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Old Fashioned Manifesto

IF IT is true that CCF leader M. J. Coldwell is unlike his old poised self in parliament these days and allows himself to be baited into quarrels that previously he would have disdained, it may be because he has the job of helping to rewrite the Regina manifesto.

Here is a task that will require all the skill, resourcefulness, ingenuity and nerves of everyone who has a part in it. Somehow this socialist creed that was written in the bleak days of depression, with drought-plagued Saskatchewan as an appropriate setting for the authors, must subtly be made to conform with modern plush times and yet retain the ringing note that it offers the cure to Canada's ills. Somehow it must be made to appear that it is leading the growth of Canada, not chasing it.

A measure of the difficulty in redesigning the manifesto may be found right in Saskatchewan, the CCF's own stronghold. It is probably true that socialism was the only answer for Saskatchewan when it was crushed by poverty. But as the province responded to the growing health of Canada as a whole, changes had to be made. To attract some of the capital moving through the country, the CCF government was obliged to make it clear that it did not have possessive designs on industry.

A further good reason for doing this was its failure with those industries which it did control. As a result, socialism in Saskatchewan is now concentrated mainly on public utilities and welfare services which are not particularly distinguishable from what is found elsewhere in Canada.

In the course of this transformation, Premier Douglas has handled affairs adroitly. It is apparent that he has given Saskatchewan good adaptable government but he has not given the unadulterated socialists any cause to feel inspired.

Nor will they have such cause unless they can picture grim years immediately ahead. If they can do that, they will be able to tackle the manifesto with some assurance. Otherwise they should leave it alone for, without wasting time on words, free enterprise is showing the way much better.

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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Shapiro Movie

LIONEL SHAPIRO is one Canadian newspaperman who has made good in a big way, even as measured by all the yardsticks which would be used in a Hollywood movie.

I watched him work himself up first as sports reporter on the Montreal Gazette, then chit-chat columnist, then war correspondent and then to playwright and internationally famous novelist.

The movie version of his novel is called "The Sixth of June" and is first rate by my standard.

THERE is a two level plot. On one level Shapiro is telling the old, old story of what war does to decent, ordinarily faithful couples who would have gone through life without any heartbreaks in times of ordinary peace. But on another level Shapiro is dealing with one of the most dramatic and in some ways, tragic events of our times—the shotgun marriage of two distinct ways of life; that is the unplanned and unwanted amalgamation of the British and American civilizations, with all that it involved in upsets in the formerly "tight little isle" of Britain.

SHAPIRO tells his familiar old love triangle story, with sympathy for his characters but with fidelity to the way it happens in real life. The American hero (Robert Taylor) is happily married to the lovi[illegible] he has left at home. The yo[illegible] British girl heroine (Dana W[illegible]) is also truly in love with he[illegible] career officer fiance who is [illegible] commando duty in North Africa. But fate throws the American officer and the British girl together. At first they are just good companions — two lonely people thrown together in the London of the long blitz. But then nature takes its course. No matter how they fight against it the power of propinquity is too much. The happiness of the consequent period of adultery is marred by the increasing fog of the sense of guilt which closes in on both of them.

Shapiro's story rises to real heights of poignancy in the scenes when the wounded commando fiance returns to England unannounced.

If Shapiro's war triangle love story is almost as old as the hills —certainly as old as Ulysses and the siege of Troy—his treatment of the American-British mix-up is as vivid and at times as upsetting as the discovery of atomic energy.

The movie accurately shows the frictions of that process which the immortal phrasemaker Churchill called getting "mixed up together for the common good." The Americans are assigned to England, literally in droves. The movie deftly shows the small things in the two cultures which touch the raw nerves of the other. The Americans, fresh from home, wear too many ribbons, too many too big regimental badges.

The stand-offish British, on the other hand, at first will hardly even speak to the American soldiers in the villages. Shapiro's story begins with one consequent explosion when a British brigadier of the old pukkha sahib type blows his top at one exhibition of American GI bad manners.

But the climax of the story is where an American colonel (beloved but exhibitionist in the Patton tradition) goes off his rocker just before D-day.

The British commando colonel is substituted to command the key job on the beaches. He knows, and his subordinate (Robert Taylor) knows that he knows that the latter is the man who has lived in adultery with his betrothed.

But both do their jobs to the king's taste on that day of destiny. And thank the good Lord, and the integrity of Shapiro—the story does not—repeat not—end with the wife back in the States as the only permanently forgotten person.

Separated Siamese Twins Return Home

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP)— Gary Neil and Lary Dal Hutchens, born Siamese twins but separated by surgery last Thursday, were to go home today. The boys, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hutchens of suburban El Cajon, were joined by a short piece of tissue at the base of the spine when they were born July 2. Doctors said stitches closing the wounds left by the surgery were removed Tuesday. The twins were pronounced in fine shape.

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia has asked the youth of Britain to come here and help gather in the harvest. The invitation from the Soviet youth committee Wednesday asked Britain's National Union of Students to send 60 young people to work in the Siberian fields.

All Aboard By G.E. Mortimore

Loggers of the western forest are tough men, but they are human. For instance, they do not hide their sentimental feelings toward the whisky jack, or Canada jay.

Whenever men stop for lunch in the woods, the little grey birds fly down to share the food. They perch on a nearby twig, a hard hat, or the toe of someone's boot, and cheerfully snatch pieces of sandwich.

According to folk-lore, Canada jays are "the souls of dead loggers." Most loggers assume a protective attitude toward the feathered clowns.

"We were having lunch," a friend tells me, "when a Canada jay flew down and hopped right into a lunch pail. The owner of the lunch pail was a big fellow with a black mean streak in him. He grabbed the whisky jack in one of his ham fists and squeezed it to a rag."

Nobody attacked the man (as they might have done in a Saturday Evening Post short story). But silence fell on the group. Those who had been sitting near the killer moved away. From that time until he quit his job a few days later, nobody addressed a word to him or answered anything he said.

Another man tells me about a friendly black bear who used to hang around a construction camp. The bear would have raided the food if he had been given a chance, but the only damage he did was to lick the grease from the pile-driver.

One day a member of the work gang returned from the bush, and announced with a grin that he had shot the bear. He expected congratulations. Instead, they gave him the silent treatment, which bothered him so much that he quit his job the following week.

The needless slaughter of animals for "fun" rather than food is too common. Most of it is done by men from the cities. The average man who works in the bush looks upon such bloodshed with disgust.

Milkman Takes Customer At Word

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)— Mrs. J. B. Marshall Jr., mother of three growing children recently left her milkman this note:

"The way we drink milk, we feel it is best for you just to leave 1 (one) cow instead of our normal delivery."

Wednesday, the milkman, with nary a smile, delivered a Jersey cow and a bill for $400.

Appended was a note that the Marshalls could return the cow if they weren't satisfied. That seemed the likely course.

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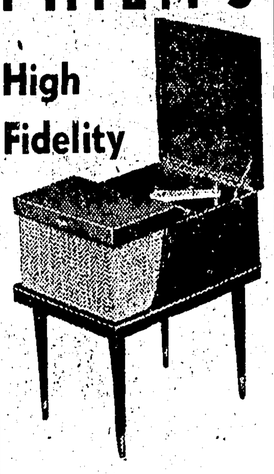

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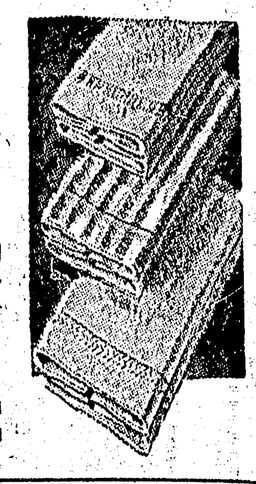

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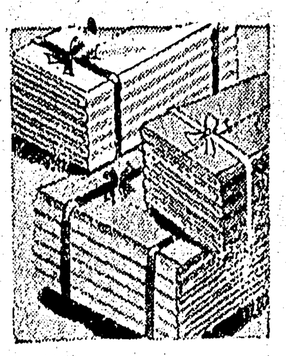

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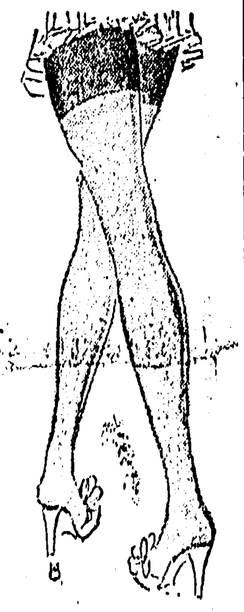

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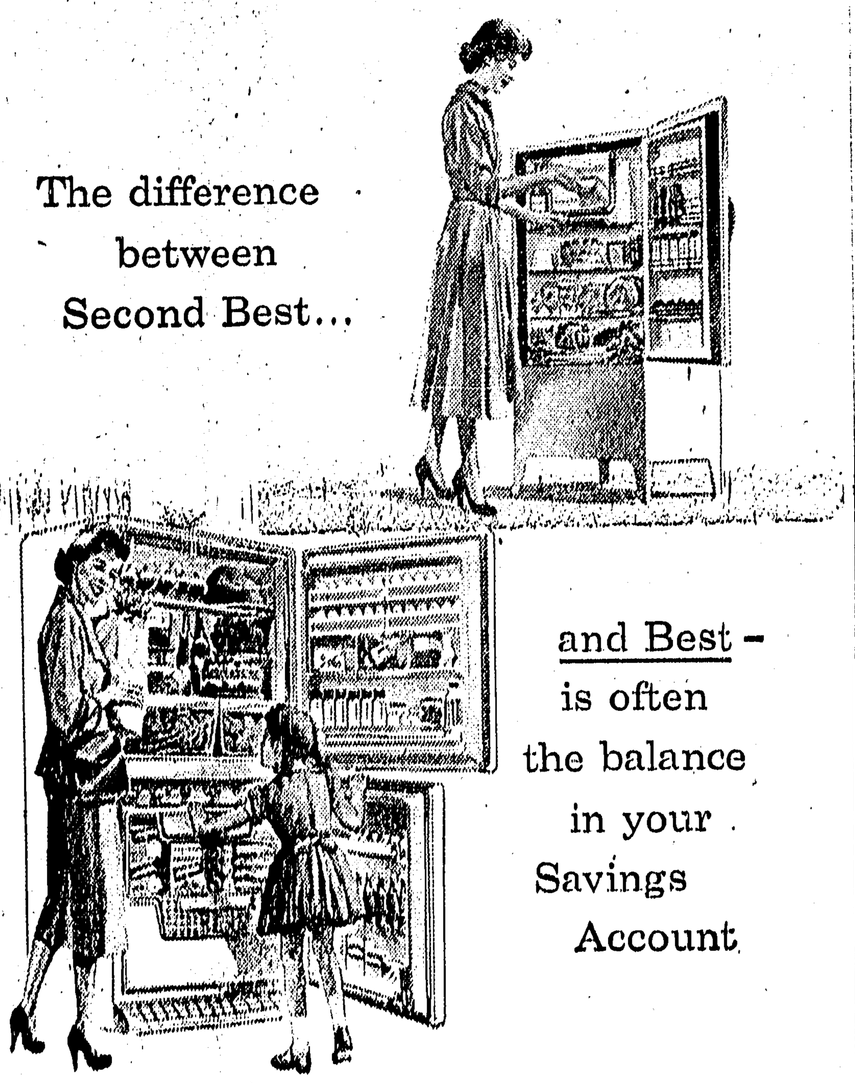

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