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. F. MAGOR, President
Subscription Rates:
By mail—Per month $1.00; per year $10.00.
By carrier—per month, $1.25; per year, $12.00
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

Edible Kilowatts

IN debating the question of whether B.C.'s hydro resources should be developed at the risk of injuring its fishing industry, Fisheries Minister James Sinclair once said, "Fish is a very important article of food. If we have no food we cannot eat, and we cannot eat a kilowatt."

It was a catchy argument which most people scored as one up for Mr. Sinclair. Not so, however, the Northwest Digest. This perky little magazine takes the bold view that a kilowatt is edible and, in its current issue, explains why. It says:

We cannot eat a kilowatt, is the solemn declaration. Since when? We eat them every day; we eat them in many ways; we would eat little without them. We eat them not as a jolt of electricity but as a by-product, the same way as we eat not the plankton in the ocean but the by-products.

Yes, of course, we eat kilowatts. The meat, fruit and vegetables grown on ground irrigated with kilowatts are most nourishing. B.C. annually imports over $95 million worth of agriculture produce and this figure, in the cold words of the department of agriculture, represents only products which could be grown in the province.

The Moran dam would irrigate a conservative 50,000 acres of highly productive soil, enough to produce annually 12 million pounds of beef, or twice the amount now imported into B.C.

Yes, we eat kilowatts, same as we eat grass on the range and minerals in the soil. We eat them not direct but as meat produced from the grass, and as fruit and vegetables grown in the soil. Similarly we can and are eating kilowatts, eating them three times a day, enjoying them and growing fat on them.

So let us be done with this scary talk, and Jim, don't worry about us not being able to eat a kilowatt. They are delicious.

No Refuge

THREE members of the British house of commons are perturbed—to the extent of introducing a prohibitory bill—about a horror of positively Orwellian quality. It is aircraft flying around the country at low levels blaring advertising from loud-speakers.

This is the ultimate in the hideous business of the captive audience. As from Big Brother's image on the telescreen, so from this advertising there is no refuge save the grave.

A newspaper can be set aside, a radio or a TV set has a handy knob which, in the old series phrase, can be "operated to off." But the only way of suppressing the commercial descending from the sky is the use of flak. In Britain this is obviously impractical.

—Vancouver Province.

— GEMS OF THOUGHT —

Be not so bigoted to any custom as to worship it at the expense of truth.
—Zimmerman.

Fashion is something barbarous, for it produces innovation without reason and imitation without benefit.
—George Santayana.

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This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• Who Gets What?

UNDER the changes made by the new budget several million Canadians will receive actual monthly cash benefits.

The 2,263,618 mothers of about the 5,500,000 Canadian children will receive an increase of $1 per month per child. Not all the age groups benefit, for the government appears to be moving towards the flat rate system for all the age groups of youngsters. But it comes down to this: Mothers of infants who have been getting $5 per month will get $6 and in the oldest age group those who have been getting $6 per month will get $8.

The 78,500 disability pensioners of the first world war will be raised by approximately 20 per cent. In the case of a married total disability veterans this will mean a boost from $170 per month to $200.

The same increases will apply to the 96,000 disability pensioners of the second world war, and the additional group from Korea.

War veterans' widows are raised from $100 to $125 per month. To qualify for this benefit the widow's deceased husband must have been 50 per cent or more disabled.

In addition to the increases to disability war pensionners, men and women drawing the War Veterans' Allowance are all to be allowed an increase in permissible extra earnings. The new monthly rate of cash benefit for married couples under the WVA is raised from $108 to $120 per month.

The number of people who will benefit under the new scale for the WVA is over 50,000. At the end of the last fiscal year the precise number of WVA beneficiaries was 51,781. This includes 38,427 veterans, 13,208 widows and 146 orphans. The WVA widows are in addition to the widows drawing pensions as survivors of deceased husbands who had been 50 per cent or more disabled by wounds.

WELL over 900,000 Canadians will receive increases from $40 to $46 per month on old age, blindness, and crippled civilians pensions.

There are almost exactly 800,000 Canadians of 70 years or over now drawing the Old Age Security benefits, without means test of any kind.

In addition, there are 92,023 persons drawing Old Age Assistance pensions, under the means test administered by the provinces—but all paying out money of which the federal parliament provides one-half.

At the end of the first full year of its operation, there were 26,077 disabled civilians drawing monthly grants of up to $40 per month. These are raised to the $46.

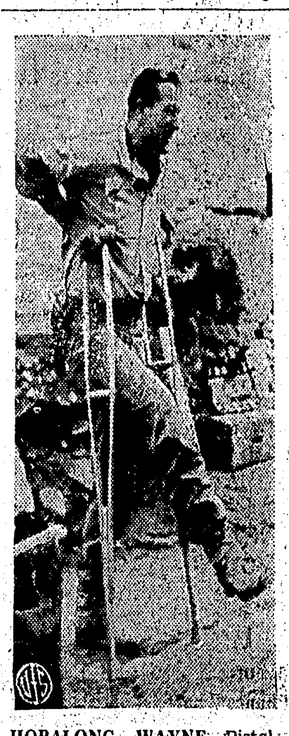
Blind persons numbering 8,230 are also given the raise from $40 to $46.

A RECAPITULATION of the above provides a striking demonstration of the extent to which the idea of the "national family" has been applied in this country. But combining the best ideas in the welfare state without abandoning our Canadian preference for private enterprise and personal initiative.

CASH BENEFICIARIES OF BUDGET INCREASES

Childrens' Allowances	$5,500,000
Old Age Security	900,000
Old Age Assistance	92,000
WW1 Disabled Veterans	78,000
WW2 Disabled veterans	96,000
Wives and future widows of above	?
WVA veterans, wives and widows	52,000
Crippled Civilians	26,000
Blind Civilians	8,000
TOTAL	$6,752,000

As I am writing this article at home on Sunday, I can't put my hand on the precise present number of disability pensioners widows of war veterans. But it is clear from the above that over 7,000,000 million Canadians will receive actual increased cash benefits from this year's budget.



HOPALONG WAYNE—Pistol-packing John Wayne makes like Hopalong Cassidy as he maneuvers with a pair of crutches on location at the ruined city of Leptis Magna in Libya, North Africa. The famed movie he-man injured his foot in a fall, but went back to work on his new film, "The Legend of the Lost."

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Actress Marie McDonald, whose last starring part was that of a victim of a bizarre kidnapping case, will play the role of a dancing girl in the movie Badge of Evil, directed by Orson Welles. The studio said Wednesday that Janet Leigh and Charlton Heston also are in the production.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

The latest re-assurance that has come the way of the Opposition parties within the past few days is to the effect that the government doesn't propose to resort to any sharp tactics to gain a strategic advantage for itself in the coming general election.

That means that there's to be no sudden prorogation of Parliament and the selection of a surprise date for polling day. Instead, the session will be allowed to come to an orderly conclusion in mid-April. Polling day almost certainly will be the 10th of June.

This program puts to rest uneasy opposition suspicions that the government, now that it has brought down the budget, was plotting to close up Parliament without notice and with the intention of speeding up the general election to a date which would catch the opposition parties unprepared.

Such course is known to have been counselled in some Liberal circles—but to have been vetoed by the PM. Mr. St. Laurent's view is said to have been strongly that any course suggestive of political trickery would boomerang against the government.

So there's to be a full-length budget debate. Furthermore, all the legislation for which the budget calls to make its changes formal and official will be introduced and passed. The work of parliament will be completed and tidied up in a way which will leave no real necessity for a post-election session later this year unless the government that happens to be returned should choose to call one.

According to reports which are current around the Chamber, the MP who is most unhappy over the budget is Moose Jaw's Ross Thatcher, recent convert from CCF-Socialism to Liberalism. As a businessman who believes that the time to combat a depression is before it happens, Thatcher is said to believe firmly that level of taxation on business is far too high and that it will have an ultimately crippling effect upon the economy if it isn't reduced. He doesn't want that to happen.

The trouble is that MP Thatcher has just newly arrived in the Liberal ranks. He feels with some justification, in consequence, that the way to cultivate a welcome for himself isn't by spreading rebellion. That course could easily lead to reprisals. It could even cost him the Liberal renomination in his home riding.

Offbeats

By RON MONK

Next to watching men dig a hole, I am most fascinated by men who close a main street to traffic while they wash it on a day when it's raining so hard they have to work in oilskins.

I saw this going on outside the office yesterday and wondered why. I was told that it didn't matter two squirts what the weather was like — today was the day for washing this street, so washed the street would be.

Seems there's a very good official reason, too. The hosing gets rid of sand put down during the winter so that the dust menace will not be too severe in the summer.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

With all the Miss Worlds, Miss Universes, Miss Beer brands, Miss Anything-from-coal-to-corn-plasters being chosen each week, may I propose my own candidate for a crown. She is **(Mrs.) Betty Gardiner of 1329 Piggott Avenue.** Her title will be **"Mrs. Pleasant Voice of 1957."**

Each morning I ring my Daily News colleagues to awaken them to the labors of the dawning day. On Tuesday, things went wrong. Instead of hearing **Harvie Gay's** seven o'clock moan at the other end of the line, a woman's voice answered. I mumbled sleepy apologies about "wrong number, very sorry" and The Voice answered: "That's perfectly all right. Good morning."

Wednesday the same thing happened again and this time I winced, expecting a well-deserved rocket. But no, Mrs. Gardiner understood perfectly, bless her.

I was so eager to avoid troubling her again yesterday that I dialled my own number in confusion.

Today I thought it was about time I found out the identity of The Voice. I waited an hour later than my usual seven o'clock call, then dialled the "wrong" number — 6053 instead of Harvie's 6035.

Mrs. Gardiner said she'd been expecting me to call, but why was I an hour later than usual? She still sounded pleasant so I told her the tale of the telephone calls and asked how she managed to be so understanding at such an early hour.

She said she had to be up at 7 a.m. anyway for her one-year-old daughter Shawna, and added that had circumstances been different, I might have met a pretty fierce reception.

But still I say she's fit to be a queen.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

If you can't go to **Paris**, make Paris come to you. That's the spirit being shown by the **Civic Centre Teen club**, who are planning to reconstruct one of the best-loved features of Parisian life on Friday night. They are holding a **"Sidewalk Cafaret"** which will have the atmosphere of a boulevard cafe and the gaiety of **Frenchmen** having fun.

Honorary sponsor **Joan Trimmer** proposed the idea, which always led to a good time when members of her Sorority Group at the University of Washington staged it.

Mrs. Trimmer, who came here from Seattle about nine months ago, has a quality that will blend well with the Parisian scene — vivacity. Backed by the attractiveness of some Teens I've seen at the Centre, this little fantasy should result in the most beauty-laden boulevard in or out of Paris.

One touch will be missing, however, Mrs. Trimmer tells me the boys were very unwilling to act as French waiters. Can't say that I blame them. It's quite a job to cut a dash with the local belles when they can make you come meekly to attention by merely snapping their fingers and calling: "Garcon, comez-vous here at once!"

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