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State-Controlled Unions

A DISTURBING report comes from Bonn on the heels of the gratifying victory by Chancellor Adenauer at the polls. It is that the executive committee of his party, the Christian Democratic Union, has summarily demanded a reorganization of the governing body of the German Trade Union Federation on lines which would place it under a degree of state domination.

The ground asserted for this demand is that leaders of the federation during the recent electoral campaign actively supported the chancellor's opposition, the Social Democratic Party. This is said to be contrary to a statutory obligation of impartiality.

But is it wise or practical to try to impose a rule of political silence on labor union leadership? Exaggerated class consciousness is undesirable and forced collection of political contributions by unions should be taboo. But expression of group points of view is legitimate. Whatever may be the drawbacks of such a tie, the relations of the free trade-union movement in Germany to the Social Democratic Party have not been unlike those of the Trades Union Congress to the Labor Party in Britain or the Force Ouvriere to the Socialist Party in France.

The alternative in Germany may be a divided labor movement, with the introduction of Roman Catholic trade unions, like those in France. Any division, as illustrated by the AFL and the CIO in the United States, weakens the labor voice.

But a worse situation exists in the so-called labor unions of Communist Russia, which are mere arms of the employer-state, and was experienced in Germany when trade unions were headed under the Nazis by Dr. Robert Ley. Nothing so extreme is in sight in the present move. The effect, however, would be to increase the power of Roman Catholic unionists in the German labor federation.

Organized labor should be free to speak with its own voice. And control should come from the rank and file whom the unions are to represent rather than be imposed from outside by a dominant political party.

Scripture Passage for Today

"He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."
—St. John 6:47.

Decreased Enrolment in Normal Schools Blamed on Reid Speech

VICTORIA — A charge of knowing where the premier "sex, textbooks" and left-wing influence in British Columbia schools made at the last session of the legislature was brought to light again yesterday.

Bruce Brown, Liberal-Prince Rupert, making his maiden speech in the B.C. legislature said the charges, made by J. Allan Reid (S.-Salmon Arm) last session, were at least partly responsible for decreased enrolment in normal schools.

"I am convinced that one reason for the decreased enrolment is the violent, vicious and unwarranted attack made on our educational system," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Reid charged that "sex textbooks" were being used in B.C. schools and that "sinister" left wing influences were attempting to dominate the teaching profession.

"To add insult to injury," Mr. Brown said, Mr. Reid had publicly stated that "Premier Bennett told him he had done a good job and was behind him 100 per cent."

"If the premier did not find it politically expedient to admit or deny this allegation during the election campaign, that time has now passed. The members of this house, as well as the public generally, are interested in

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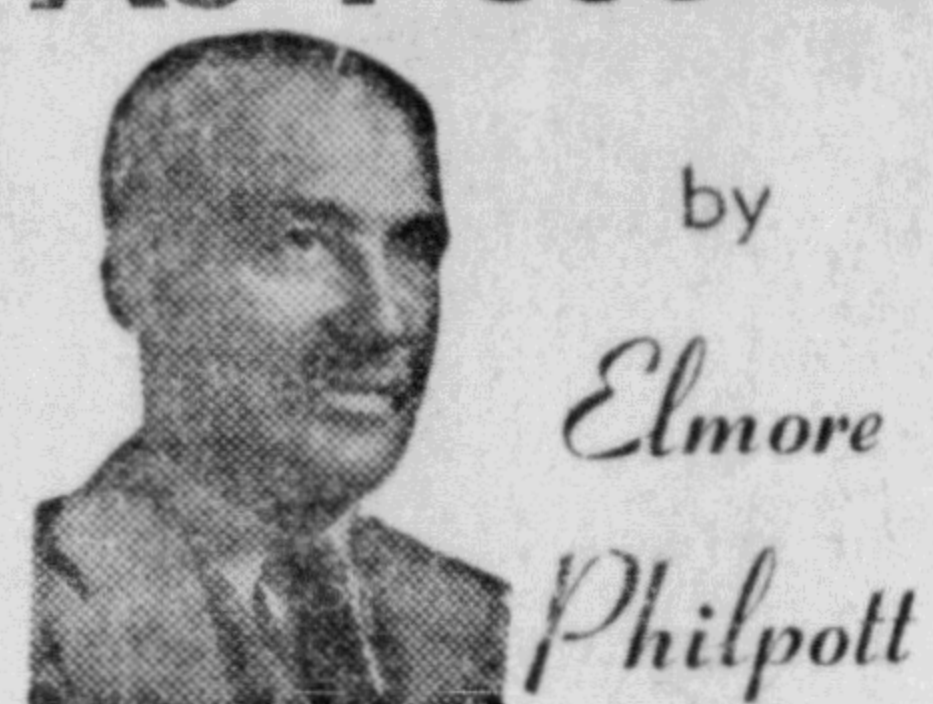
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As I See It



by
Elmore Philpott

Why Sell Airport?

THE City of Vancouver is once again dickering with the federal government over sale of its airport.

Four years ago the parties came within \$65,000 of agreement. But since then there are many new reasons for completing the deal. One is that expansion of the big airport will soon be necessary—at heavy capital cost.

The Regional Planning Board of the Lower Mainland of B.C. has just issued a fascinating study on the airport situation. It provides strong arguments for the transfer of the airport to the federal authority. But it also shows that several new local traffic airports will soon be needed around Greater Vancouver.

It has a most interesting section on the future of helicopter traffic.

THE BOARD shows that passenger traffic through the Vancouver airport increased by four-fold from 1942 to 1952. It sets forth convincing figures to indicate that the future increase may be:

By 1961 282%
By 1971 686%

The extra traffic at the Vancouver airport will require two runways by 1961 and three runways by 1971. Moreover as the bigger and bigger jet craft tend to require longer and longer runways, the cost of these will mount accordingly.

The study shows that 70 per cent of all traffic now handled by the Vancouver airport is local. It says "as a safety measure small planes will soon have to be removed from Vancouver airport to a small plane field." Part of the report is a strong plea to municipalities to reserve several local airports sites, as suggested by the Board in 1946. Some of the best local sites have since been utilized for other purposes.

THE BOARD bases its estimates on the trend to helicopter traffic by those made for New York. It shows that the helicopter cannot as yet compete with other aircraft on a passenger-per-mile basis. The actual cost of a return helicopter trip between Vancouver and Victoria will be \$14.40 to \$15.60 in the period 1955 to 1960. By 1970 it should be down to \$9.00.

The present fare, for conventional aircraft, including limousine service, is \$10.10 at both ends.

But the Board's expert figure there will be a tremendous trend to the helicopter, because of greater convenience.

THE NEW YORK studies throw cold water on the idea that helicopters will operate from the flat roofs of the big hotels.

The rooftops themselves are ideal landing stations for the whirlybird type of aircraft. But, says the report, "high octane aviation gas would have to be piped to the top of the building and this is against present fire regulations." It would also be impossible to have the necessary repair depots there.

For Vancouver the False Creek area is the likeliest helicopter airport site.

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FOUR CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES confer during a session of the general assembly of the United Nations at New York. Left to right: Dr. G. F. Davidson, deputy welfare minister; External Affairs Minister Pearson, chairman of the Canadian delegation; Postmaster-General Cote, and David M. Johnson, permanent representative to the UN.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Even before the new Parliament has met for its first session grim death has invaded its ranks.

The past week's loss of Gordon Graydon, Conservative M.P. for Peel, is going to leave a definite gap in the Chamber which no by-election will ever quite fill. For Graydon's contribution to Parliament came close to being unique. During the past 13 years he had not only played an active and useful role in house debates, but he had also become recognized for qualities of personality that were as refreshing as they were unchanging and genuine.

Gordon Graydon started his political life as a Young Conservative back in one of the student political movements at Toronto University. And he ended his political life at the age of 57 still a Young Conservative. For he was naturally one of those rare personalities who, while they mature, never lose their ardor or their freshness of youth. He was a refreshing character to the end.

Regardless of the political party to which you belonged, you always knew the sort of greeting you would get from Graydon. It would be warm and smiling. For he lacked the ability to carry his intense Conservative partisanship into his personal relations with people. In house debate Graydon could be—and frequently was—hard-hitting and aggressive. But he left his capacity for personal and

political feuding behind him when he passed out of the door of the House of Commons. Parliament has too few members of that kind to be able to spare one of them without regret.

It comes almost as a shock to political circles here to realize that in the years when Gordon Graydon was a university student it was the Conservative Party which was registering the greatest appeal to the youth of the period. United States high tariff policy had stirred the resentment of Canadian voters. They were in a mood to respond to the policy of retaliation and closer Empire trade which the late R. B. Bennett formulated. Liberal party prospects looked black indeed.

But even before Graydon had entered Parliament for the first time in 1935 the scene had changed. The great depression had intervened on a world-wide scale against which the domestic policies of the Conservative Government were unavailing. Shortly afterwards the great Bennett retired to England and the era in the Conservative Party which had dawned so promisingly ended abruptly.

The Conservative Party never recaptured its glory. But Gordon Graydon never lost his faith. He remained one of the most invincible of the party die-hards. It's doubtful if the party has another such to replace him.

AFL Expires Longshoremen

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The AFL expelled its longshoremen's union Monday for harboring "gangsters, racketeers and thugs."

The AFL convention voted to oust the 60,000-member International Longshoremen's Association despite a personal appeal on the convention floor from 69-year-old president Joseph P. Ryan.

The union has been accused by crime investigators of being infiltrated with criminal elements on the New York and New Jersey waterfronts.

The first automobile powered by steam was produced by the French inventor Nicholas Cugnot in 1769.

ray...

Reflects and
Reminisces

"Let's get on with it," said Mike Pearson, head of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations at a conference in New York. At last, something we should all be able to agree on.

EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Joe Coulter, 88, is dead in London, Ontario. He ranked among Canada's first real newsboys. He could remember the original issue of the Toronto Telegram in 1876. He was the first newsie to take papers from the hands of John Ross Robertson and hustle out to sell them. That's what it means—"hustle." And we have a suspicion that Joe did not have to be told.

If the museum did not have more visitors this season than ever before it must have been near that. To take any action, now that would in any way weaken even in a small way, steady growth would be short-sighted. The museum is becoming an institution. We saw a day or so ago a copy of the association's first annual meeting and dinner held in the Boston Cafe February 23 in the early thirties. R. L. McIntosh was chairman and those sharing in the program included Dr. W. A. Riddell, W. J. Alder, T. Johnstone, W. J. Hicks, Canon W. F. Rushbrook, Dr. J. T. Mandy, Mrs. J. R. Mandy and Rev. W. H. Pierce.

GIVEN CHOICE

Of course, it's always possible to consider the budget as a method of worrying before you spend it, instead of afterwards.

Train whistles in Canada appear to be regarded of less importance, and the day is approaching when they will disappear, although this does not mean it will vanish. Instead, in keeping with the times, modernization will be enhanced. Few will fail to miss the whistle—faint and far away—just powerful and at practically any hour, but it won't be an effort to accept what takes its place. The whistle, about 4 a.m. First, the darkness, silence and partial wakefulness. What was it woke you? Oh yes! Here she comes! There she goes. If we had no train with its whistles, and could not find any broken slumber to return to, perhaps we couldn't sleep. So what?

Mr. Bevan, British statesman, declared Tuesday "profoundly important changes" are pending in the Soviet Union. Possibly it may not matter so much, so long as there is a change. That's the point.



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