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Protect Northern Fishing

ONE OF the big questions about the giant Frobisher project for northern B.C. is what effect it will have on the fishing industry. Virtually nothing is known about the fish potential in this remote and barely accessible part of the province, yet two vast river systems are to be affected.

Briefly the plan calls for the storage of water on the Yukon River system and in adjacent lakes. Water levels in Marsh, Bennett, Tagish and Atlin Lakes will be raised by the building of three dams. The level of Teslin Lake might be affected later, while the Taku River system also will be involved in the construction.

In a water area of such enormous dimensions, it is certain that fish move in considerable volume. Perhaps there are spawning grounds of major importance to northern coastal fishing. So little thought has been given previously to this part of B.C., and so forbidding is the terrain that biologists have never made much point of finding out.

It is therefore reassuring to know that a team of provincial experts is right now at the scene to work on the problem. Meanwhile another team is studying probable effects of the project on wildlife in the area, about which equally little is known.

The importance of these surveys cannot be given too much emphasis. While all B.C. will benefit from the industrialization of an area previously looked upon as wasteland, the price may come too high if it is carried out at the sacrifice of other resources.

The biologists engaged in this work can only make recommendations. There is nothing in the terms of their assignment that says their advice has to be enforced in whatever deal is reached with Frobisher.

But we trust that Victoria has learned from unfortunate experiences in similar cases of the past that it cannot ignore the word of these scientists. The results of such mistakes are still in evidence—as perhaps they will be forever—and should serve as sinister reminders that a deal can be closed with too much haste.

Other Papers Say . . .

TOUGH GUYS

TO INFORM

We sometimes wonder if the Mr. Farquhar owner has got the right idea. Comes 12 Ontario, and Canadian Press, noon and the highest temperatures of the day and they close up shop, curl up for a siesta, did during the provincial campaign. We are sure that all the newspapers appreciate his kind words.

The newspaper of today is not partisan in the sense that it was fifty years ago; it prints full and unbiased reports of political meetings, and confine its expression of opinion to its editorial page. The newspaper seeks to inform rather than to sway public opinion.

—Peterborough Examiner

Employment Questions And Answers

In this column are questions on 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 us 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. I was wondering my wife had the money to put in an employment insurance account. What should I do about this?—Mrs. C. A. G.

A. You could apply for an employment insurance card to the Provincial Office of the Canadian Employment Security Board.

Q. I have some questions with answers which may be of interest to you:

A. The contributions previously made on your behalf are not refundable but they remain to your credit for a limited period and are taken into account in computing your future benefit. You should apply for an employment insurance card to the Provincial Office of the Canadian Employment Security Board.

I am 71 years old and still live quite very much.

Each day I am able to take a mental journey back to my youth in England where I played the church organ.

I thank you again.

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As I See It

By
Elmore
Philpott

New NATO Floor

PARIS—In the imposing looking building which houses the political side of NATO some 175 sweltering MPs from 15 different NATO countries made history.

We helped to rough in a whole new floor on the political side of NATO.

In a special sense this was a made-in-Canada achievement. For this meeting had been planned and carried through on Canada's initiative. In recognition of that fact the first official act of the MPs' conference was to elect unanimously as chairman, Canada's Speaker of the Senate, the Hon. W. L. Short Ross.

The delegations number as follows: France 35, Canada 25, Britain 16, Belgium 16, Netherlands 14, Germany 14, Norway 13, Turkey 9, Portugal 6, Denmark 5, S. 5, Greece 3, Iceland 3, Italy 2.

The congressman who heads the American delegation explained to the conference early in the proceedings that the numerically small U.S. representation does not imply any lack of U.S. support for the NATO idea in general or this particular experiment in particular.

He explained that only one vote now separates the two parties in the U.S. Senate which was in the last stages of trying to finish its work before the automatic closure date. Eight U.S. Senators were all set to come but had been compelled to cancel their flights at the last moment.

He feels that London has too many statues of soldiers—particularly soldiers on horseback—and too few statues of civilians and humanitarians.

Not everyone shares his enthusiasm for graven images of past heroes, whose granite features frozen in attitudes of suffering and thought may serve only as a public convenience for pigeons.

However, if we must have statues, there is no reason why they should be confined to military men.

Canadians don't care much for statues. We have a few, but there is nothing in this country to match the serried ranks that appear in the Old World.

THE DELEGATIONS are seated alphabetically but in French. That means that Germany has the first delegation. Next comes Belgium, and then we come next.

I noticed that they flew the flags in the same order outside the big and beautiful buildings. Germany's republican flag is the first flag that you see as you cut the enormous windows.

So far nobody from the German delegation has spoken. But already it is clear that there is no German opinion by reason of Germany's admission into NATO and her invitation to send a delegation of MPs here.

Thus those of us who have the honor to be included at the history-making conference have the unique privilege of being part of the first important international conference where the Germans are sitting in as equals.

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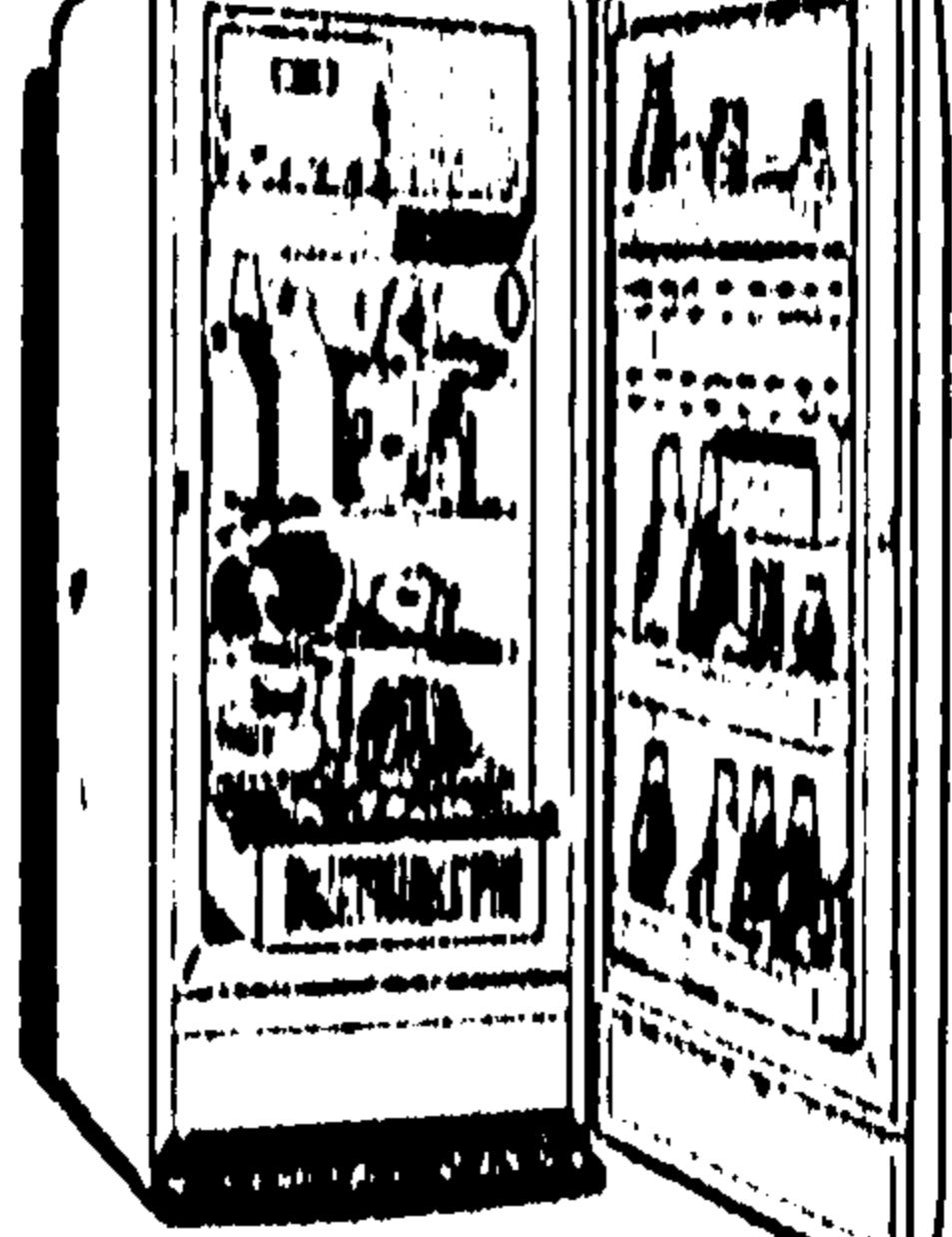
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OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MACLEOD

Traditionally it is the navy which is known on Parliament Hill as "the silent service." But amongst certain groups in the Capital including especially the correspondents in the press gallery—the opinion is growing that the title belongs more accurately to the staff of the Bank of Canada.

The latest occasion on which the Bank of Canada officials paraded their tight-lipped propensities was over the past weekend. Out of a clear sky and at an hour in the evening when most residents of the Capital were relaxing from worldly cares in various diversions, they announced a raise in the Bank of Canada rediscount rate.

But beyond the bare announcement of the rate increase, they gave no explanation whatever of their action. And so far they have refused to discuss it in any way, despite the fact that banking, financial, and economic circles have received it as a step of major and significant consequence.

The nature of the action speaks for itself. The Bank of Canada executive officers obviously think that credit is being over-extended by the chartered banks and that the danger of inflation is being incurred. So it hoists a warning signal.

But the warning signal is all that it vouches to the business and economic world. It doesn't become embroiled in argument or controversy over the grounds of its action. That isn't the way central banks operate. If they engaged in controversy they occasionally might lose an argument. And if they lost even an argument, they would be in danger of losing their authority.

The actual increase in the rediscount rate—one-half of one per cent—is of no practical importance as a deterrent to borrowers. It is only of importance as the Bank of Canada's signal to the chartered banks of the credit policy which it thinks they should follow. But since the chartered banks customarily obey any policy signal of the central bank, the effectiveness of the otherwise unimportant increase is complete.

Earlier this year back in February the Bank of Canada gave an opposite signal. It lowered the rediscount rate by one-half of one per cent. The chart-

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