

POLITICAL ROUNDUP

by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA. — Politicians are running around these days boasting about the mere youngsters they have for candidates—in their 30's and 40's.

That's supposed to show that the parties are virile and full of shiny new ideas, all chromium and plastic, instead of antique mahogany and crystal. The inference is, of course, that, until now, most of B.C.'s politicians have been ancient greybeards, shuffling around in the Legislature waiting for the undertaker, as a mortician was called in less gaudy, more realistic days.

The Conservatives, particularly, are whipping up a big howl of bally-hoo about the youth of their candidates, as if, in the past, all Conservative candidates and MLA's had creaking bones and senile brains.

This is rather a strange technique on the part of the Deane Finlayson new-style Tories. They are too young, apparently, to know very much about political history or understand its importance.

If they did they'd boast, and justifiably so, about Richard McBride, the very sire of B.C. Tories, being the youngest Premier in B.C.'s history.

MANY YOUNG

Looking back, we see that many noted B.C. politicians were young men when they started their political careers—youthful, indeed, than most of the candidates of today.

John Foster McCreight was 41 when he became B.C.'s first Premier in 1871. Amor de Cosmos, that magnificent eccentric, who contributed more to B.C. than we yet realize, was 47 when he took the Premiership in 1872; G. A. Walkem, B.C.'s third Premier, was only 21 when first elected to the Legislative Council, was Premier at 50.

William Sloan was 37 when elected to the House of Commons in 1904, and his son Gordon was 35 when made Attorney-General of B.C. in 1933. Ian Mackenzie was 30 when he was first elected to the B.C. Legislature in 1920; Harold Winch was 26, in 1933; Ian Mackenzie was

30 when he first won a B.C. seat in 1920, and Harry Perry was 31 when first elected that year also.

PATTULLO WAS 43

John Hart was 37 when he made the grade the first time in 1916; T. D. Pattullo was 43 when Prince Rupert first sent him to the House in 1916; A. M. Manson was 33 in 1916; Herb Anscomb was 41 in 1933, the year of his political birth. John Oliver was 44 in 1900, when he started a political career that was to last 27 years; George Naden was 42 in 1907; D. M. Eberts was 40 in 1890; J. W. McB. Farris, 38, in 1916.

Here's another one the Tories could boast about—Harry Pooley, a Tory if ever there was one, was 34 when Esquimalt first sent him to the Legislature in 1912.

A. E. B. Davie, grandfather of B.C. Conservative Association president E. Davie Fulton, MP for Kamloops, was first elected when he was 27, and was in the Premiership in 1887, at 39; Robert Beaven was Premier in 1882, when he was 47.

Richard McBride, the first party Premier in B.C.'s history, was in the Legislature in 1898—when he was 28—and he was sworn into the Premiership June 1, 1903, six months beyond his 32nd birthday. No other has been so long a B.C. Premier—12 years. And Premiers haven't come so young in recent times.

So, all the modern boasting and blowings about the youth of candidates in this election add up to just so much eye-wash, a lot of window-dressing, a big loud, empty talking point.

That's because talking points this election with all parties are scarce and slim. Candidates of all groups are desperate to know what to talk about. There doesn't seem to be anything new to offer a suspicious "you-show-me" public, which insists it has heard all the promises before, with the exception of that wild Conservative promise of half a pint of milk per day per child in all B.C. schools.

SCOTLED

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would appoint a compensation councillor who would channel all compensation problems through the labor minister instead of the 11 ministers now involved.

NOT ANTI-LABOR

"This government is not anti-labor," the speaker held in summarizing the work of his department. There are no special privileges.

Turning to the work of other departments, he defended the reduction in estimates for the provincial recreation program from \$125,000 to \$75,000.

"In 1952 it cost \$50,000 in advertising alone for this program," Mr. Wicks said. "There was something wrong there. If the program were successful, it would have by this time created enough leaders to carry it along almost voluntarily. Another point which is overlooked is that the three prairie provinces together are spending no more on pro-rec than we are now."

The speaker also supported the Rolston formula, charging that opposition members knew it was not to be a rigid policy when they defeated it. He said the formula was an effort to dissociate education costs from taxes since the latter were on a fluctuating basis.

In concluding, Mr. Wicks charged the opposition with obstructionist tactics in turning down 25 bills which came up for consideration after the government was defeated. Some of these, he pointed out, dealt with the important matter of taxing natural resources.

PRASED GOVERNMENT

The speaker was introduced by Bill Murray who credited the government with salvaging labor affairs of B.C. from a "deplorable condition." Mr. Murray said one step in this direction was the appointment of a deputy minister, William Sands. He observed it was the first time in B.C. that both the minister and his deputy were trade unionists.

In questions that followed, one concerned the appointment of a labor inspector for Prince Rupert, since the nearest one is at Smithers. Mr. Wicks said this would be corrected "if it becomes a problem." In answer to another, he said resignation of George Wilkinson from the labor relations board was a "personal matter."

Art Murray was chairman.

Scotland Yard Reinforces Branch For June Ceremony

By SEYMOUR TOPPING

LONDON (AP)—Scotland Yard is forging a security cordon around Britain to intercept the crooks, cranks and political agitators who might disrupt the celebration of the Coronation.

The Yard's special branch is being heavily reinforced to screen the thousands of foreigners flooding into London for the ceremony. Police of every country outside the iron curtain have been asked to alert the yard to the movement of any "undesirables" toward Britain.

At seaports and airfields visitors will be checked against black lists supplied by British embassies and Interpol, the international police information centre in Paris. There will be no unpleasant grilling. The polished and tactful gentlemen of the Yard are more discreet than that.

But all suspects will be trailed and watched.

This screening is only one of the Yard's precautions to safeguard the Queen and the thousands of tourists coming here for the Coronation.

Scotland Yard is reluctant to discuss its security plans, but some details are known about the elaborate security wall which will go up around Westminster Abbey when the Queen is crowned.

Overall police supervision of the Coronation will be directed from an "information room" in New Scotland Yard, a five-minute walk from the Abbey. Top yard officials there will be kept abreast of every development by radio.

When the Queen rides from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, the "information room" will map her movement. The shifting crowds along the way will get hawk-eye attention. Mobile police will be rushed to meet any emergency.

The Yard will check every one of the thousands of persons occupying a seat in the stands along the route or at a window overlooking it. Every person granted such a place must register with the police in advance.

Between 12,000 and 15,000 police, 900 troops and 2,000 other service personnel including Canadians will line the processional route to control the crowds.

East, West Begin Play For Allan Cup

KITCHENER, Ont. — East and west meet here tonight for the opening of the 44th series for the Allan Cup, emblematic of Canadian senior amateur hockey supremacy.

The east is represented by Kitchener - Waterloo Dutchmen and the west by Penticton.

The west has claimed the trophy 20 times and is the current holder. Fort Frances Canadians won it last year by defeating Stratford Indians 4-2 in a best-of-seven series.

Should Penticton win the cup it will be the third time a British Columbia contender has taken it. Trail Smokeeaters defeated Quebec Aces in 1938 and Kimberley Dynamiters turned back Sudbury Falcons in 1936.

Dutchmen, Ontario Hockey Association senior "A" champions, came from behind to defeat Smiths Falls Rideaus in the eastern final. Penticton turned back Fort William Beavers for the right to represent the west.

Second game of the series will be played Thursday night and the third Saturday, Fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh games are set for May 4, 6, 8 and 9.



HARRY BEFUS of the Calgary Herald won the award for feature news photography. His picture of unbroken horses from the hills kicking up dust at the Calgary Stampede was a repeat winning performance by Befus. He won the spot picture award in 1950.

Barrie Flyers Win First

WINNIPEG — Barrie Flyers played 20 minutes of solid hockey Monday night and it was enough to give them a 6-4 victory over St. Boniface Canadiens in the first game of the best-of-seven Memorial Cup final.

The highly-touted Flyers overcame a 4-2 second-period deficit to score four times in the final frame while holding the Habs off the board.

U.S. Increases Aid For War In Indo-China

PARIS (AP)—The United States has earmarked increased aid for the war in Indo-China but there will be no more American money for French budget balancing.

This was the summary of an exchange between the French and Americans at a conference in the French foreign ministry attended by top officials of both countries.

The conference was a continuation of the explanatory series which began last Saturday as the NATO meeting ended. The new American line is, in a nutshell:

The era of economic aid is over except for those enterprises where the American people can see some direct benefit.

The Indo-China war, the French were told, is included in this group because Americans see great danger in the Communist rebellion in that area. The permanent loss of Indo-China, it was agreed, could have a chain reaction which would spread into Burma, Thailand and perhaps even India.

An American source said airplanes and other urgently-needed supplies are being diverted from other Asian theatres to help equip the French better to beat off the menacing attack of the Communist-led Vietminh pushing into Laos, on the Thailand-Burma frontier.

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Hebrew grammar books are mostly based on textbooks of David Kimchi, 13th century French Jewish commentator.



APPOINTED to the board of directors of Pacific Fishermen's Mutual Insurance Co., is Matt Martinovich, veteran B.C. oolich, veteran B.C. coast guard, and herring skipper, vice-president of Fishing Vessel Owners Association. Martinovich has extensive knowledge of the oolich industry and the people associated with it. He succeeded D. G. Macdonald, one of the founders of the company, who resigned after making contributions to the relief of B.C. fishermen and their families.

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