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## New Horizons in Sight

"AFTER you read about the Canadians holding onto Yukon water power and striking what may be a major uranium deposit within an hour's flight of Ketchikan, you begin to think maybe the border commission should have held out a little longer and gotten the U.S. border moved 100 miles east of where it is.

"It is just possible that these two developments will be the most important ones of this region in the second half of the 20th century."

These comments by the Ketchikan Alaska Chronicle provide still further measure of the importance being attached to what is going on north of us. Not so long ago the arrival here of Columbia Cellulose and the news of big plans for Kitimat were being discussed as the miraculous development of the B.C. wilderness. This coastal region emerged into prominence on what, in the public eye, was the last frontier.

Just as suddenly all that is changing. While we are by no means regarded yet as the hub of the provincial economy, it is becoming more and more apparent that the Skeena does not mark the northern boundary of B.C. It is, in fact, only halfway there.

This realignment of geography can do us no harm. For years Nanaimo occupied roughly the same position on Vancouver Island that Prince Rupert does on the mainland. It staggered along in the doldrums because it was the end of the line. Then all at once communities further up the coast began to come to life, the island highway improved and pushed north, and Nanaimo began to grow like an adolescent youth until now there are those who predict it will outpace Victoria.

It is not in the least inconceivable that Prince Rupert will have a similar experience. If the Frobisher proposals for the Atlin area become reality, B.C. is certain to have a large new city, or cities, in the north. In such circumstances, coastal shipping lines would find it practical to have headquarters at Prince Rupert, from which point they could readily serve both northern and southern ports.

As far as transportation by land is concerned, a highway through B.C. to Alaska has long been the vision of leaders in the U.S. west coast states. If northern B.C. takes on its prospective massive development, Canadian leaders may find they have this vision, too. Construction of such a highway would be still another step in bringing the geography of the province into proper perspective.

It seems probable that eventually the whole picture will fall into shape. It will then be understood that Prince Rupert and district are not on the last frontier but in an enviable position right on the 50-yard line.

## OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The PCs at the moment aren't too happy a lot. They're angry, worried and frustrated.

The reason is that they figure they're being made the victims of the propaganda device known technically as "the big lie." And they don't know what to do about it.

### RUMORS

Their problem is a rash of stories being front-paged pretty well across the nation during the past 10 days to the effect that Hon. George Drew is in process of being supplanted by the Conservative powers-that-be in the federal leadership of the party.

There's no truth to the stories. And if they had appeared only in Liberal newspapers they wouldn't have had too great an effect on PC morale; they would have been taken as just an unhappy part of the great game of politics.

But the trouble is that they have been appearing as well in papers that have strongly Conservative backgrounds. The London Free Press is an outstanding example. And this evidence of the insidious effectiveness of a propaganda offensive of a particularly damaging nature has just got the PCs down.

The PCs are convinced that the stories all stem from Liberal propaganda sources. Their target allegedly is to destroy the effectiveness of the Drew leadership on the eve of the general election campaign. Obviously, if the impression can be spread on

a national scale that Drew is insecure in the leadership of his own party, public confidence in the party's chances of election success will be lowered. And the idea that the party has a chance of winning is the one notion that PC strategists recognize as vital to sell to the voters between now and polling day.

### DREW'S FUTURE

While the gist of all the current rumors is that Drew is being dropped from the leadership, the detailed versions show wide variety. One story is that the Toronto financial backers of the party have lost faith in Drew's ability to win, and that they propose to replace him with President Sydney Smith of the University of Toronto. Another rumor would send Drew to London as representative of the province of Ontario in Ontario House. In this connection Donald Fleming, MP for Toronto-Eglinton, is mentioned as his successor. Still another report avers that Premier Leslie Frost of Ontario is to be drafted into the federal leadership in time to pilot the party through this year's election.

That none of these stories has any foundation in fact is attested by the common-sense logic of practical politics. Political parties don't change horses—or leaders—in mid-stream. And the coming general election campaign is already within sound of its opening guns.

## As I See It



by

Elmore  
Philpott

### One Garson Point Right

IN A RECENT column I strongly criticized the Liberal government's policy of extending the Emergency Powers Act for another year.

I still think the basic arguments of the three opposition parties are right.

Parliament cannot be too jealous about the whittling away of its rights. It should stand foursquare on the principle that parliament—not the cabinet—is the guardian of democracy in Canada.

But I confess I overlooked one point, made later by the Minister of Justice, which drastically changes the picture.

Parliament is soon to be dissolved. For two or three months we will literally have no parliament that could be summoned in an emergency. I think we would be totally blind to world reality today if we did not see that a grave emergency might arise in that interim period.

If parliament does not extend the E.P.A. there would be nothing but the War Measures Act to invoke in such an emergency. The latter is a too drastic measure.

The lesser evil, surely, is to extend E.P.A. till one month after the new parliament assembles.

THE CIVIL servants of B.C. are clearly on the right track when they request the same rights of collective bargaining, and arbitration of wage rates, as everybody else has.

It is silly for the B.C. government to say Crown employees can't have it. Many classes of Crown employees already do have it. Where can you draw the line? The CNR and TCA employees bargain collectively. So do municipal employees, school teachers, and men working for the B.C. power corporation.

ALL THAT needs be said about the happy-ending verdict in the Tobacco Road case is that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Judge McGeer's historic decision was based on the highest law—the law of common sense. Freedom of the stage is just as much a part of democracy as freedom of worship or pulpit, freedom of press, or freedom of parliament. That freedom is not absolute—for we all must obey the law—the courts, police, as well as actors or MPs.

ON SATURDAY, March 14, a highly respected citizen of Taft, B.C., wrote me a letter, complete with diagram, reporting a mystery aircraft. It was seen at precisely 17 minutes past midnight and of strange design, with fiery lights above and behind, with a dark circle round its middle. It was moving at great speed toward Alaska.

On March 18 BUP reported from Anchorage, Alaska, that on (the same) March 14 "a weird blue 'object' hovered over Alaska for almost an hour. One of the many observers said (see page 2 Vancouver Sun March 18) it had a 'circular pattern of radial lights' . . . and gave an eerie glow."

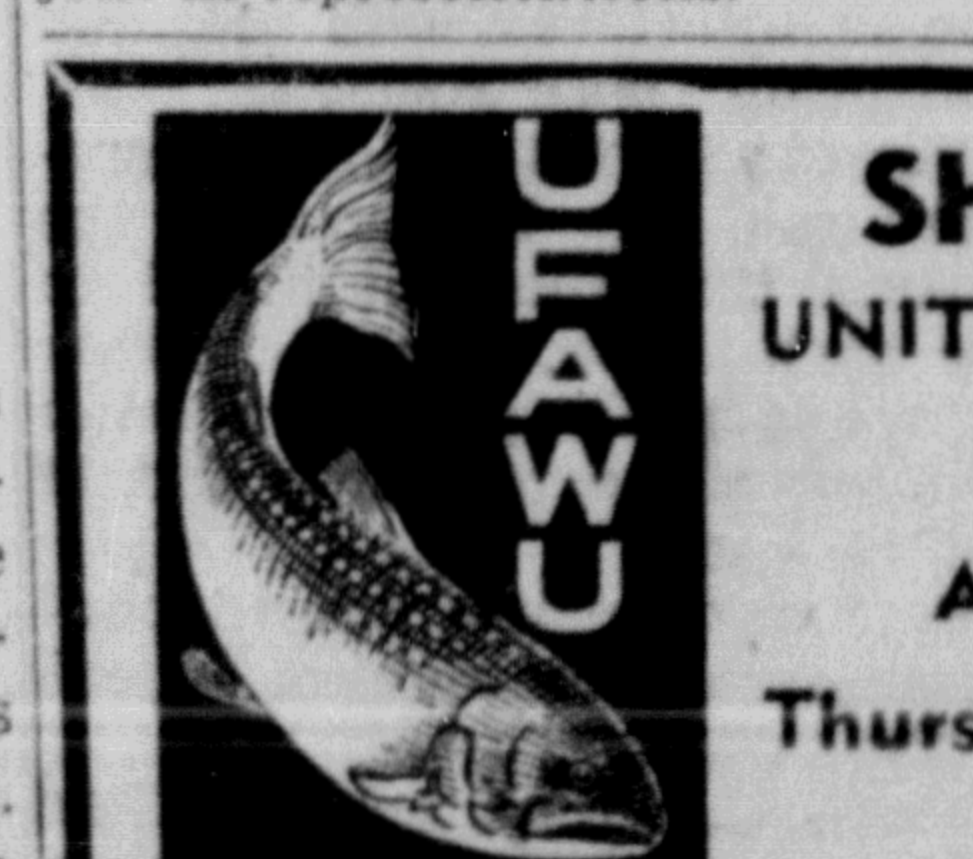
Don't say I didn't warn you, folks. But relax. It is most likely just another allied secret weapon, otherwise our excitable cousins would have real jitters by now, which they plainly have not.

## Aid Sought

EDMONTON (CP)—British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan have decided to seek immediate federal aid for the building of a network of all-weather defence highways.

Highways ministers of the three provinces conferred in Edmonton Saturday and decided to press for an early conference with the federal government to discuss the plan.

Attending the conference were P. A. Gagliardi, British Columbia; J. T. Douglas of Saskatchewan and Gordon Taylor of Alberta. Manitoba also will be invited to join in representations.



BUSINESS—Convention Delegates Reports

SHOREWORKERS  
UNITED FISHERMEN & ALLIED  
WORKERS UNION

A GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 26th, 7:30 p.m.  
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