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## Welcome Premier Bennett

TODAY Prince Rupert bids welcome to Premier Bennett. Whether he comes as a politician with an eye to an approaching election, or as the province's chief executive making a tour of inspection, he should nevertheless be assured that we are pleased to see him.

We think we have something up here and are glad to show it. And for what we haven't got, we are glad to have the opportunity to ask.

There's nothing unreasonable about that. It's the natural reaction of a populace that has some awareness of its part in developing the province. In the larger centres, it's a case of letting George do it. Here the problem is more personal.

An outstanding example of this is Highway 16. Every motorist between here and Prince George knows Highway 16 and every one of them wishes he could do something about it. There is no road in the south that affects men's thoughts to a comparable extent. It is a mental and physical hazard which represents to us a penalty, rather than an incentive, for living in the north.

Similarly there is the condition of the Cow Bay fishing floats, in which we are given to understand that the B.C. government has an interest. Everyone in the city knows the sad situation there. They know it because the welfare of the fishermen in one way or another touches almost every individual. Apparently there is some hold-up about the transfer of property to the federal government. This is of far greater concern to Prince Rupert than a similar problem would be in, say, New Westminster.

Another item that commands community attention is the proposed airport for Digby Island. This is still a matter for the future, but as plans develop most of us will have a close interest in just what terms the necessary land can be made available by Victoria. This will not be a matter of concern merely to the city council or the Chamber of Commerce, as it might be in bigger cities. We—the butcher, the baker, and the man down the street—need an airport to get in and out of here as and when we wish without travelling 100 miles to do so.

And so the list goes, including the perennial problem of city financing on which the premier has been kept well informed. If our reasons for wanting these things seem altogether personal, that is a wrong impression. There are the parasites, of course, but most of those who come here to live are prepared to meet the challenge of frontier life and are willing to do their part in improving it. It is not too boastful to say that the province could not do without us.

That, as Mr. Bennett undoubtedly realizes, is the general situation. If he has a few political remarks to get off his chest, let's have them. This part of the country has spawned some of the finest politicians in B.C. history (present as well as past) and knows the language.

But we trust he will remember that we are an audience which is not content to hear only about what is being done for or against someone else. We like to hear answers to that question we frequently ask ourselves—what about us?

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## As I See It

By  
Elmore  
Philpott

### Skipper Missing

THE Western nations are worse off than the proverbial ship without a rudder. They are more like a ship without a skipper.

The most striking proof of the lack of effective leadership in the group of western democracies is seen in the drift on the question of disarmament.

The Soviet is being handed one propaganda victory after another, at the very time when the west most needs moral victories. For years the western nations advanced certain general proposals for armaments limitation. Finally, the Soviet dropped its long drawn-out obstruction.

It came pretty close to accepting the western proposals, in substance. The Soviet acceptance differed only on matters of detail—on minor detail, as compared with the apparent acceptance of the main western position. But no sooner had the Soviet thus moved close to the western position than the top statesmen of the democracies began to back away from their own prior position, as if in flight!

NOW, all around the world voices are being raised for what has been for many years the main point of Soviet anti-war propaganda—the banning of all test explosions of nuclear weapons.

Last Christmas, His Holiness the Pope voiced a strong appeal to ban such tests. One result of the Pope's proclamation was that the U.S. Admiral Strauss went hurrying to Rome to try to convince the Holy Father that future U.S. tests would be for "defensive" purposes. But during the absence of Admiral Strauss one of his own top atomic lieutenants resigned from his official position in protest against further tests and against the building of bigger and more destructive nuclear bombs.

Now, finally, Governor Adlai Stevenson adds his powerful voice to the demand for a cessation of the nuclear arms race, and the calling of a halt to more nuclear explosions.

WHY do the western democracies always hand as on a platter the possibilities for such great propaganda victories to the Soviets?

It has been clear, for years past, that intelligent people of all nations were increasingly nervous about the effects of nuclear explosions. The Japanese Diet recently voted unanimously against the impending U.S. test explosion in the Marshall Islands areas. Almost all Asian countries have for years been clamouring for a halt to all such explosions in Asia.

It is only in recent months that the most influential voices have also been raised in Europe and North America.

It is simply not good enough for western statesmen to point out that the Soviet is really cynical and hypocritical in its attitude. All during the years in which the Communist worldwide apparatus was most vociferously calling on mankind to "Ban the Bomb," the Soviet itself was catching up to, and perhaps passing, the U.S.A. in the race to produce more and deadlier nuclear bombs. It is testing nuclear bombs all the time.

WHY should the West thus persist in being its own worst enemy in the world-wide propaganda war?

The cry to "Ban the Bomb" should come from the West years before—not years after—it was originated in Moscow.

The West should never lag behind the Soviet in any respect when it comes to disarmament proposals. Yet that is precisely what we are doing, notwithstanding the fact that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose from genuine armament limitation.

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JACKIE HARVEY grimaces as he gets a polio-vaccine shot at Alexandra school in Halifax. Halifax, first Canadian centre to use the Salk vaccine last year, has started shots to 10,000 school children. Prince Rupert youngsters last year took polio shots without "batting an eye."

## Russia Would Welcome Arms Ban Says Khruschev

LONDON (CP)—In a farewell press conference ending the 50-day visit today, Russia's strategic material to the Communist party chief said his world "be thrown on the rubbish heap."

Millions of Britons sat in on the press conference, televised from London's big Central Hall, near the Houses of Parliament.

Khruschev declared—that Russia does not ship arms to anyone, "and we would like there to be no shipments at all."

### LESSENING TENSION

Bulgarian predicted that the talks he and Khruschev held with Prime Minister Eden during the visit should lead to a lessening of world tension. However, a communiqué he and Eden signed Thursday night, summing up their talk, indicated little progress toward agreement on major East-West issues.

While admitting the striking of some "undercurrent rocks" in the talks with Eden, Bulgarian cautioned against exaggerating the differences.

3. Prime Minister Eden has accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union this year—the date to be fixed later.

2. Bulgarian and Khruschev indicated they would like to visit the United States if they thought such a visit would be profitable. They parried the question with "who would not like to visit that country if he has business there?"

### APPEAL FOR HELP

3. Bulgarian appealed for British help in bringing about closer ties between the U.S. and Great Britain, which he said are "far from sufficient."

4. Khruschev denied any intention of attempting to drive a wedge between Britain and the U.S. and said Russia favored Coal deposits on Spitsbergen, even "pulling out the wedges" north of Norway, have been estimated at nine billion tons.

"Whether anyone likes it or not" he said, "the Soviet Union and Great Britain will find a common language on the basic principle, a fact we regret."

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BIG COAL SOURCE

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## OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

The United States ambassador is reportedly reported from intimate circles to be genuinely surprised—and also considerably if very privately hurt—by the reaction to his recent Vancouver speech.

His Excellency Douglas Stuart spoke only from a desire to be helpful. No one in the Capital here who knows him questions that. Furthermore, his remarks were both sound and timely.

In terms of the modest results of the conferences, Britain can probably be disappointed to everyone concerned, but the Russians appear to have most of the disappointments. They were both sound and timely. Every realistic-thinking economist in the Capital appreciates that the fastest formula for bringing about a depression in this country would be to interrupt the flow of United States investment capital that is so great a factor in financing the current natural development boom.

With these points in mind, a very substantial section of Parliament Hill opinion is in sympathy with the United States Ambassador. They feel that the re-action of official Canadian protest to it was basically artificial, and that advice which had been well intentioned, frankly expressed, and from a source

of the Western world.

GETTING WORRIED

The joint statement, while loaded with cliches of diplomacy, still bolsters the general impression that Moscow's leaders are genuinely worried that the world situation might deteriorate into something uncomfortably close to a Third World War.

The communiqué announces mutual pledges, in broad generalities, to work for lessening of tensions, prevention of nuclear war, halting of the arms race, lessening war risk in the Middle East and for increased trade and cultural contacts between East and West.

There are no specific steps mentioned for achieving these admirable goals—but no specific agreements had been expected anyway.

Much depends now upon how much the Russians mean of what they say.

U.K. HOLDS EDGE

The section of the communiqué dealing with disarmament, for instance, was just words—a repetition of words spoken many times before, but on the other hand the British leaders may feel they have made a start toward something concrete.

The Russians laid bare their version of what unrestricted trade, unhampered by the current Western embargo on strategic goods, would mean in terms of hard cash to Britain—an increase in Russian imports of about \$2,500,000,000 in the next five years—and suggested a long list of goods, some of which show up on the embargoed list.

Third: I am fully aware of the parking problems mentioned in "Trade Mother's" letter. It is a problem that probably can only be solved by slow steps. However, a "parked" car cannot run over a child.

Fourth: I suggest that parents take a more active part in this problem by educating their children and by building a fence or retainer of sorts to prevent their children from being on the road. Our children have been taught to keep off the road and stay in their yard. At present our front gate is broken, yet our children still do not venture out. Surely other children can be taught to do the same.

Fifth: JOHN STOKES, Prince Rupert.

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