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Don't Fumble Business Tax

THERE is danger of a serious mistake being committed by city council if support is given to those aldermen who suggest that revenue from the proposed business tax should be used for general purposes.

Apparently those who make the suggestion have never discussed the tax with those who will be required to pay it. It would seem they do not understand that there is considerable doubt about the wisdom of the tax among those who will carry its load even if they stand to gain some benefit in return.

That does not mean, of course, that city council is obliged to consult with certain individual taxpayers before it can put such a measure into effect. No minority group can call the shot on what the city will or will not do.

It does mean, however, that there are aldermen who appear surprisingly unaware of the circumstances in which the tax was first proposed. Serious consideration of it was started about three years ago when a group of businessmen decided definite steps should be taken to promote industrial and tourist interests in Prince Rupert. Through their efforts the tourist bureau had begun to function but it was found unsatisfactory to depend on voluntary contributions for its continued operation. It was then that attention was turned to a tax that would help finance this and other ventures aimed at encouraging industry and tourists to come to Prince Rupert.

To utilize the tax for an entirely different purpose would be not only a thankless slap in the face for a group which has been trying to do something for the city but also a foolish refusal to recognize the city's need for promotional activity.

It may be there is a mistaken belief that unless revenue from the tax is directed towards general purposes, it will benefit only the business section of the city. If so, it is a blind view that has nothing to do with the facts. Recently, for example, the city had a survey made of timber resources in this area. While interest in the survey was limited to a certain industrial field, the city as a whole stood to gain by having such a report published. Farther back we had as an example the work of our airport committee which, because of civic support, was able to draw up a comprehensive report on the need for an airport here and take it to Ottawa where it started the action that is getting us this project.

No one in his right mind will suggest that undertakings like these are of value only to a particular section of the city. They are helping to give Prince Rupert an important place on the Canadian map, and the entire city will benefit accordingly.

There is a need, however, to put this kind of work on organized basis. We have counted too much on the willingness of a few citizens to give their time and energy to tasks which rightfully are the city's responsibility. They are tasks which in many cases should have professional and continuing direction. Without such direction, we are undoubtedly missing opportunities to make Prince Rupert a bigger and better place in which to live. It was to fill this need by appointing someone whose business it would be to "sell" Prince Rupert, and by the allocation of funds for promotional ventures, that the business tax was proposed.

Failure to carry this out will mean only that another dreary anti-business tax is being imposed which has nothing to show for its purpose.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• Still Without Flag

THE 22nd PARLIAMENT of Canada is now coming to an end, with a good many successes, but also some serious failures, as its score.

The successes are self-evident.

Canada is at an all-time high peak of prosperity in the cities. More people have well-paid jobs than ever before in the history of the country, and incomes are higher almost across the board.

Canada has led the entire world in the past few years in new home construction—a fact which might be overlooked in the hull on slackening off in such construction in the past few months.

Also, with the adoption of National Hospital Insurance, Canada rounds out her own unique welfare system. While maintaining our practical system, based on private-enterprise-preferred, Canada has also built up, stage by stage, a system of what might be called family welfare, on a national basis.

The worst gap in this system, to date, is that it has not met the need for old age pensions which provide enough for a senior citizen really to live on, unless he or she has some other source of income.

The recent increase of the universal old age pension from \$40 to \$46 per month have not solved the problem. But they have exposed it to the full glare of national publicity. Three out of four people who are now to draw \$46 per month have sufficient other means, or family resources to enable them to make ends meet.

But roughly one out of every four old people have no other means. And, unless these live in rural homes, or in other places where they can obtain cheaper housing than is available at big city rents, they simply cannot get by on the \$46 per month.

AS IN SO MANY other fields, the problem of adequate old age pensions simply cannot be solved unless and until there is an agreement between the provinces and the dominion, of which there is no sign as yet.

The Ottawa government clearly has the constitutional power, for instance, to pay universal old age pensions, without in effect, of \$50, \$60 per month—or even higher.

But it could only do so by levying much higher income, corporation and sales taxes on the working people from 18 to 65 years of age.

Unless all ten provinces were willing to agree to a constitutional amendment to the BNA Act the federal government could not set up a really adequate system of contributory old age pensions. That is, as the constitution now stands, the federal government lacks the legal power to make deductions from the worker's pay cheque to build up a personal retirement annuity.

Indians Plan Giant Festival In Victoria

VICTORIA (C) Between 4,000 and 5,000 Vancouver Island and mainland Indians are expected to gather here for the annual Vancouver Island Indian festival on May 19 and 20.

A feature of the festival is the attendance of the Makah band from Neah Bay, Washington, which specializes in a three-hour costume dance.

Chief Percy Ross, president of the Vancouver Island Indian Association, says the plans and program of the giant festival were resolved at a meeting of clan chiefs during a winter dance of Salish bands.

Canada's sea fisheries produced \$89,000,000 worth of fish in 1956.

100	One Hundred Dollars	100
Monday, March 25th		
Civic JACK-POT BINGO Centre	8:00 p.m.	100

DAILY NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

OTTAWA DIARY

By NORMAN M. MACLEOD

Without actually going in for a major face-lifting job which would be manifestly impossible under the existing situation, Leader Diefenbaker is doing his best to give the PC's a new look of youthfulness as a party.

His method is to select his front men for the speaking tours now being undertaken in the various areas of the country, from amongst the younger and more vigorous members of the Parliamentary group.

Thus John Hamilton of West York, George Hees of Toronto-Broadview, and E. Davie Fulton of Kamloops are the three MP's

who are mainly carrying the ball for the PC's in the country-wide campaign now in progress to stir up enthusiasm at the grass-roots level. Indications are furthermore, that they will continue to serve as a key triumvirate in PC campaigning right up to election day.

For one of the key difficulties facing the PC argument that the Liberals constitute a tired old government because of their years in office is the ability of government speakers to counter with the fact that the Conservative Parliamentary group is no less aged, as a result of having

Federal Method In Making Offer

"Insult" — Bennett

VICTORIA (C) Premier Bennett Tuesday denounced as "an insult" the federal government's method of offering \$300,000 to the British Columbia government for public development of the Columbia River.

The Ottawa offer was announced at a Vancouver press conference Monday by Fisheries Minister Sinclair.

Mr. Bennett said in an interview that an insult to himself from Mr. Sinclair "is to be expected."

"The federal minister of fisheries is terribly scared for his seat and is scared for the Liberal seats of this province," the Social Credit premier said. "That is why he made statement of this kind . . ."

Mr. Bennett said his chief complaint is that he was not officially informed of the offer by the federal government.

Mr. Bennett said as far as the B.C. government is concerned there "is no offer to be accepted or rejected."

NEW YORK (C) Three thugs posing as blood donors beat the manager of the Brooklyn donor centre into unconsciousness Monday. They robbed him of \$130 cash and a \$100 wrist watch.

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spent just as many years in opposition as the Liberals have in power—but with a considerably lesser rate of turnover in their ranks. As a result of this latter factor, the infusion of youth amongst the PC's has actually been somewhat less than amongst the Liberals.

But there has been a modest recruitment of younger MP's amongst the Conservatives and Leader Diefenbaker is making full use of them. Fortunately, they are a talented and effective group, capable of making up in power what they lack in numbers. Thus John Hamilton is regarded as one of the ablest younger members to enter Parliament since World War II. A lawyer by profession, he speaks easily and well, with a refreshingly avoidance of the usual threadbare political clichés. Dynamic George Hees is credited with perhaps the best flair for gathering newspaper headlines on the Opposition side of the House. And Davie Fulton is acknowledged to be one of the easiest speakers to listen to in the campaigning business.

In addition to this powerful youthful triumvirate, the PC's have some other younger material in the Commons who are developing very fast. They include Tom Bell of Saint John, New Brunswick, and lawyer John Pallett of Peel, Ontario. Fluent Walter Blindsight of Brandon, Manitoba, also has a freshness in his campaigning style, and on the staff side Miss Margaret Aitken of York-Humber and Ellen Fairclough of Hamilton are distinctly winning figures. It's not a particularly large youth group, but it should be adequate for leader Diefenbaker's purposes.

Passport-Type Licences For B.C. Driver's Urged

VANCOUVER (C) A special city police said the proposed committee set up by the Vancouver traffic and safety council has urged that "passport" type driver's licences be issued to British Columbia motorists.

The committee voted to forward a recommendation to the provincial attorney-general that licences "should show fingerprints, photograph and description of driver and that fingerprints be restricted to the identification of drivers."

A special amendment was passed stipulating that the fingerprints be used only for identification after committee members said the "public" is squeamish about putting their prints on something" and would like their use restricted.

Inspector Jack Harrison of the

RCA VICTOR

BATTERY

PORATBLE

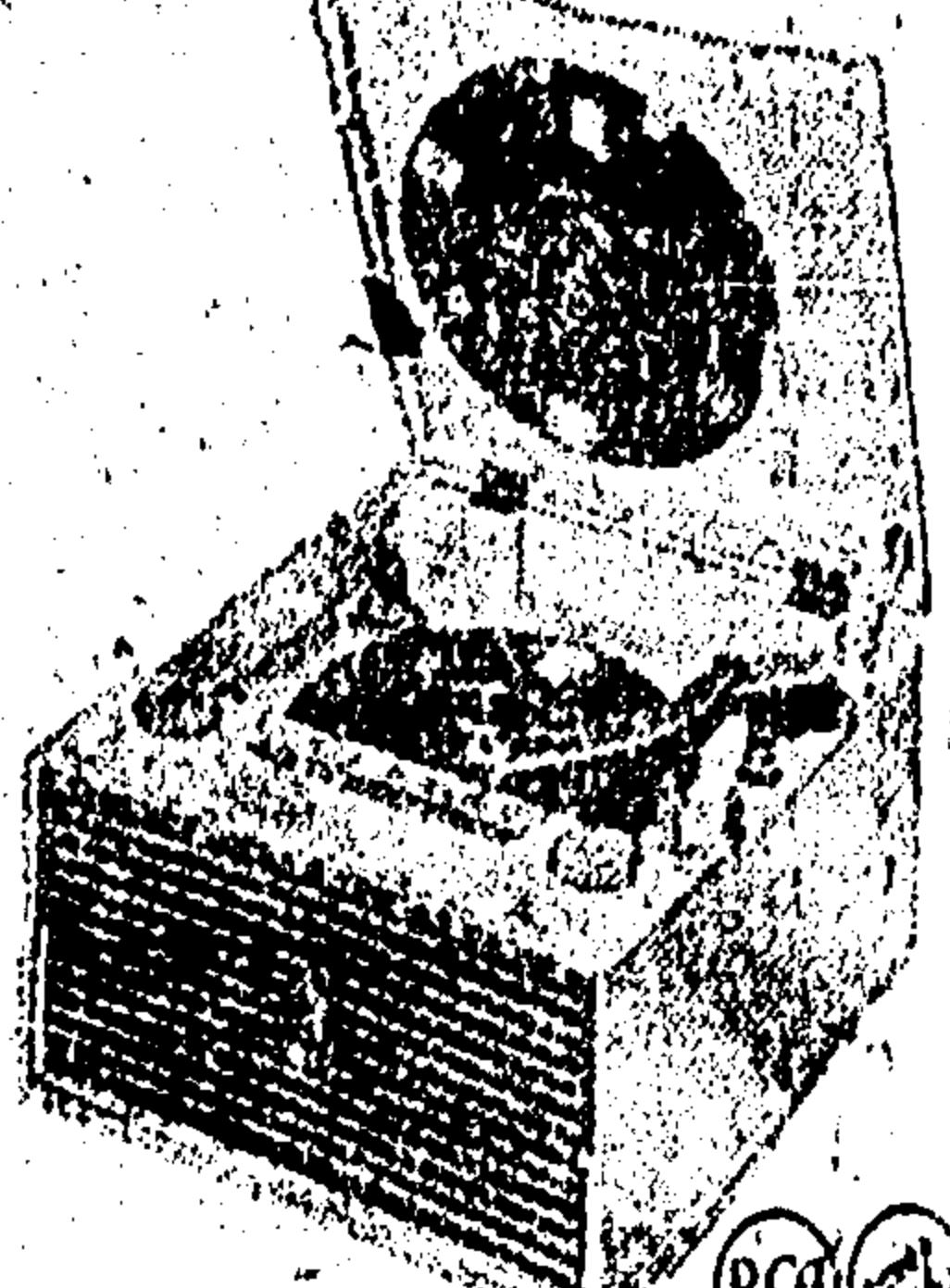
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NOTICE of CHANGE of SCHEDULE

PRINCE RUPERT — TERRACE BUS SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE WILL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 28TH, 1957

LEAVE

Prince Rupert 8:30 am

Terrace Airport 12 Noon

Terrace 12:45 pm

Prince Rupert 3:45 pm

ARRIVE

Terrace 11:30 am

Terrace Airport 11:45 am

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A - LARGE, ctn.

Doz. 51c

Celery

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15c

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36c

Solo

MARGARINE LB.

29c

Peas

DELNOR FROZEN 2 pkt.

45c

39c