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Policy Above Politics

THAT there are many weaknesses in our existing system of democratic government few will deny. Some of these weaknesses are inherent in the very freedom our sort of democracy is designed to preserve. Others are not so fundamental that nothing can be done about them.

One of the weaknesses which seems apparent is the tendency of one or another of our political parties to toss vital national issues into the cockpit of what are euphemistically termed "practical politics."

When this practice is followed the real issue becomes confused. Mountains are manufactured from molehills, and other mountains are reduced to molehill dimensions. Facts are misinterpreted and the assessment of their importance is distorted.

Under such circumstances, the ordinary man in the street finds it extremely difficult to make up his mind on any major point of national policy and, when he is called upon to make a decision, it is as likely to be wrong as it is to be right.

No one will deny, in Canada, that argument and discussion on all points of national policy are essential to our freedom and to our principle of government by the will of the people. That argument and discussion should, however, be lifted above the level of petty politics. Further, it should at all times be well informed and based on facts—all facts, not just those which tend to add to political advantage.

Two of the most important matters before the country today are foreign relations and defence. On the wise and successful formation and execution of policies on these issues depend our freedom to pursue whatever may be our will on other national questions. It would seem, then, that in these fields a start should be made to lift policy above politics to the level where it belongs.

It has often been said that it is difficult to obtain the services of successful men, who by being successful have proven their ability, for public life. It is more than probable that many such men are unwilling to become modern Esaus and sell their birthright for a mess of politics.

To accomplish this desirable elevation of our standards of discussion would require the co-operation of all sections of the community and, of course, of the press.

To us, it seems that in this respect Canada has the opportunity to set an example to other democracies where national politics are even more often used to serve political ends.

The challenge is there. Can it, will it be accepted?

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Like enough it's all very well to try and finance a car, but if we wait too long it will be so new and have so many strange looking buttons we'll never be able to remember which to push.

ONE MIGHT TRY

Mr. Bradley, chairman of the Coronation Committee of Canada, says there are still quite a few good seats allocated to Canadians along the parade route. Do you suppose if you chanced to be late arranging money matters, an emergency long distance telephone call from Prince Rupert would be listened to by Mr. Bradley?

Yegg is definitely a bad egg.

Churchill's holiday, so called, is over. In New York and Washington it consisted of confidential talks with Eisenhower and Truman. In Jamaica he enjoyed absolute privacy with old friends on the north shore, with close telephone and cable connection and secretary always at hand. Photography barred.

IT'S STILL THERE

The Hazelton country is at last recommended as the best short cut to Alaska for all sorts of advantages, including the priceless Groundhog coal access, which was being talked about forty years ago right here in Prince Rupert. So cheer up! If there is a disturbing thought it is this. The coal will last, but we may not.

The disabled freighter Maple Cove and tugboat Island Sovereign fought battle with the sea Christmas week, finally triumph-

ing. The Maple Cove has today a new rudder. Describing the struggle, the writer says: "The crew went without hot meals until Christmas Day. Then for a treat they received hot stew." We'll try this next December and see how it tastes.

ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE

"Hens never fail to strike me as serious looking creatures," observes a writer. No wonder, when it's rarely they ever find their things where they lay them.

Field on Stilts

LONDON (CP)—Norman Dodds, Labor member of Parliament, has submitted to the government a plan for an overhead landing field for helicopters. The work would be constructed in London at a cost estimated between \$11,000,000 and \$17,000,000.

As I See It



by
Elmore
Philpott

India's Giant Strides

INDIA celebrated her third birthday yesterday as a free and sovereign Republic.

It is a testimony to the remarkable, adaptable nature of the strangest kingdom this earth has ever seen that the Indian Republic is still the brightest jewel in the young Queen's crown to which all eyes will turn this year.

Thanks to Mr. Nehru's enlightened statesmanship, India will sit in front with the most honored family members at the coronation—a fact which would have delighted such diverse figures as Emperor Asoka, Kim Kipling, Gandhi, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

It was the latter who once said of the most paradoxical of all Empires "we lost half of it trying to keep it, and we made it infinitely greater trying to give it away."

NO LONGER held in the Commonwealth by force or any legalistic tie, Mother India freely gives through the family of free nations all her ancient wisdom in such ultra-practical plans as that for peace in Korea.

But as P. N. Agarwala writes, in a fine article distributed by the Government of India office at Ottawa, the new India is taking giant, practical strides to set her ancient home in better physical and material order.

India's five-year plan, he writes "is the biggest single attack ever made on decades of poverty and ignorance." It provides for a capital outlay of over four billion dollars and is designed to increase agricultural and urban industrial production by 11 percent.

The main drive is to make India self sufficient in food. Whole rivers are being harnessed to provide cheap electrical energy, more irrigation, to check flood and soil erosion. Are these goals beyond India's capacity to deliver, on schedule?

Mr. Agarwala cites hard facts: "Production in cotton textiles, India's largest industry, reached an all time high, this past year, of five billion yards. Production of raw jute stood at 2 million bales in 1947-48 and rose to 4.8 million bales in the past year. Production of cement stood at 1½ million tons in 1946 and increased to well over 3½ million tons during the past year.

"Production of iron and steel continued to rise. Coal production reached an all time high of 37 million tons.

"Nearly 700 million dollars were spent by Union and State governments on development projects. In the four years radio sets have doubled. Similar is the case of motor vehicles. The year witnessed growth of several basic industries such as sewing machines, dyes, chemicals, fertilizers, bicycles, radio sets, pharmaceuticals, telephone equipment, shipbuilding, automotive parts."

SUCH facts and figures are exactly what we need over here to make our people realize the nature of India's national re-incarnation. India has always produced great moral leaders and spiritual leaders. The bravery of her soldiers is proverbial. But what is stirring out there now is something more familiar to us here than to India—a giant modernization, a material improvement. Mr. Agarwala writes: It was Gandhi who said that "If God ever appears to the poor, He appears in the form of bread." This is a practical plan to provide bread.

The Isle of Orleans in the St. Lawrence near Quebec is 20 miles long and five miles wide.



ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE OF Commons recently was drawn to a sharp reduction in the weight of Health Minister Martin. He said he started to diet 20 months ago and since then has knocked 40 pounds off his former rotund 200. The photo shows Mr. Martin before and after the diet.

CBC Requested To Permit Churches To Use Radio In Appeals For Funds

OTTAWA (CP)—The CBC, controlling body of radio, has been asked to permit churches to use radio in appeals for funds.

The request was made by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, representing most privately-owned stations.

The C.A.B. presented a brief to a public meeting of the CBC board of governors, called to discuss proposed changes in regulations.

The association noted a regulation which read:

"No station shall broadcast, except with the consent in writing of a representative of the CBC, any appeal for donations or subscriptions in money or kind on behalf of any person or organization other than recognized charitable institutions or organizations; universities, or musical, dramatic or theatrical groups or organizations whose principal aim or object is other than that of monetary gain."

The C.A.B. said the regulation appears to "show disregard for the position of the church in the life of society."

It added:

"We believe the churches of Canada should be included amongst those who have the right to appeal for funds, both for missionary work and for their activities in any Canadian community. Moreover, we believe that the church should be able to speak to the consciences of its members not by permission of the state but by right."

The association urged the CBC to drop another regulation which read:

"No station shall broadcast any program presenting a person who solves or purports to solve personal, moral or social problems of questions submitted by listeners or members of the public, unless the program format has been approved in writing by a representative of the corporation CBC."

The C.A.B. said the regulation was an "attempt at thought control by telling Canadians what and whom they may and may not hear."



"... the willingness to find a way"

A man who started a new business a few years ago recently wrote to pay tribute to the bank's part in helping to make it a success:

"We were fortunate in having, as our banker, a man who could combine with experience the willingness to find a way that called not for experience alone but for imagination as well."

The chartered banks are forever alert to the fresh problems, the changing needs of their customers. At all times, in all your banking problems, you can depend on your local bank to bring experience and imagination to the task of helping you to "find a way".

This advertisement, based on an actual letter, is presented here by

THE BANKS SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY



MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today

Alderman Dybavon last night introduced a by-law for better regulation and Sunday closing of the local pool halls. A committee will be appointed to look into the matter.

The Baptist Brotherhood held an interesting debate on the question "Would Women's Suffrage be Beneficial to the World at Large." The affirmative won by one vote.

30 Years Ago Today

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, speaking before the Rotary Club yesterday, said he now places more confidence in the future of Prince Rupert than he did the day he first came here.

20 Years Ago Today

At Andrew's Anglican Cathedral held its annual congregation meeting last night in the church hall with Dean Gibson in the chair.

At a meeting of the local unemployed, it was decided to write Premier R. B. Bennett asking that trade with Soviet Russia be encouraged.

10 Years Ago Today

Mrs. Annie McKay Stephens, mother of ex-mayor Stephens, is today being congratulated on the occasion of her 96th birthday.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Another sign that the federal general election isn't too far off was the treatment accorded the representatives of the privately-owned radio broadcasting stations when they attended the recent meeting on the proposed new CBC regulations governing their operations.

Usually the independent broadcasters are treated on their Ottawa pilgrimages like radio's poor relations. No effort is made to spare them from the feeling that they exist strictly on sufferance, and that compared with the publicly-owned CBC their status is no better than dubious.

But this time was different. The broadcasters were given the sort of red-carpet treatment that is usually reserved for out-of-town delegates to a national Liberal executive meeting just before election time. They were invited to make themselves at home in famous "Room 16"—the private lounge room just behind the House of Commons.

Usually reserved as a place for fraternizing for MPs, Senators and members of the Press Gallery. To add to their comfort, cocktails were served and choice hors d'oeuvres from the kitchens of the famed parliamentary restaurant.

The final touch was the string of cabinet ministers and Liberal MPs that each broadcaster found queued up around him, waiting to shake his hand fervently whenever it was dis-

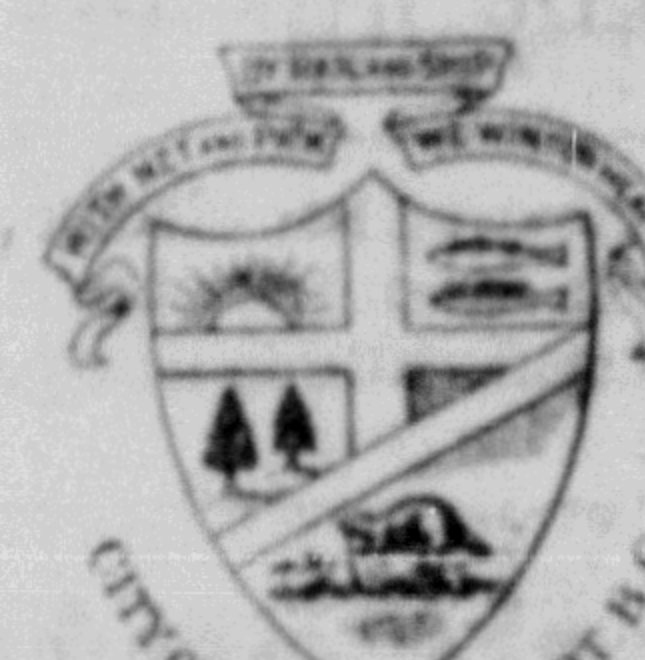
gaged from a cocktail canape.

One radio man observed wryly: "It's all a beautiful and the best part of it is there's no need to wait at any rate, until the election is over."

But the consensus of the more experienced of the casters was that the treatment was the best that the election would be long in coming.

Now that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has advanced in its expenses \$6,000,000 upon television in the Toronto area, it is clearly apparent that the only country that would spend a dollar.

Long before the Canadian operations got real to the Windsor as far back from the power and with one of the best antennae in the States is being built in town, New York. It is a network of U.S. facilities parallel to the CBC pioneer TV effort.



Notice to Taxpayers

The City Council Will Itself Appeal The Assessment of All Land Which Has Been Substantially Raised In The 1953 Assessment.

This Does Not Include Improvements (Buildings).

Therefore, If Any Owner Wants To Appeal Against The Present Assessment On His Improvements, He Must File An Appeal At The Office of The City Clerk In Writing on or Before 5 p.m. Thursday, January 29th, 1953.

By Authority of The City Council.

R. W. Long,
City Clerk.



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