

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.  
Member of Canadian Press-Audit Bureau of Circulations  
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association  
Published by The Prince Rupert Daily News Limited  
J. P. MACOR, President  
Subscription Rates:  
By carrier Per week 25c per month \$1.00 per year \$10.00  
By mail Per month 35c per year \$8.00  
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

## Tip For Motorists

HERE is a tip for motorists. Do not place too much faith in the statements that Highway 16 will be fully paved by 1960. The truth is that such a feat is almost an impossibility and government officials are aware of it.

It would be more accurate to say that the surveying and other preliminary work will have been completed by that time and that the contracts will have been let. But just when Highway 16 will be a smooth black strip from Prince Rupert to Prince George remains a question which at the moment no mortal can answer.

The lack of any real assurance in the matter was made fully obvious to anyone attending the recent Highways conference at Burns Lake or the Associated Boards of Trade convention at Prince George. In talks after the meetings where the truth so often emerges, a government official admitted that while they have full control over the planning to be done for Highway 16, they have little or none over its execution. The difficulty is that it is impossible to put a time clause in the contracts being let. No contractor will look at such a condition.

Right now some of the construction companies doing work on Highway 16 also have big obligations elsewhere. This means that men and equipment are not being pushed into action on the road to the fullest possible extent. Without a time clause over their heads and with plenty of convincing reasons why there is delay, the contractors hold the master hand.

To the credit of the government, it must be said that more work is being done now on Highway 16 than at any time since its construction. At the Prince George end in particular there is evidence of a real effort to lay down a road that will do justice to North-Central B.C. Many sections have been relocated to cut broad straight swathes through more suitable areas and much paving already has been done.

But the government is subject to question on two main points. Why was all this not started earlier if it was realized that contractors could not be held to a time limit, and why is completion by 1960 being announced when there is nothing to support it?

Every motorist will admire the government's bravery in setting itself a deadline for such a monumental job. But he will also realize that in setting 1960 as its mark at the present rate of action, the government is not only brave but fantastic.

## That'll Teach Him

IN ENGLAND a man was disqualified from use of his car for 12 months because he used it to carry a bottle of orange juice required for his business as a cafe proprietor, the car not being licenced for business purposes. When he gets it back he will probably be careful not to carry any pens or pencils between office and home.

—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

## EISENHOWER ENJOYS "BEST, LONGEST SLEEP" SINCE JUNE

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Eisenhower, counting on leaving the hospital late this week, enjoyed Sunday night his "longest and best" sleep since becoming ill June 8. His spirits and morale today were reported still "extremely high."

A bulletin from Walter Reed Army Hospital said:

"The president had a most comfortable night. He slept almost continuously for nine hours."

"His temperature is 100.6, pulse 78, blood pressure 118 over 70 and respiration 18—all of which are normal."

"His weight remains the same (162 pounds)."

"His condition continues to progress very satisfactorily."



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## As I See It

by

*Elmore Philpott*

### • Brass Hat War

THERE is a curious contradiction in the campaign waged by Lt. Gen. Guy Simonds on behalf of conscription for the Canadian army.

He has waged his campaign in many parts of Canada already and spoken out for conscription even in the heart of French Canada. But in his full dress blast in Maclean's Magazine entitled "Where We Have Gone Wrong On Defense," he omits entirely mention of compulsory service as a means of mobilizing the necessary amount of manpower.

After a careful reading of General Simonds' article in Maclean's I have come to the conclusion that he is really continuing what might be called the inter-Brass Hat war, which rocked the Defence Department prior to the crackdown by the Hon. Ralph Campiney.

LAST year we had the top Canadian airman telling a large group of visiting aviation journalistic experts that Canada's army was obsolete and a total waste of money and that it had better be demobilized with the remnants turned over to the RCAF for sentry duty.

This year we have General Simonds telling the readers of Maclean's that the development of Canada's superb interceptor aircraft, the CF-105, was a total waste of money, and that Canada would have been better advised to adopt fighter planes developed by U.S. or Britain, pending successful manufacture of ground-to-air missiles.

Only in one sentence does General Simonds touch on the question of army manpower in his Maclean's article. That is where he says: "The combined interests of the air force, the air industry, and defence research scientists, burning with zeal to participate in a project they could call their own, coupled with the known desire of ministers to maintain a defense effort with a strict manpower ceiling, swept aside any opposition to this venture."

THERE is significant contradiction also between the recommendations of Field Marshall Montgomery and those of Lt. Gen. Guy Simonds. Monty strongly urges the early complete merger of the army, navy, and airforce. Simonds recommends the early desegregation of the unities which have already been effected.

He states: "In recent years, civilian branches of the Department of National Defence have been reorganized on a 'horizontal' basis, with sections dealing with all three services under a common subject heading. Thus, for instance, one section of the Deputy Minister's staff will deal with construction projects of all three services. This organization with a single defense minister can never stand up to the strain of a sudden major emergency."

Even in normal times, the efficient administration of an armed service is handicapped by the bottleneck at the top in even day to day routine. The Minister of Defense has too much of a load, yet this cannot be avoided without greater decentralization in matters where the government wishes to retain political control.

FESTIVAL PROFITS STRATFORD, Ont. (UPI)—The Stratford Shakespearean Festival attracted a record 13,300 persons for its first week and grossed \$46,400 at the box office. Theatre Manager Victor Polley said Sunday. Plays at the festival are: The Merry Wives of Windsor and Henry V.

ADMIRAL DIES SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UPI)—Vice-Admiral Francis X. McInerney, 67, retired, died in Naval Hospital. His wife died a month ago. In 1952-53 he was commander of an amphibious group in Korean waters.

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## OTTAWA DIARY By NORMAN M. MacLEOD

In words once made famous by U.S. State Secretary Dulles, Parliament Hill's Liberals spent the weekend in an "agonizing re-appraisal" of their present political position.

If the last general election of August 10, 1953, raised Liberal fortunes to their zenith the past week plunged them close to their lowest depths. True, the federal statement had the comfort of reflecting that nothing had happened to them directly yet. But that word "yet" seemed to have an ominously temporary ring to it.

In fact, the more the Ottawa Liberals study that Quebec election the less they like it. Here is a sample of the sort of facets which are turning up to worry them:

The Quebec City seat which the PM represents at Ottawa went Union Nationale. So did the Temiscouata seat which the PM's son represents Federally. But Compton, where the PM no longer lives but which used to be his home, went Liberal.

Now, all these things could have been—but most probably were—pure coincidences. But the painful fact which no combination of coincidences could possibly be powerful enough to

explain away.

Then in addition to the Quebec election there were the companion spectacles of Liberal debacle in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Amongst the three of them the week's provincial contests had pretty well sampled the political map of the nation. They had revealed that Liberal defences in the Prairie provinces, in Central Canada, and in the Maritimes were pitiful—at least for the hungry politician who had to depend on them for protection against the brutal necessity of perhaps having to go back to work for a living.

Being realists the Parliament Hill Liberals recognize clearly that their position is critical. But they aren't at all clear about the means which they should take to retrieve it. They have a new respect today for the political wisdom which used to protect the late Mackenzie King against becoming involved in provincial contests. The former chieftain survived the menace of such diverse flores as Dundas, Hepburn, and Aberhart by the simple expedient of a generally peaceful co-operation.

But head success in two recent Mackenzie King selections had caused the Parliament Hill Liberals to forget the lessons their late leader had taught them. They thought him unnecessarily cautious; and that they could venture safely to do things that were not in his book. So they waded into the battle against Duplessis against Douglas and again Fleming. The result is that the legend of their strength is discredited considerably, if not wholly destroyed. And at the moment they don't know with certainty how to go about repairing it. It's one of the things when they wish very much that they had a Mackenzie King to advise them.

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USE WANT ADS—THEY PAY

BREMERHAVEN, West Ger. (UPI)—Four United States minesweepers were handed over to augment the new West German navy which received its first ships earlier—German-built motor torpedo boats which had been under British command since the Second World War.

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DAVID BURGESS, 65, of Ottawa has been elected president of the Canadian Legion at the annual convention in Vancouver. Mr. Burgess will retire shortly from his position as chief supplies officer in the agriculture department at Ottawa where he has been employed for 26 years.

We had a pleasant but short ceremony here on June 19 when His Excellency the Governor-General formally opened the rebuilt parliamentary library. The members of both houses attended and the Speaker of

the house of commons presided.

As night school students, Art club members have been familiar with Mr. Davidson's enthusiastic interest in all the adult education classes. To the adult students as well as to the younger ones, Mr. Davidson's departure will be a great loss.

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