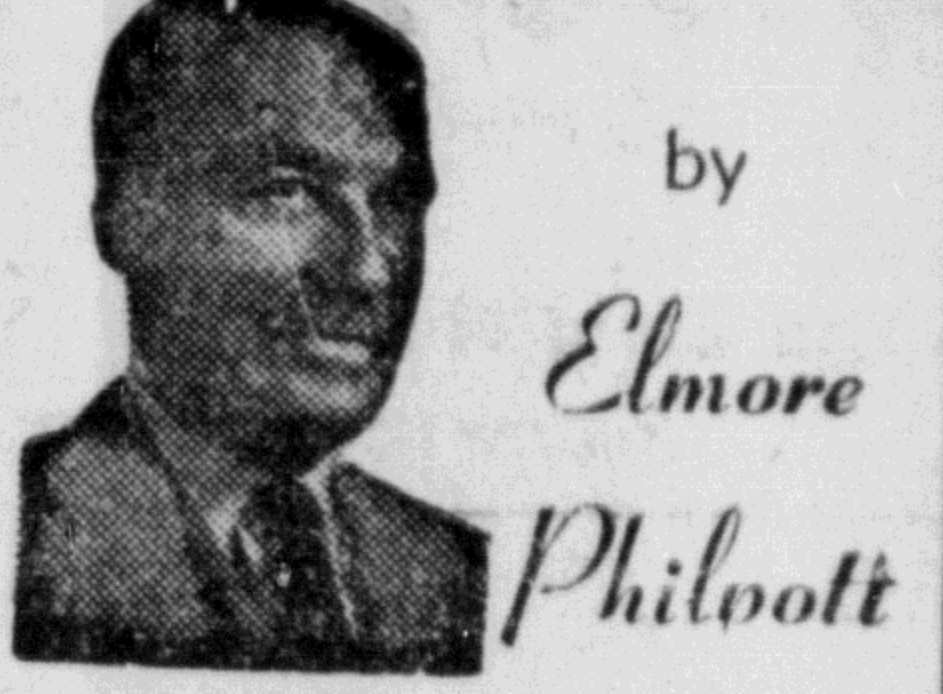


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As I See It



Elmore Philbott

LETTERBOX

The Editor,  
The Daily News:  
The letter in your paper over the signature of Mr. A. H. Sager of the Fisheries Association of B.C. is deserving of a reply. He mentions in his letter, the stand taken by the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union relative to the Japanese Fisheries Treaty and refers to the Union claim that the Japanese off-shore fishery is "invading the waters of the North Pacific, catching salmon destined for Alaska and B.C. salmon streams and thus causing a decline in this northern fishery." He goes on to state this cannot be supported in fact and that they can jeopardize the work of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.  
Our Union did not state that this Japanese fishery would jeopardize the B.C. and Alaska fisheries. We did and do claim that until the commission and the Department of Fisheries are certain that this fishery will not be injurious to Canadian and American interests, there must be a limited off-shore operation. The Honorable James Sinclair, Minister of Fisheries, admits that no statistics are available, which clearly indicate the number of fish caught by the Japanese off-shore fishermen, destined for Canadian streams and those heading for the Asian coast. Our Union has supported a scientific conservation program and we will naturally oppose a fishery which could take our fish at the source while our fishermen are tied up in the interests of conservation. We say this off-shore fishery should be limited to five (5) million fish until our biological experts can be certain that our Canadian fishermen are protected and that a large part of their catch is not destined for Canadian and American streams.  
Mr. Sager refers to the Japanese Fisheries Treaty which our Union vigorously opposed, as a guarantee of protection for our halibut, salmon and herring fisheries. Let's look at the record. In 1952 the Japanese off-shore fleet took approximately two and one-half (2½) million fish (salmon). In 1953 they took just under eight (8) million fish. Fisheries publications in the U.S. and Canada indicate that their fleet will be enlarged by several mother ships and many "killer" boats. This could mean an increase in their catch up to 20 or 30 million fish. We say that until our scientists are certain of the effect of this fishery on our salmon resources, let us limit the Japanese to five million (maximum) fish. Let's not lock the barn after the horse is stolen.  
Last year the Bristol Bay and S.E. Alaska fisheries reached a record low in production. It is not necessary to comment on the Skeena and Naas runs here in Rupert. The number of fishermen in this area who ended the season in the hole are known to most businessmen, and of course to the fishermen concerned. Our fishermen and the local business men whose bills have not been paid, know full well the disastrous results of a poor fishing year. We do not know whether this off-shore fishery is to blame but we are not content to "wait and see."  
Some readers will wonder why Mr. Sager, who is the publicity agent for the B.C. Fisheries Association, takes the position of opposing the interests of B.C. fishermen. We would suggest in all sincerity, that the tremendous investments of the U.S. canning interests into Japanese fishing concerns, might have a great deal to do with his attitude. It must be obvious, if fishing companies on this side of the Pacific who have money invested in Japanese fisheries, and who can get fish caught by cheap labor in an off-shore fishery, can bring this fish into the American market and undercut Canadian and American fishermen, they will do so. The fact that this will mean unemployment, unpaid bills and hardship for fishing communities, apparently is secondary to Mr. Sager.  
Let's keep the record clean.  
United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union,  
Northern Representative,  
T. E. PARKIN,  
Prince Rupert.

Report From  
PARLIAMENT  
By E. T. APPLEWHAITE, MP Skeena

The Minister of Fisheries is now working towards an increased vote in the supplementary estimates for the Fishermen's Floats at Cow Bay—a matter in which Mr. Sinclair takes a great personal interest. In past months I have tried to outline the purely technical difficulties we face in appropriating moneys for something we did not own. Now that the transfer to the federal authorities has been approved by Victoria, I have been pressing the Minister of Fisheries for action which would make these floats useable for the 1954 season. Mr. Sinclair is now pressing this upon his Cabinet colleagues.  
For a good many years now the people of Port Clements—and fishermen from other parts of the district—have been hopefully waiting for the re-building of the breakwater at Port Clements. That job is to be done this year, I am glad to say, very glad in fact as I've been trying to get this done for several years. This breakwater will be quite a sizeable job involving about 18,000 tons of quarried rock and will be approximately 580 feet long with a crest six feet wide and 16 feet above low water level.  
The North Atlantic Treaty was signed on April 4, 1949 and on April 4 this year I attended a little ceremony in front of the Parliament Buildings at which the three services were represented and the flags of the 14 member nations were flown, over which the flag of the United Nations was broken out. It is I think advisable for all of us to pause and remember that in the two World Wars whole countries were overrun millions of lives were lost and hundreds of billions of dollars were spent as part of the price of victory. Since the Second World War country after country has, by one means or another, succumbed to the Communist menace. It has become obvious that if peace is to be maintained it can be done only by the collective strength and the combined action of the free Western nations. So I feel sure all loyal Canadians will continue to support Canada's efforts to do our full share in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.  
There are quite a few former residents of Skeena down here—one runs into them occasionally. John Good, son of Prince Rupert's former city engineer, Fred Good, is here now. He is a lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Navy attached to National Defence Headquarters, and my wife and I have seen John and his wife several times. That always meant a good long talk about the old home town.  
A few of us here have started the ball rolling with a view to organizing a trip to British Columbia about next September of a party of some 100 M.P.'s and Senators and their wives. A somewhat similar undertaking was planned in 1950 but had to be abandoned on account of the Railway strike. Our district has forged ahead since 1950. In that year I was unable to arouse much interest among the members to include Skeena in the itinerary. But with the worldwide advertising Kitimat has brought us, we plan this year to have a party go west direct to Vancouver, come up the coast by ship, stopping at Kamano and Kitimat and Prince Rupert (and possibly Ocean Falls). They would then return East by rail from Prince Rupert via Jasper. I shall try to keep you further informed as these plans materialize. It looks to me like a wonderful opportunity for us to show British Columbia to a representative group of parliamentarians from the other provinces.

Warning From Within

NOT even the announcement itself that the drydock was to be sold had the explosive effect of the local Liberal association's resolution Friday demanding that the federal government change its attitude.  
Such a move was far more than just a protest against the government's action. It was a desperate warning from within the Liberals' own ranks that the party was failing to keep faith with its historic principles of building a Canada that is strong in every part. It was a reminder that down through the years the Liberal party has proclaimed itself as representative of the people, not of sectional interests. Where private enterprise fails to meet those people's needs, the party traditionally is supposed to extend its strong hand.

In pursuance of its policy to reach to the outermost fringes of the country, the federal government recently established a department specifically responsible for the development of Canada's northland. To judge from our experiences here, however, the northland must skirt around B.C.'s most northerly port. Perhaps it applies only to the Arctic Circle which was examined a short while ago by Defence Minister Claxton. If the drydock were in Klavik or some such place, it might earn more respect than it does in its present position.

As a result of its handling of this affair, the federal government should be advised that being a Liberal out here at the present moment is something like being a case of measles. At the same time, in this very hour of unpopularity, the local party association has achieved singular distinction by its forthright action. It is a move that could have been side-stepped in the hope that other events between now and the next election would restore the party's standing.

To their lasting credit, however, members of the group did not choose this course. It is to be hoped that their courage will remind Liberals at Ottawa of the record of bold achievements which has made their party a great one.

Saving The Pennies

WHEN discussing the increased cost of postage in Canada which became effective April 1, mention was made in these columns of the effect it would have on large corporations which send out pieces of mail by the hundreds daily.

Evidence of this was noted last week by a Fort William citizen. He sends a mortgage payment monthly to a large firm in Eastern Canada. The other day he received the regular receipt, but attached to it was a notice that said henceforth the receipts would be held back for four months, when they would be sent together—to save postage.

"I wonder what would happen," he said amusingly, "If I wrote back and told them that in order to save on the cost of postage, I intended to hold back my cheques for four months and send them in together."  
—Fort William Times Journal.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

A safety organization estimates there are 180,000 accidents in American homes each year. This is due to the mishandling of tools. Half the number can be explained, it is thought by the jutting of the thumbnail with a hammer instead of the metal one.  
Speaking of exercise, the best you can give is when you each downward to find your heart and lift somebody up.  
A new kind of tobacco is said to have chances of development in Canada. Having already ceased smoking, we dislike this more than ever.

THE PENALTY

There is no evidence that the death penalty deters potential murders, according to a brief on capital punishment presented to the joint parliamentary committee by the Canadian Welfare Council of Ottawa. Statistics of murder rates for countries that have abolished capital punishment—some a century ago—indicate that the incidence of murder is in no way related to the presence, or absence of the death.  
The annual monsoon is reported to be commencing to blow. That's said to be a gentle way of putting it. The monsoon is a periodical wind in the Indian Ocean blowing from the southwest from April to October and from the south during the other part of the year. Generally speaking it gets along pretty well without needing introductions.  
Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): "Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the case is so clear for an increase in that pension that it should not be necessary to argue for it at all. The amount of the pension across Canada at the present is \$40 a month, a figure that was reached in 1949. Since that time the cost of living has gone up. It should also be pointed out that the Canadian standard of living has improved and I submit our senior citizens should share in that improvement. I submit that the pension be increased, namely 50 per cent. If a pension of \$40 a month is increased by 50, that brings it at least to the figure of \$60 a month."

Head-on Clash

THE MOST important feature of Mr. Abbott's budget speech was his flat, complete refusal to bow to the attempted blackmail move of the Duplessis government of Quebec.

It will be remembered that a royal commission made exhaustive investigations in the late thirties of the question of double and triple taxation. It will also be remembered that the same royal commission recommended a consolidation of tax collections in Canada, partly to avoid duplication, and partly to give a helping hand to the provinces less blessed by plentiful natural resources.

The main remedy proposed was that the Dominion should "rent" the right of the provinces to collect income and corporation taxes or to levy death duties. The majority of the provinces agreed to the proposal. A minority, however, refused to agree. But when the war occurred immediately after, the Dominion quickly worked out the rental agreement which had failed to receive unanimous approval a short time earlier. This wartime arrangement worked with such eminent satisfaction to all concerned that one by one the provinces, which had previously opposed the move for tax simplification, fell into line. Ontario was the second-to-last to substantially agree after Mr. Frost became Premier.

Quebec, under Duplessis, has not only refused to get into step with all the rest of the country, but now the Duplessis government has made what seems to me to be a most brazen attempt at political blackmail ever witnessed in this confederation. The Legislature of Quebec has enacted a law, which begins with a preamble which is a direct misstatement of facts. That preamble declares that under the constitution the provinces were given priority rights to levy income taxes. As the Minister of Finance showed, this statement is as untrue as it is mischievous. The Quebec law levies a personal income tax of about 15% the amount which the same Quebec taxpayer has to pay year by year to the treasury of Canada. Then with an impudence which sets a national record, the Duplessis government demands that the Duplessis duplicate tax should be entirely deductible as an expense under the Dominion levy!

By a strange, warped reasoning, the Duplessis argue that, as Quebec would receive an amount roughly equivalent to 15% of the income tax paid to Ottawa if Quebec signed a tax rental agreement, therefore Quebec should forthwith be given an equivalent financial benefit, despite the fact that she not only refuses to sign, but sets up a duplicate, unnecessary and nuisance tax system of her own. For sheer effrontery that constitutes a record.

THE MINISTER of Finance was extremely sharp and completely direct in his rejection of the Duplessis maneuver. He showed that if the Dominion were to concede the principle that a province could first levy an income tax of 15% of the Dominion rate, and then claim that as an exemption of the tax payable to the Dominion, there was nothing to stop the same province from raising the ratio successively from 15 to 25, 50 or even 100% of the Dominion rate. The most ominous statement made in connection with this Duplessis move was uttered in the House of Commons by a Quebec Conservative, who referred to his Province as "a sovereign state within the Canadian commonwealth." This conception, if condoned or tolerated, would clearly threaten the break-up of the Canadian nation.

A year ago Mr. Abbott said the present government upholds "the principle that nothing in federal legislation shall in any way discriminate against a province which does not enter into a tax rental agreement."  
The impudent Duplessis maneuver is designed to achieve exactly the contrary—namely, compel the Dominion to discriminate in favour of a misguided government which is doing its utmost to wreck the whole tax rental arrangement of all the rest of Canada.

OTTAWA DIARY

Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis' quarrel with the St. Laurent Government—now expected to blaze up actively as a result of the latest Abbott budget—is no trifling matter in its terms of dollars and cents. It is a \$25,000,000-\$30,000,000 dispute.

That is roughly the sum which the Union Nationale Premier is out of pocket as a result of his unwillingness to sign a tax rental agreement with Ottawa. Here is the arithmetic in a nutshell.

If Quebec had had a tax rental agreement with Ottawa during the past fiscal year, it would have been entitled to receive \$113,000,000. But since it didn't have an agreement, the province was entitled to levy—and did levy—a seven per cent tax on corporation income. The revenue from this source was \$67,000,000. That left the province \$46,000,000 poorer over the year than it would have been under a tax rental pact.

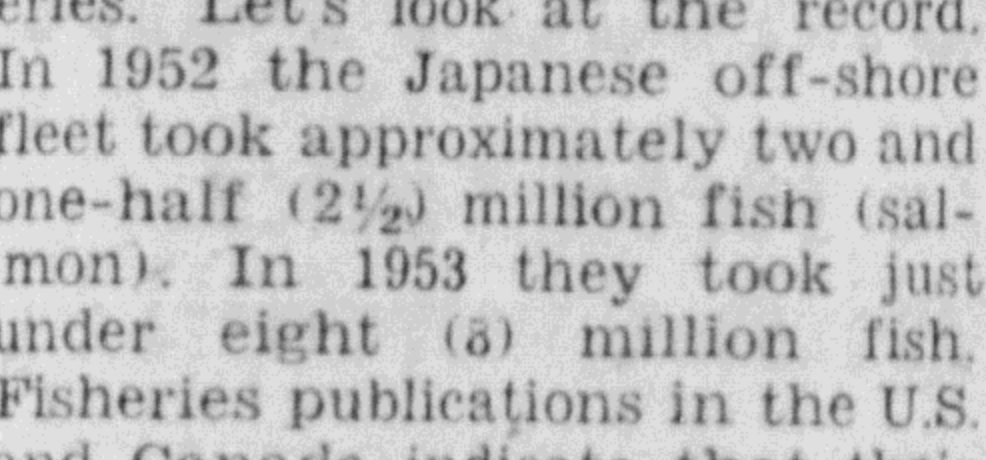
During the year, however, the province failed to take advantage of the privilege accorded to provinces without tax rental agreements to impose a five per cent tax on personal income. Such a levy, which is still within the power of the province to impose, would return an estimated minimum revenue of around \$20,000,000. That would leave Hon. Mr. Duplessis poorer only by some \$25,000,000 net than if he entered into a tax rental agreement.

The contention of the Quebec Premier is that he should be allowed to make any arrangement which would place his province on a par with other provinces in respect to its treatment by the federal treasury, and that he shouldn't be blackmailed by financial penalty into signing a tax agreement repugnant to French-speaking Canada's ideas of provincial rights.

The federal government's argument is that the Quebec Premier should accept the same terms as agreed to by the other provinces, and that there cannot be any special deal where Quebec is concerned. The government here emphasizes that the door is always open to Premier Duplessis, just as it was to Premier Frost when he finally decided to abandon his resistance.

Obviously a case can be made for both sides to the dispute. And for that reason the likelihood of a really warm and strenuous controversy is foreseen. Already the political grapevine is carrying rumors of an intention by Premier Duplessis to test Quebec sentiment on the issue in a general election this autumn. If he doesn't do that a likely alternative will be the creation of sufficient vacancies in the legislature to hold a number of by-elections that would constitute a "little general election." It is clear from rumor that the Quebec Premier intends action.

DINING PLEASURE in SPARKLING NEW SURROUNDINGS



Let's keep the record clean.  
United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union,  
Northern Representative,  
T. E. PARKIN,  
Prince Rupert.

Chinese Dishes

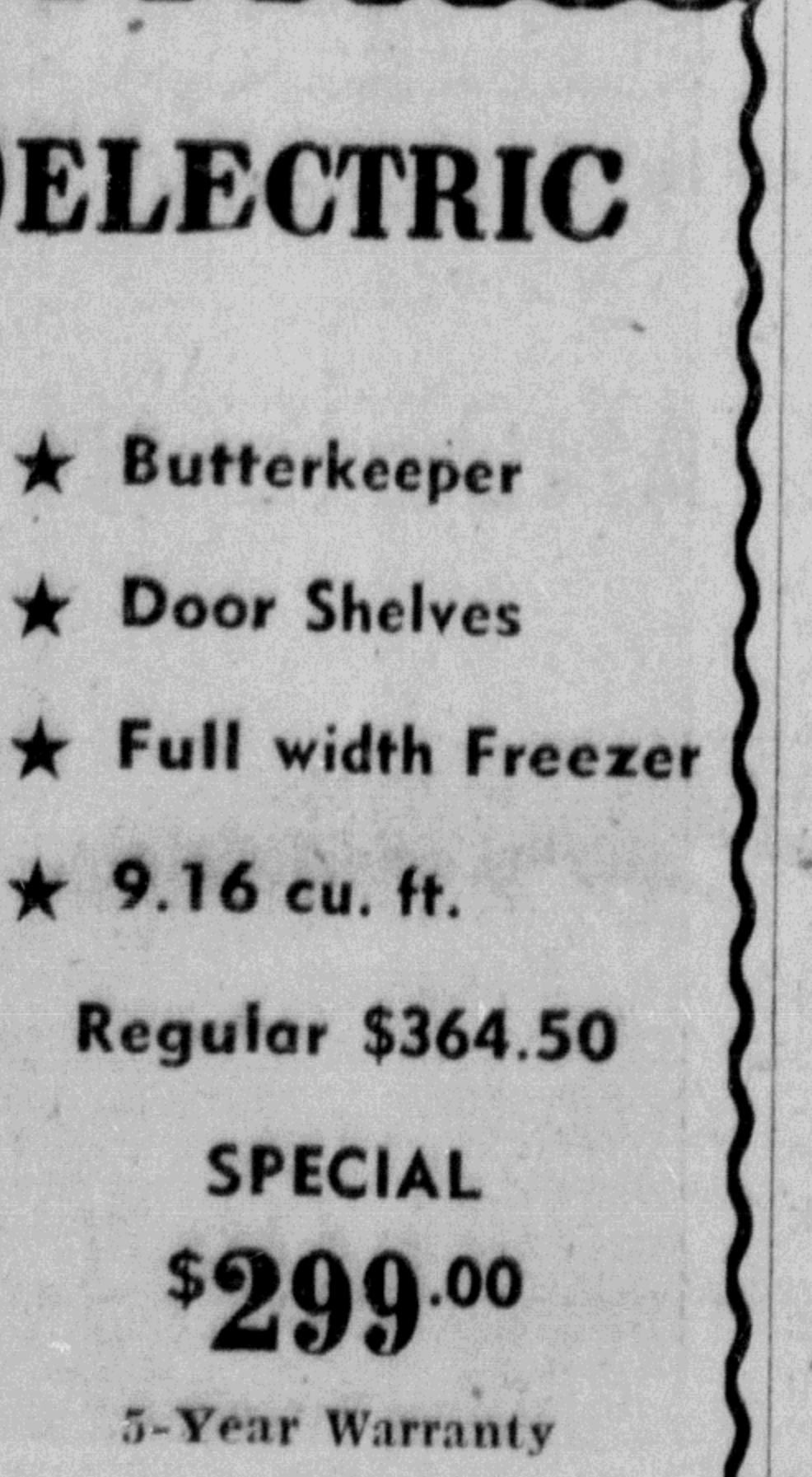
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