'clock. But I am simultaneously supposed to be on the banking committee, for three separate sessions. Also this is a crucial day on the veterans committee, where several votes are expected. The library committee must meet too!

In my spare time (dinner hour) I am supposed to attend a party for the international veterans meeting.

However, all the above leaves me no time at all to do what I personally most want to do—that is go out to the Civil Defence college at Arnprior with the MPs who are to see the set-up there.

HERE is the tricky problem with which we have to deal today on the banking committee.

There is a plan afoot to set up an insurance system to cover all civil servants and all members of the armed forces. The proposed plan would replace a purely voluntary insurance system whereby the government sells various kinds of life insurance to civil servants who desire such voluntary coverage. Under the new plan every civil servant and member of the armed forces would be compelled to pay for compulsory life insurance. The amount would be on a sliding scale, but the cost would run about forty cents per month per thousand. That is, for a two dollar per month deduction from pay the civil servant would get \$5000 life insurance.

THE crux of the scheme is that it must cover everybody. But the sore spot is that a very large number of women civil servants do not want the insurance. They say they have far too many deductions from their pay already and they could not care less about leaving any money behind when they die.

THIS scheme will not benefit the government's treasury in any way. Neither will it dip into the public purse. The amount that the government intends to put up is just about equal to the two month's salary payment which is now made on the death of the civil servant. This payment would be discontinued under the new plan.

Here then is the crux of the question: Is the parliament of Canada justified in passing a law which compels all civil servants to take life insurance?

If the total compulsory plan goes through it will be a real benefit to the family man—for civil servants will be able to get life insurance cheaper than they could through outside companies.

But is it fair to set up such a scheme without the consent or approval of the individual civil servants themselves?

My answer is no—I do not believe that any such overall compulsory scheme should be set up at least until all the people concerned have had a chance to discuss them in advance, and never set up at all unless the substantial majority of all the people concerned also agree to them in advance.

Above all, I think it would be an injustice to single girls to force them, against their free will, to provide a broad enough group to provide bargain rate insurance for married men.

However, I must add that this insurance is a real bargain, even for single girls.

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**CANADIAN NATIONAL**



THE RCAF KOREAN AIRLIFT, in continuous operation since July 1950, has gone out of business. This picture shows one of the North Star planes of 426 Squadron which operated the airlift. It is parked in front of the control tower at Haneda air base at Tokyo.

(CP from National Defence)

## Report From PARLIAMENT By E. J. Applewhite, (MP for Skeena)

The smoked Alaska black cod sent to me some little time ago by the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative was certainly a success. I am getting many glowing compliments from the individuals to whom I had given some of this fish—and they were all loud in their praises of what they all insisted was just about the most delicious fish they had ever tasted.

I have just received a further letter from the Deputy Minister of Public Works confirming two things in connection with the fishermen's floats at Cow Bay. First, he assures that every possible effort is being made to expedite this year's work; second, there will be no interference with the lease held by the Prince Rupert Yacht Club.

Word has been received from the Post Office Department that it was necessary to close the Caspaco post office on April 30, 1954. However this is regarded as a temporary closing only, and it is hoped that this office will be re-opened shortly.

The National Council of the Baking Industry has seen fit to submit a brief to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission attacking the "loss leader" practice. It defines a loss leader price as one "lower than the full recovery of all costs plus a normal mark-

up." So, it seems to be a fair question to ask, has the industry, by close observance of the law of the land, shown a strong sense of public responsibility? We remember that when certain western bakers were convicted under the Combines Act the evidence showed that, to fix a certain Mr. Peters, who didn't conform to their price fixing policies, the Alberta association prepared a plan for isolating the "northern zone" and cutting prices until the offender was driven out of business. It seems to be another case of "whose ox is gored."

Some \$7,000 has just been spent for renewal of floats at Oona River. What is needed there now, and immediately, I think is a job of harbor clearing to get rid of the debris, stumps, rocks, etc., deposited in the harbor by this year's freshets.

My wife, who is slowly getting over the effects of a cracked rib, was able to get out today for the first time in two weeks. Like myself she is now looking forward to the day when we can head west again. A real effort seems to be under way now to speed up the work of the session. We are sitting morning, afternoon and evening—committees are doing the same. June the 2nd was the 120th day of this session which is now sure to be the longest in Canadian history.

## Trade Minister Still Optimistic Despite Deep Cut in Wheat Price

OTTAWA (AP)—The price of Canadian wheat has suffered its deepest cut since the Second World War, but Trade Minister Howe still is optimistic over the sale of it.

The Canadian wheat board announced Monday in Winnipeg a slash in wheat prices of 10 1/3 cents a bushel, biggest in post-war years, shortly after Mr. Howe told the Commons that "in spite of representations," the United States cut its wheat price by 10 cents a bushel last Friday.

When Mr. Howe told John Diefenbaker, P.C.-Prince Albert, that he was as optimistic as ever about Canadian wheat sales, Stanley Knowles, CCF-Winnipeg North Centre, caustically interjected:

"Your optimism is about all you have left."

Officials estimated that the extra one-eighth of a cent in the Canadian cut represents differences in Canadian and American funds.

The cut, affecting the three top wheat grades, was the second in the last five months. It brought the Canadian price at the Lakehead to \$1.72 1/2 a bushel for No. 1 northern, the lowest in nine years.

Canadian officials met with Americans in Washington last week and though Mr. Howe declined to disclose details of the talks, he said wheat sales were discussed. The Canadian government apparently made certain "representations" to the U.S. that were rejected.

Mr. Diefenbaker, who told reporters the price drop is a blow to the western farmer, blamed it largely on Canada's stubborn refusal to agree to Britain's request for a ceiling of \$2 a bushel instead of \$2.05 under the International Wheat agreement.

He hoped this would not lead to a recurrence of the depression of the 1930s when Canada also lost wheat markets. But "the circumstances are too similar for anything but the engendering of fear."

Hazen Argue, CCF-Assiniboia, said he believed Canada started a price war with the U.S. when it cut the wheat price by seven cents a bushel at the Lakehead last Feb. 14 without consulting the U.S. The U.S. next day made a similar cut.

American officials are known to be concerned about the fact Canada has been shipping more wheat to world markets than the U.S. even though the U.S. has given some away through various defence-aid deals.

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## Ray REFLECTS and REMINIS

Japan should welcome the sight of British Columbia totem poles, but that means only when Tokyo pays the shot. It would be a pleasure to direct the attention of Asiatic visitors to the display at Prince Rupert—few any better if the equal.

Confidence—The feeling you have before you know better.

A hospital is a place where people who are run down wind up.

More than 350 barrels of whisky are reported to have been found on the bottom of Lake Michigan. This, naturally enough, has started people guessing. Hundreds of folks we never knew before are saying far more folks are learning to swim under water.

An Alberta child psychologist has been heard to say parents expect far too much from their children. Such as a kind word every now and then.

It wouldn't be quite so bad being in society, if you didn't have to sit around looking bored.

Week after week, month after month, a colored youth kept whittling near his home which was the village of Baltimore. This was about 200 years ago. His neighbors were curious. What was he trying to make. Ben Bannecker told them. It soon started to tick. It was the first ever known to have been made in North America. The clock kept time, and did it well. Ben Bannecker had no trade or schooling, but there was something he could do, and he did it. Wonder if today, when the white-black school child question remains an issue, anyone ever thinks of Ben, and the first clock.

When asked to sum up what

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