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Political Heart-Beat

IN THE U.S. the Vice-President is grimly described as being one heart-beat away from the Presidency. The saying could be expanded to indicate that upon the heart-beat of one man depends the fate of a whole political party.

Before coronary thrombosis put President Eisenhower on his back, the fortunes of the Republican party were running high. After a slow and uncertain start in politics, Eisenhower hit the stride that was expected of him and in the past year or so has established himself convincingly as one of the great national leaders of the age. His achievements at home may not stamp him as a brilliant President, but in the field of foreign affairs he has done as much for American presige as any man in recent history. When the full book is written, it is likely that he will even outshine President Roosevelt in this respect. So he has not yielded to the practice of secret agreements which, though they may settle the problems of the moment, have a way of going sour in retrospect.

With such a leader the Republican party—which usually has about the same kind of luck at the polls as our own Conservative party—stood a good chance of making a fight of it in the presidential elections next year. Perhaps its prospects are still good. Possibly Eisenhower will run again and no matter how popular a candidate the Democrats choose, he will be an unknown quantity as President.

But whatever happens, the Republicans' position is not nearly so strong as it was before the weekend. There is bound to be public uncertainty from now on about Eisenhower's health, no matter how complete his recovery, which will go against him as surely as if he had committed a political blunder.

The incident reflects a peculiarity of U.S. politics. To a point almost beyond human endurance, the weight of a nation's faith and cares rests on one man. While other democracies have their sovereigns or nominal presidents, in addition to their government leaders, the U.S. has one man who is the head of state as well as of government. He is the chief living symbol not only of his administration and political party but of his entire nation.

It is imperative, therefore, that he be extraordinarily sound in mind and body because he has responsibilities to bear for which nature designed few men. In the circumstances it is tragic but not strange that Eisenhower has suffered a heart attack. The wonder is that any President survives his term at all.

Salvation Army Aids Youths

"YOUR Worship, I suggest that in order to satisfy the claims of justice, which you must uphold, and to give judgment in the interests of the accused lads, the order of 'dismissed' would result in these lads continuing as good Canadian citizens and would save them from the stigma of a criminal record."

In so many words the Salvation Army Police Court Officer spoke to the Magistrate on behalf of two 18-year-old students. They had been studying hard for examinations and in sudden impulse threw aside their books, went out to the street and seeing a car in which the key had been left, jumped in and went around the block. They left the car there.

The owner, finding his car gone, reported it to the police. They found both the car and the boys. Of necessity, the case had to be brought up in court.

The fathers, business men, were frantic. The Army Officer felt that punishment for a foolish prank should not result in a criminal record which might darken the lives of the boys. Could anything be done?

The Major spoke to the car owner who readily assented to speak for the lads rather than to press the case. As stated, the Major was privileged to speak to the Magistrate on behalf of the boys, and two young men learned the lesson of their young lives.

The Prince Rupert Salvation Army needs your dollars to continue its good work.

As I See It

By Elmore Philpott

Packet Mystery

A FEW years ago I was down in Los Angeles when [illegible] the Bonaventure. My [illegible] made [illegible] for [illegible] Canadian but usually unheeded cry: "You can't get [illegible]."

[illegible] which [illegible] to keep [illegible] wife's complaints [illegible] complaints that it wasn't."

There are [illegible] things [illegible] When I went [illegible] my coat [illegible] coat [illegible]

Yes, the little flaps were decorously there. The slits were there below the flaps. But [illegible] there was not nothing [illegible] a row of [illegible]. They must have made that coat for the little [illegible] who isn't there.

* * *

AROUND the house I fell off [illegible] blank looks. I fancied that those American clothing manufacturers [illegible] real super-gypo artists, [illegible] a few thin dimes at the expense of gullible male customers from Canada who would never think of faked pockets. But in the end my natural good nature won out and I figured that some seamstress had made a mistake.

Imagine my chagrin last year when I had to buy another new suit right here in Canada, took it home all unsuspectingly and found exactly the same thing. No pockets! Only fake slits where real pockets ought to be.

Apparently the cheeky birds who design men's suits have decided that we can't have pockets in our coats any more. A few years ago they decided that we did not need vests any more. So vests went down and out, but without any corresponding reduction in the price of the vestless man's suit, so far as I can recall.

And before that, worst of all, they took away the good old reliable button from the most crucial part of our pants and gave us high-zippers.

* * *

SURELY there is no more fatuous belief in the commercial folklore of the North American way of life than that "the customer is always right."

[illegible] ever take a Gallup poll among the people of North America asking: "Do you want your pants to fall down?" Not on our life.

Did anybody consult any of us when the mysterious czars of the clothing industry decided that we could have no pockets in our coats? Not on your life.

What really worries me is that some of the changes which the clothing czars are but biding over on us unawares seem to tie in with what the women are saying ought to be done to men's clothes.

It is well known that misery loves company. It is also well known that when Eve ate that apple she could not rest until she had wheedled poor Adam into taking a bite too.

The female of the species has long envied us males our baggy pocket.

Could it be that the envious [illegible] are behind this new [illegible] of the disappearing pocket in men's coats and are encouraging us to make us look pretty around those small suits [illegible] which the ladies, with a [illegible] of understatement, call hobbies?

[illegible] of Australia's coastline [illegible] the island state of [illegible] is 12,200 miles.

THREE TOP INTERNATIONAL defence official meet in Regina before flying to Alaska to inspect DEW (Distant Early Warning) radar installations. Left to right: Dr. John A. Hannah, United States presidential assistant on Canadian-American defence matters; Gen. E. E. Partridge, commander of U.S. Air Defence Command, and Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, chairman of the Canadian section of the Joint Defence Board. (CP Photo)

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

Three of the leaders of Canada's four major political parties are currently on the road in various parts of the country. PC chieftain George Drew and CCF leader M. J. Coldwell are in Western Canada. Social Credit leader Solon Low is combing the Maritimes.

In a sense the activities of the trio are in the nature of a dry run of the federal election campaign expected not later than mid-summer 1957. Local situations are being sized-up; constituency fences are being mended wherever necessary; key workers are being contacted and briefed; issues are being tried out experimentally on electoral groups in an effort to test their appeal.

Actually, it is more of a full-scale than a test-tube operation. By the time he returns to the Capital almost within the shadow of Christmas, Hon. Mr. Drew will have covered more mileage than he ever has in any single election campaign. CCF Leader Coldwell will have gone from coast-to-coast. Social Credit Leader Low will have been more selective in picking his spots, but even he will have visited most of the provinces.

Having said this much about the scale of activities which the three party leaders are carrying on so zealously, it only remains to be reported that, from the standpoint of any worthwhile public impression which they are making, they might as well have stayed at home. The confidential word back to Parliament Hill headquarters here is that all three opposition leaders are meeting with a measure of indifference which contains no measure of hostility or antagonism whatever. The attitude towards them wherever they circulate is said to be one of just plain apathy.

That doesn't apply, of course, to the faithful in the local party organizations. They are in evidence in a big way, anxious by their activities to establish their own self-importance. But when the leaders get away from these professional circles to the general public whom they are basically anxious to impress, they get just nowhere.

The situation is attributed in no small degree to the advent since the last Federal general election of the Canadian TV world. The old-time political meeting barely survived the competition of radio. Television now is accepted as the final step in the march of modern technical progress that has made it obsolete. Not unreasonably, the average Canadian family appears to prefer an evening before the TV screen to an evening listening to the generally lame oratory of Federal politicians.

The situation is going to create complexities for politicians when the next Federal general election campaign comes around. As yet the party professionals and master-minds don't have the answer. They're just worrying about what they're going to do.

Employment Questions And Answers

In this column are questions about unemployment insurance and employment, together with answers received from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. If you are uncertain about any point do not hesitate to send in your question, we will obtain an answer and publish it in this column.

Following are some questions with answers which may be of interest to you.

Q. Why is it that any person employed by a hospital either in the province of Quebec, or in the province of Ontario, or any other province in the country, is not covered by unemployment insurance? Being an employee of the hospital in Saint John, I would appreciate it greatly if you would give an answer to my question.

A. The Act does not require contributions to be paid by a hospital which is not operated for the purpose of gain or by a charitable institution, but such hospital or charitable institution may elect to insure any group or class of employees with the consent of the Commission. A considerable number have insured some classes of employees in this way.

Q. I am drawing unemployment insurance benefits from the local office in this city. I have a prospect of employment in another city but am not sure that I will land the job. Can I go away and if unsuccessful continue to receive my benefit?

A. You should notify the local office of your intention. If you can maintain your availability, that is, if you are in a position to report within 48 hours in case employment is offered to you, you can continue receiving benefit payments. It would be advisable before leaving to consult the local office with regard to any opportunities for employment in your own area.

Other Papers Say . . .

TWELVE MONTHS' WORK

Every year in Canada from 150,000 to 200,000 people are thrown out of work and go on the unemployment insurance rolls for varying periods through no fault of their own. It occurs each year whether times are good or bad. Certainly, no efficient national economy as we claim ours to be should accept such a situation as inevitable. Everything possible should be done to reduce or eliminate this so-called seasonal unemployment.

In Canada, jobless rolls are at their lowest in September, increasing to a peak during the late winter or early spring. Seasonal unemployment is of several main types. There are layoffs arising from the direct effects of climate on production procedures. For instance, the winter freeze-up makes navigation impracticable on inland waterways. There is seasonal unemployment resulting from variations in demand for certain goods and services — automobiles and trucks, clothing and so on.

To present the problem in terms of economic waste is looking at only one side of the picture. The other half concerns the human side—the welfare of thousands of Canadian breadwinners and their families. For them there is unemployment insurance but that is no substitute for work.

A number of studies into seasonal unemployment completed last year, Hon. Milton F. Gregg, V.C., minister of labor, hinted during the past session of parliament that his department would be conducting some "interesting experiments" this winter. The problem merits the serious attention of all concerned.

Windsor Daily Star.

Ray . . . reflects and reminisces

Fathers will learn that one of the first things that son learns at university is a fine sense of touch.

* * *

Canada has been "charged really," Mark Twain tartly commented: "In our country we have got three unspeakably precious things: freedom, conscience and prudence never to practice either."

Red Cross Group Holds Workshop

CRESTON, B.C. — Thirty delegates from Red Cross branches throughout the east and west Kootenays exchanged information on various services at their annual workshop.

The workshop originated by James Bryden of Trail, are believed to be the only ones of their kind in B.C. Delegates pay their own expenses.

Officials of B.C. division, Canadian Red Cross Society, attending from the coast were Mrs. J. N. Maxer, president, Dr. F. C. Bell, chairman of the outpost hospitals committee, Mrs. Rita Myers, advertising director, and F/O/L. C. A. Scott, commissioner.

Better Parenthood Aims Of Federation This Week

Once again the British Columbia Parent-Teacher Federation is observing "Better Parenthood Week," Sept. 25 to October 1.

Realizing that the child of today is an investment in the future, not only members of various parent-teacher associations, but all the citizens of the province of British Columbia, interested in the welfare of children, are asked to join in making this week a significant one.

During this week the BCPTF emphasizes its responsibility to the child and brings before the community the work of the organization for the mental, moral, spiritual, social and physical development of the child.

The objectives of "Better Parenthood Week" are closely linked with those of the Parent-Teacher Federation. They are:

- To make fathers and mothers more fully aware of the importance of using the best possible methods in the care and training of their children, and to acquaint them with the many sources of help and information available in handling their family problems.
- To encourage the formation of groups for study and discussion.
- To promote more co-operative understanding between parents and teachers, and between the school and community at large.
- To lend active support to all community efforts for better schools, child health, recreational facilities, vocational guidance and prevention of delinquency.
- Co-operation in the many projects carried on in our communities is our contribution to the effectiveness of "Better Parenthood Week."

Among these are: youth centres, child care centres, school lunch programs, co-operative play groups, children's film libraries, dental clinics, children's sections of the public libraries and vacation and leisure reading clubs.

Mrs. Edmund Morrison, provincial chairman for the Parenthood Week campaign this week urged all parent-teacher associations to enlist many new members as possible.

"If each member of association could bring in one member that day will not be far distant when we can say with pride and say:

"'Every home in our district is represented in our membership.'"

Parents will then show they are trying to fulfil responsibilities toward children by taking advantage of the many opportunities offered by the PT Federation in furtherance of child welfare, Mrs. Morrison said.

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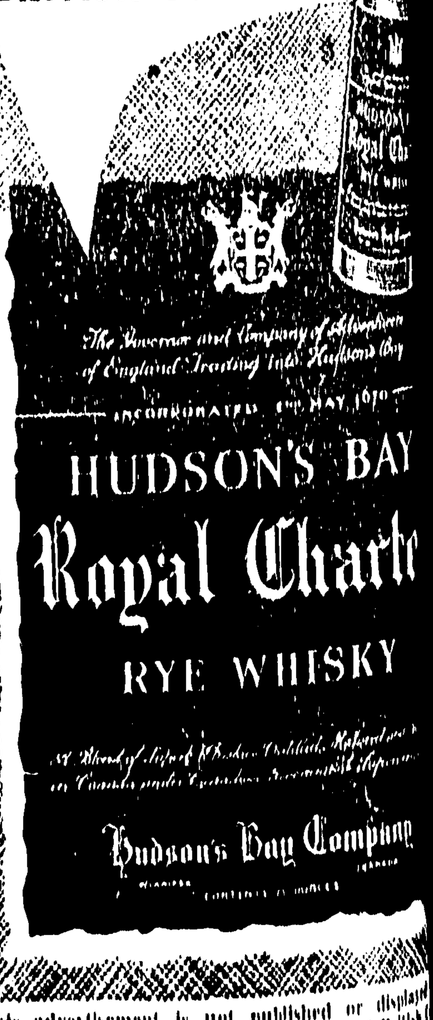

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