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## A Unique Experiment

WHAT PROMISES to be an entertaining and informative weekly program was introduced over radio station CFPR Tuesday night when four high school students engaged four city councillors in a microphone interview. Sponsored by the Pulp and Sulphite Workers' Union, the program is a unique experiment in civic education which should prove edifying to children and adults alike.

To judge from the first broadcast, the students will be specific and articulate in their demands on the councillors' knowledge, and at least one or two of the city fathers are wisely doing some preparatory homework. This prompts the observation that right from the start the students showed something which, for want of a more polished word, must be called "savvy." With easy poise they asked interesting questions, phrased them well and kept them coming. If there are many more students as bright as that, perhaps all of us had better do a little homework to keep up with them.

Generally speaking, the interviewees also acquitted themselves well in their first trial. The case of the first court house was left in amusing doubt, but there were remarkable feats of memory in spite of that.

It is to be hoped, however, that the broadcasts do not become colored by personal prejudice. In the opening one, which was supposed to be entirely historical, the history of the city's water supply was allowed to develop into irrelevant and perhaps unfair criticism. Discussion of the fire department also hit questionable ground. We might say that so, too, did that of local journalism except that we are in a better position than others to talk back.

A certain amount of plain speaking adds liveliness to the program, and listeners will look forward to it. Our suggestion is, however, that the competent young moderator keep his charges as closely as possible to the subject and encourage a balancing of sides if the discussion develops—as it will do occasionally—into debate.

Nevertheless, it was a good show. Those who did not hear the first broadcast should be sure to tune in next Tuesday.

## Scripture Passage for Today

"Do all to the glory of God."—1 Cor. 10:31.

## OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Albert—if he has a second name no one ever uses it—isn't one of Parliament Hill's fiction characters. He's a very real person. In fact, he's so real that he's always at hand and dependable in any emergency. In this half-world of Parliament, where shadow-boxing and puppet performances substitute so deceptively for reality, there just aren't too many people that real.

Technically, Albert doesn't belong to Parliament Hill. He gains his status vicariously by a process of absorption. He's the proprietor and presiding genius in an unpretentious but snug little bar that a good many of the MP's drop into on their way home from their labors. Some of the MP's pay Albert a brief call on their way to work as well.

Albert's the intellectual type. When he mixes up a drink, he lavishes on his chemistry the same thoughtful concentration that a physicist bestows on an intricate atomic experiment. The results justify his scholarly manner by being only slightly less explosive.

He could be called a philosopher, if the proviso were added that he is always a discreet one. A good many secrets are confided to him in the course of a day by frustrated statesmen who seek his ministrations. If Albert remembers any of them, he never gives verbal betrayal of the fact. The only visible effect of these confidences is impressive aura of mystery plus dignity which they gradually are imparting to his bearing. He's acquiring a new sort of parliamentary manner which is a mixture of unctuousness, guarded warmth, cautious aloofness, and traditional authority all rolled into one. In no mean way he's well on the road to becoming an established parliamentary tradition in his own right.

When he's wearing his philosopher's cap, the subject Albert is most likely to brood on is the friendliness which prevails in

the establishments he operates. He can never quite get over the fact that the MP's shed their party politics at the door when they take off their coats and hats. Once within the precincts of his comforting haven, some strange alchemy transforms Liberals, P.C.'s, C.C.F.-ers, and Social Crediters out of their partisan parliamentary selves into one warmly harmonious family.

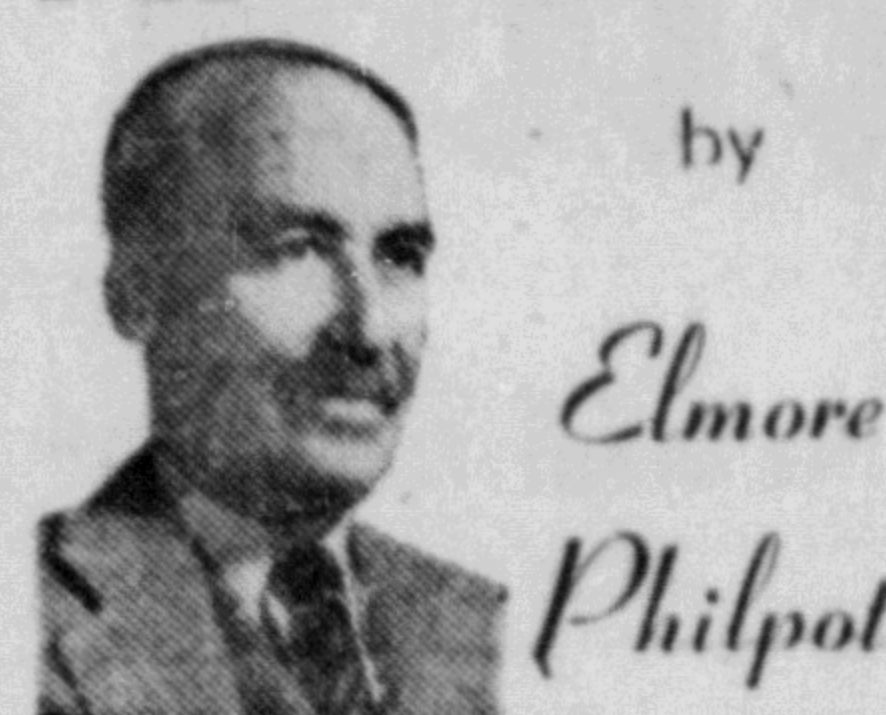
The phenomenon has a fascination for Albert. He'd like an explanation. He can't rid himself of the idea that the matter is truly important. "What I'd like to know," he confided once to a friend, "is when are these guys being really themselves? Is it when they're belting one another around like mayhem in Parliament? Or is it when they are buying one another drinks here like blood brothers? That's one question I sure would like to know the answer to."

There are quite a number of other politically perplexed people here these days who would also like to know the answer to Albert's question. They'd like to know how much of the apparent strife among the different political parties is real—and how much synthetic. If they knew that, they could see the present political picture in better perspective.

## Soldier Tired Of Communists

WASHINGTON (AP)—A United States soldier who disappeared from his army unit in Germany has returned voluntarily from a one-year stay in Czechoslovakia, the state department announced Monday. Pte. Willis Bergen, 24, was returned Sunday from Prague to Schirnding in the U.S. zone of Germany. He said he had "seen enough" of communism.

## As I See It



That 15 Cent Loaf

PRAIRIE farmers are mad because Britain will not boost the maximum price for wheat from \$1.80 to \$2.05 a bushel (though Britain would have signed the wheat agreement with the ceiling at \$2).

The bakeries of Vancouver are getting ready to boost the price of bread to 15 cents a loaf. They blame it on the raise in world wheat prices from \$1.80 to \$2.05, and because their workers have asked for another raise. (Why didn't you buy wheat at \$1.80, boys?)

The southwest coast is still tied up in a grain handlers' strike which has already cost Canada over \$30 millions in permanently lost wheat sales, not to mention the loss in wages, business, and to ships and railroads.

Yet the head of the Alberta Wheat Pool says the wheat handlers are overpaid already!

DID WE EVER SEE a better case of a dog chasing his own tail?

The workmen in all lines of business demand higher pay each year, because they say prices and profits are still going up. The farmers want higher prices, too, to bring them up to what they have to pay for city products.

Yet nobody faces up to the hard fact that if wages keep going up year after year prices will keep going up too; and vice versa.

And nobody faces up to the even harder fact that when you have vast surpluses of food you either have to

1. Lower prices to the point where the goods will sell, or
2. Destroy the goods—or give them away.

OUR Canadian government still owns 29 million pounds of "surplus" butter, bought to keep the floor price to farmers above 58 cents. The U.S. government owns 125 million pounds.

The New York Times reports: "President Eisenhower at his news conference April 2 said he would rather see government-purchased butter marketed at a loss, even a complete loss, than have it spoil while some people are starving. He said he had reports that some butter, having been stored in inadequate warehouses, had reached spoilage stage."

THE PLAIN TRUTH is that no one has yet found a way to sell that surplus butter, at bargain prices which would move it without demoralizing the existing market. We don't want to face facts.

Nobody wants low prices—in the lines HE sells. Nobody wants lower wages in HIS particular job.

The plain harsh truth is that literally nobody still believes in our much boasted system of "free enterprise"—the big business man least of all. Nobody really believes in the law of supply and demand any more, otherwise we would bring out that butter, that dried milk, that canned pork and those 400,000 cases of unsold salmon, and we would sell them for what they would bring.

ANY TRADE UNION leader who really believes that wages can go on up and up, year after year, in the existing state of world markets, should have his head read.



SIR CHRISTOPHER CHANCELOR, (right) general manager of Reuters, world-wide British news agency, is welcomed to the annual dinner meeting in Toronto of The Canadian Press by Roy H. Thomson, president of CP, Canada's national news-gathering agency. Mr. Thomson was re-elected president of CP at the annual meeting attended by newspaper men from coast to coast.

## VICTORIA REPORT

...by J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA.—There'll be lots of wild election promises this campaign, as always, but the wildest one of last year's campaign has been buried once and for all.

That was the Social Credit and Conservative promise that hospital insurance would be made voluntary. It was largely because Conservatives and Social Crediters were agreed on this vital matter that the public tended to get them mixed up—to believe they were one and the same. Conservatives don't like this mix-up and they're doing their best now to unravel it. They're telling the public that Social Crediters are not Conservatives in disguise, even though Premier Bennett and Education Minister Tilly Royston used to be Conservative pillars.

Social Crediters, once in power, found hospital insurance wouldn't work at all if the compulsion was taken out of it. So, very wisely, they went back on their election promise, although they wouldn't say so.

In fact, at the recent session, they wouldn't say hospital insurance was compulsory and they wouldn't say it wasn't compulsory. But the government left the impression that you've got to pay up—or, at least, that you should pay up, because if you don't you're breaking the law.

The Conservatives want to forget about their foolish hospital insurance promise of last year's campaign. They won't be making the same promise this year. They know hospital insurance is a necessity, that it's here to stay.

All of which is a tribute to Byron Johnson who, as Premier, brought in hospital insurance. He went down to defeat because of it, too, because this time last year hospital insurance had become a political football, and it was popular to kick it around. Strange—isn't it? Johnson got his head chopped off because he brought in a great social reform, as important as universal education and abolition of child labor.

## Want Oak Bay

The Conservatives, more than anything else, want to get Oak Bay back into their fold. It's in Oak Bay Conservative leader Deane Finlayson is running. When Conservative leader Herb Anscomb lost Oak Bay last June, Tory hearts sank to an all-time low. It was a terrible blow, combined Tory ego was dragged in the mud.

Deane Finlayson, though his home is in Nanaimo, has moved into Oak Bay for the election campaign. He lives, for the campaign at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel, on the waterfront; but he has little time to admire the splendid view.

He's going to visit around the province, but he's going to pay

## Papers the Same

Digging in the Archives the other day, I came across an 1890 Victoria directory, and was struck by this: "Board and lodgings at hotels range from \$4.50 per week upwards; laborers' wages, \$1.75 to \$2.50 per day; mechanics' wages, from \$3 to \$4 per day. The legal hack fare is 25 cents a mile, or \$1 an hour.

There are 26 teachers in the public schools of the city, with an average attendance of 1,300 pupils.

"Cost of coal, \$8.50 per ton; wood, \$4.50 per cord; brick, \$8 per thousand; lumber, \$12 to \$22 per thousand feet; lime, \$1.25 per bbl.; cost of gas \$2 per month; daily papers delivered, 25 cents per week, or five cents per copy."

We in the newspaper business can take some satisfaction from the fact that our product has increased very little in 63 years.

## Ray Reflects and Reminisces

The sale of bow ties is said to be making extraordinary strides in British Columbia. This is not a matter of unusual or exceptional importance, yet we are bound to realize how to tie a smart looking bow tie without tying and untieing the darned thing three or four times is a stubborn fact. It makes one feel tired, as well as wrinkled.

Canada will be the only nation at the Coronation without its own national emblem, according to what is heard as June 2 draws nearer. Perhaps as we attain further maturity there won't be any real difference between what is left.

President Eisenhower has ordered the White House yacht Williamsburg put into mothballs because it is a symbol of needless luxury. Tom Lipton never thought so. His Atlantic never used to make a lot of industry in itself.

People in Hawaii have been experiencing frost bites. The mid-Pacific isles are handy to the equator which does not always appear to be what it seems.

AWAY WE GO  
A permanent museum in Prince Rupert is off to a good start.

## MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

### 40 Years Ago Today

The GTP ticket office will occupy the premises on Third Avenue near the Bank of Montreal vacated by the Bankers Trust Company.

Mrs. P. Palmer entertained at a fancy dress party in honor of her daughter Bernice on her birthday.

### 30 Years Ago Today

Nearly \$5,000 will be spent for improvements to the Bank of Montreal, according to instructions received by H. St. G. Lee.

The first rifle shoot of the season was held with 16 marksmen, turning out. Sgt.-Major W. M. Brown won the spoon for the day with a high score of 83.

### 20 Years Ago Today

At a meeting of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada held here it was decided by a vote of 78 to 39 to call off the strike at Anxox and go back to work.

Train travel into Rupert has been held up for over a week owing to a huge snow slide 40 miles out of town.

### 10 Years Ago Today

An executive meeting of the newly-formed Prince Rupert Young Couples' Club was held at the home of Mrs. Jean Holmes with the president, Frank Bird, in the chair.

W. H. Tolin, formerly of Stewart, has purchased the Central Hotel from the estate of the late Mrs. Peter Black.

## We Are Proud of B.C.

The eyes of the world are on British Columbia. All around us there is growth and activity.

New industries are being established projects like Kitimat, Trans-Mountain Pipeline, B.C. Electric Power Development and so forth are but a few signposts on the road to a truly great future. Have you an investment in this great economic expansion? Are you a participant... or just a spectator? This is an important question for you. Find out how you can play a profitable role in this business growth. Fill in the coupon below. We will send you complete details without obligation.

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## Provincial Voters List Closes on April 27

In order to vote in the coming election, your application for registration made in accordance with the Provisions of the Provincial Elections Act, must be filed with the Registrar on or before

April 27.

Registration on the Dominion or Municipal Voters Lists does not mean that your name is on the Provincial Voters List.

Having voting qualifications does not automatically entitle you to vote. You must make sure you are registered.

MAKE SURE... DO IT TODAY.  
NO GENERAL HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

GORDON F. FORBES,  
Registrar of Voters,  
Prince Rupert Electoral District,  
Court House, Prince Rupert, B.C.

W. SHIELDS ORR,  
Registrar of Voters,  
Atlin Electoral District,  
Stewart, B.C.

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