

Months of Planning Completed For St. Laurent's World Tour

By WILLIAM STEWART

Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA—Months of planning down to the last baggage tag have gone into Prime Minister St. Laurent's six-week world tour starting Thursday.

Members of the Prime Minister's staff, the external affairs department and the RCAF, which will fly Mr. St. Laurent from Ottawa around the globe and back to Rockcliffe airport, have worked out hundreds of details of the 23,000-mile trip.

At least eight inoculations and a vaccination were ordered for the 10 persons—excluding

plane crew—accompanying the 72-year-old prime minister who submitted to the same health precautions himself.

Mr. St. Laurent will arrive in London Friday on the first stage of his tour.

He will stay in London until Sunday afternoon when he will fly to Paris. St. Laurent will go to Bonn and Rome before leaving for visits to India, Pakistan and the Far East.

During his brief stay in London, he is expected to meet Viscount Swinton, Commonwealth relations secretary, and other British ministers.

He hopes to spend some time

with Canadian troops in Korea and Germany.

All members of his party will add a daily paludrine pill to their diet this week as a protection against mosquito-carried malaria, prevalent in Asia.

A REAL CONCERN

The prime minister will spend in Asia roughly two-thirds of his time away.

"Decisions taken there, and the welfare and happiness of these peoples, have become of real concern to us," he said in a statement to the Commons last Friday.

Good relations could be maintained between the western world and Asia only as long as Asians are treated on terms of complete equality and in a spirit of genuine understanding, he said.

The importance of the European part of his tour, said Mr. St. Laurent, was that decisions facing Europe may influence the future of Canada "quite largely."

He added that wherever he goes it will be to assure friends that Canadians wish to play their part in the cause of "peace, freedom and social justice."

CHECK TRAVEL DETAILS

A key member of Mr. St. Laurent's party is Charles Ritchie, external affairs department officer with a number of years' experience abroad. Mr. Ritchie has been assigned to the tour with the rank of ambassador.

Another important man going along is Ross Martin, wartime army veteran who will be Mr. St. Laurent's link with government routine that goes on while a prime minister is away. Mr. Martin is assistant secretary to the cabinet.

Ford To Build Parts Depot

WINDSOR, Ont. (CP)—Ford of Canada Limited today announced construction of a \$1,000,000 parts and accessories depot at Regina early this spring.

It is part of a Canada-wide \$87,000,000 expansion program by the company. A similar depot was announced last November for construction this year in Montreal.

The Regina depot will have 60,000 square feet of floor space. Both Montreal and Regina depots are expected to be complete by the end of 1954.



MRS. ELIZABETH C. ROBERTS has good reason to smile serenely. She has just celebrated her 103rd birthday and feels ready to take on a few more. She was born in Ripley, Ill., in 1850, moved to Fort Scott in 1880, lived in Kansas City, Kan., from 1900 to 1917, when she returned to Fort Scott. Fellow Kansan President Eisenhower was among those who sent her birthday greetings.

14 Die, Two Unidentified In Quebec Bus-Truck Crash

YAMACHICHE, Que. (CP)—Provincial police today started the grim job of identifying the last of 14 persons who died late Saturday in a burning bus near this town 15 miles west of Trois-Rivieres.

The bodies of two of the passengers who were trapped in the inferno still lay unidentified in the Trois-Rivieres morgue.

Eight passengers staggered or were pulled to safety through the smoke-filled aisle after the Provincial Transport bus collided with a car transport at 10:30 p.m. EST Saturday. Both drivers also survived, although Henri Bruneau, 35, of Ville LaSalle, Que., driver of the bus, had to be pried out from behind his steering wheel. Both his legs were fractured and he was suffering from internal injuries.

Valere Plante, 25, of Windsor, Ont., driver of the auto-transport, owned by McBain Transport Company, Quebec, also had to be helped to safety after being jammed in the cab of his truck.

ON STRAIGHT ROAD

The accident occurred on a straight stretch of road, cleared

in the centre but lay on the edges. It was a clear night.

The auto-transport, travelling light from Quebec to Cornwall, crashed into the front left hand corner of the Quebec-bound bus, ripped along the side and came to rest against the emergency door. Flames engulfed both vehicles almost immediately.

Many of the passengers were trapped in their seats or knocked unconscious by the collision. Their charred remains were found when the rubble was unloaded at the morgue in Trois-Rivieres, where the bus was taken.

Others died, frantically trying to force open the emergency door. None of the survivors could give a clear picture of what had happened.

Plante, the driver of the transport, said he couldn't explain the cause of the crash.

"I don't know if it was the bus or my transport that was at fault," he told reporters from his hospital bed. "I don't think I took so much of the road."

WENT INTO SNOWBANK

Bruneau, the bus driver, said he remembered seeing the truck "tear towards him and ram the bus."

"The bus was swung partly sideways and went halfway through a huge snowbank on the right of the road," he said. "There were two or three deafening explosions, then the whole place seemed to be in flames."

"I was reading when suddenly I felt something crash into the side of the bus," Jacques Auger, 46, of Rosemount, Montreal, said.

"I was in the second seat from the back of the bus. I got out feeling my way along the seats bordering the aisle. I couldn't see. I was blinded with smoke and blood from a cut on my forehead."

Claude Paquette, an ambulance driver on his way from Trois Rivieres to Berthierville, west of here, was driving a short distance behind the auto-transport when it crashed into the bus.

"There was a blinding sheet of flames and the roar of an explosion. Black, oily smoke poured out and the screaming voices stopped one by one. The driver was sobbing with the pain of being pinned behind the wheel."

Passengers aboard a second coach doused the flames with snow in time to save Bruneau and pry him loose from the steering wheel.

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LINDSAY'S

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John L. Lewis Keeps Finger In Many Pies

WASHINGTON (AP) — John L. Lewis hasn't called any big coal strikes lately but that doesn't mean he's losing his grip.

In fact, the president of the United Mine Workers, the man chiefly responsible for engineering the surge in labor union membership in the 30's, is busier than ever.

Lewis, who will be 74 Feb. 12, wears his years lightly. He is up to his fluffy eyebrows in a wide array of affairs, some of which seem to have little to do with problems of the coal mines.

Whether or not this is a lull before starting a new pay boost campaign, nobody knows. It may depend on whether there is any pick-up in the lagging coal business.

There are some rumors that Lewis may team up with David J. McDonald, president of the million-member CIO Steelworkers union, for a joint pay increase drive in the coal and steel industries. Steel contracts expire this year.

While biding his time, Lewis is busy in other affairs. One is current backing of the International Longshoremen's Association in its New York waterfront war with a new AFL union with the same name.

CLOSE TO EATON

A man often figuring in Lewis' plans is Cyrus Eaton, the Nova Scotia-born Cleveland financier. About six months ago, Eaton acquired a coal mine, the largest non-union coal firm in the United States. Now the company is negotiating for a contract with Lewis' UMW and an agreement is expected soon.

There have been rumors among some mine owners that Lewis put up money with Eaton in this venture, but there is no evidence and well-placed sources consider it extremely unlikely.

Lewis is emeritus trustee of the UMW health and welfare fund, financed by mine owners.

The trustees cleared a large part of the fund's reserves in the National Bank of Washington. Lewis' brother, A. D. Lewis, and the UMW's chief counsel, Welly K. Hopkins, became directors of the bank.

Defence Costs To Be Reduced

OTTAWA (CP)—Defence appropriations will be cut about five per cent this year, an authoritative source said Thursday.

That means Finance Minister Abbott will ask Parliament to vote some \$1,900,000,000 for defence in the fiscal year starting April 1 compared with appropriations of \$2,000,000,000 for each of the last two years.

The \$100,000,000 cut might have provided a slight break for the taxpayer except that the saving probably will be eaten up by other departments whose requirements will be heavier than in the current fiscal year.

ROYAL SHRINE
The abbey at Bury St. Edmund, king of ancient East Angles who was martyred in 970.

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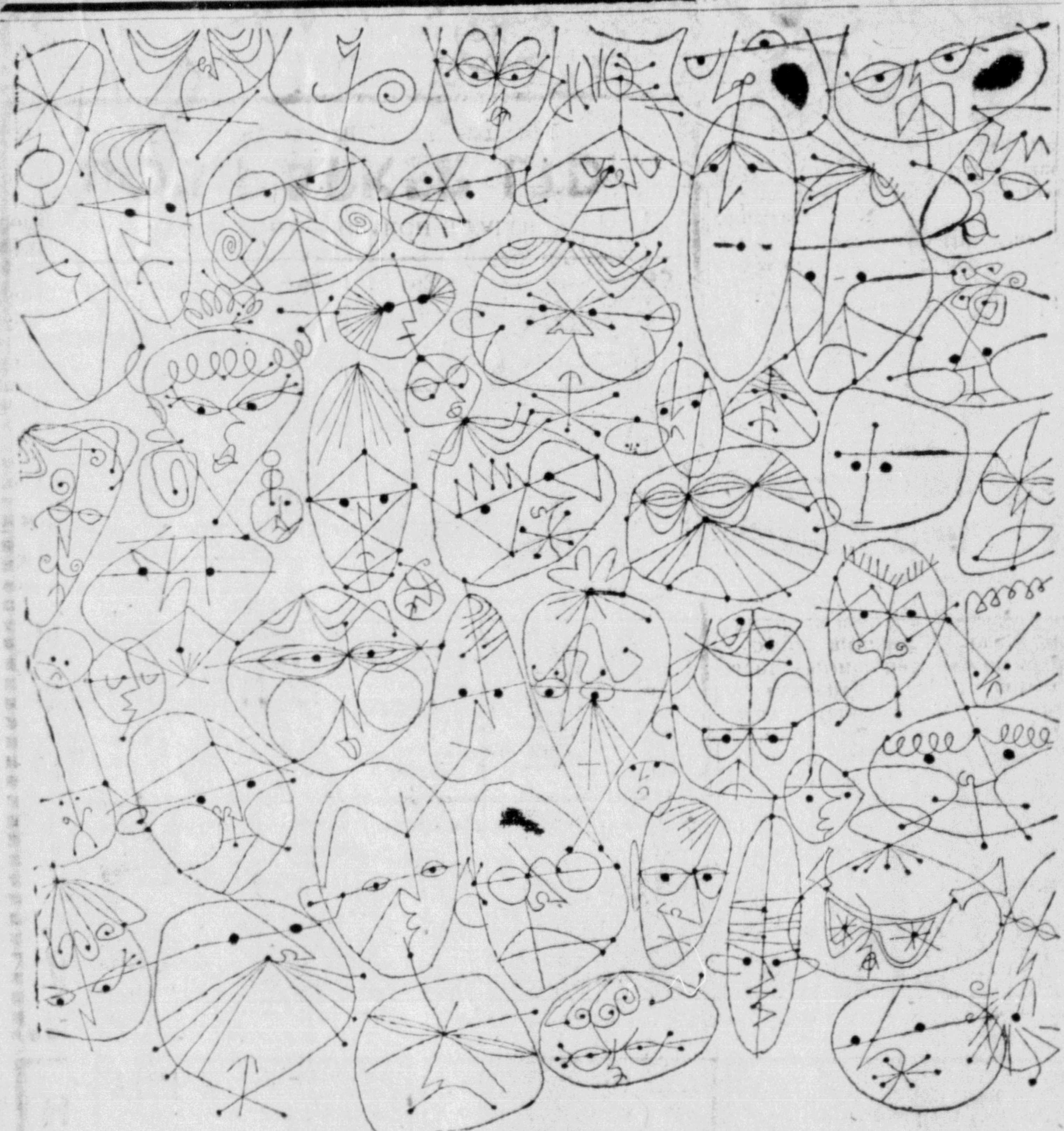
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