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PTAs Have Lots of Work Ahead

IT gives us great pleasure today to welcome delegates to the third annual Parent-Teacher regional conference being held in Booth Memorial High school. Interested parents and teachers have gone to a great deal of trouble and probably some inconvenience to attend this parley and we hope that their efforts on behalf of the children, the schools and themselves are successful. Some have come from quite a distance with representatives from Terrace, Kitimat, Hazelton, Smithers, Stewart and the Queen Charlotte Islands Parent-Teacher association scheduled to attend. Only if progress is made will the worth of the two-day conference be justified.

Three years ago when the regional conferences were initiated delegates were warned that Parent-Teacher association work had risen above the women's afternoon tea and social status and that PTA representatives should get down to the serious business of implementing some of the original aims for which the associations were founded. Yet year after year, the true meaning of PTA work appears to be fading. City PTAs have been canvassed time and time again as to what they wish in the way of programs and still the consensus seems to be more entertaining programs. If entertainment is what parent-teacher groups wish then they should form a social club and forget the basic goals of PTA work.

What is needed, and needed quickly is a complete revision of the present-day system of education. In this highly competitive age when youth is emerging into a world that depends on having the highest qualifications for life's most important jobs, students should be keyed throughout their entire school life to face facts and be ready to take their place in the professions, science, industry and the business world. Also needed in the schools is a hardening attitude toward the disinterested student who wastes other pupils' and teachers' time; a complete revision of the report card system so that both parents and students know exactly where they stand both in regards to their own personal advancement and in comparison with their fellow-students; a concentration on the three "R's" so that when students leave school they can not only read and write their own name but spell it correctly and count past 10 without using their fingers. Stress should also be made on producing more engineers and scientists if this country is going to keep pace with Russia. Increasingly apparent is the need for a course that will fit those not academically-minded to be skillful tradesmen. These are just a few things that can be brought about or at least broached by determined Parent-Teacher association action and the quicker the better.

As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

• John Trips on China

OTTAWA—Up till now, Prime Minister Diefenbaker has shown up very well in the House of Commons. on points.

But one glaring exception is in recognition of China. On this all important matter the new Prime Minister has not only been visibly unhappy and evasive, but he has chosen to sum up his government's policy on China in a paraphrase of some of the weakest words of the late Mackenzie King, who once said:

"Not necessarily conscription, but conscription if necessary."

Surely Mr. Diefenbaker remembers that those tragic words of Mr King led this country down the most dangerous blind-alley Canada had ever been in. We actually survived an armed 1944 mutiny by the entire army division then stationed in B.C. It was only by the grace of God, and the wise handling of the so-called "Zombies" by General Pearkes that we finally escaped a big bloody clash which would have split this country from end to end.

Yet it is this most unwise and unhappy phrase ever uttered in the whole long lifetime of an otherwise great statesman, Mr. King, that the present Prime Minister borrows to describe his two-faced China policy:

"Not necessarily recognition, but recognition if necessary."

EVEN Mr. Diefenbaker's strongest journalistic supporter, The Globe and Mail, remarks that this seems like an astonishing way in which to try to re-open trade with China. On the one hand we are sending a trade commissioner to China to try to sell lumber, wheat, fish and so on. Yet the only possible customer for these products is the self-same Communist government of China, which Mr. Diefenbaker still pretends does not exist.

In a more candid moment, the prime minister says his government cannot grant recognition at least just yet, because this might have a discouraging effect of countries in Asia which are fighting Communism.

All countries in Asia, which are not themselves under Communist governments, are fighting Communism. The only question is, what is the most effective way of combatting it, and containing it?

Certain Asian governments, which are completely under the thumb of John Foster Dulles, insist that there should be no recognition. But the great, new, strong, free democracies as Asia insist to the contrary.

India, Pakistan, Ceylon Burma and Indonesia, all declare that only by full and complete recognition of the real government of China will there be a basis for normalization and pacification of their part of the world. That view is held by Britain and Scandinavian governments too.

THE final excuse for non-recognition of China given by Mr. Diefenbaker is that China must "expiate" her wrong-doing under international law before our government can admit that the actual government of China exists.

But there have been several members of the UN who have flagrantly violated the UN Charter. Certainly Russia and China both did so—as did Pakistan in Kashmir, or several highly respectable countries in the crisis around Suez last year.

In fact, if all the great or small powers which had violently violated even the UN Charter were suspended or expelled there would be no quorum left even in the Security Council itself.

The real explanation of the ambiguous Canadian policy of non-recognition of China has nothing to do with approval or disapproval. If it did Canada and the U.S.A. would not only refuse to recognize China, but they would have to break diplo-

JOHN DIEFENBAKER
. . . two-faced policy?

matic relations with Russia, and all other Communist countries.

It has little to do with past acts of war, for the obvious reason that if there were such a rule it would have to apply, not only to China, but to all other breakers of UN law.

The real reason is that the United States is still putting strong secret pressure on Canada not to recognize China, and no Canadian government has yet had the gumption to stand up to Uncle Sam and act as we know in our hearts we should act.

GARDEN FREAK

LACHUTE, Que. (?) — Burns Kingsbury harvested a good-sized carrot which had sprouted through a hole in a rusty old door hinge, and grew around it.

KONRAD ADENAUER
. . . 81-year old German Chancellor.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Konrad Adenauer Urges Greater NATO Support

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Konrad Adenauer has settled down for another four years as ruler of West Germany with a call for enthusiastic support of NATO in every way.

And when the government heads of the North Atlantic alliance holds their forthcoming meeting in Paris, the 81-year-old iron man of German politics will be one of the most remarkable present.

Perhaps more than any other country, West Germany has battled the day-by-day pressures of Communist Russia through the puppet East German state.

This has not stopped the chancellor from leading his country of 50,000,000 to an industrial position that is the envy of every European nation and scores elsewhere.

ELUSIVE UNITY

He also brought West Germany into the West European Union and into NATO itself despite violent opposition. Perhaps his most remarkable feat of all was to reconcile differences with the French, who hold a traditional and well-founded fear of the Germans.

In the face of Russian might, he failed utterly in his efforts at reunification of Germany during his first eight years of office. There is no indication that he will be any more successful during the next four in this aim, his fondest ambition.

Much of his cabinet remains intact, but one significant change is the appointment of Franz Etzel, a banker and industrialist as finance minister.

HAND FORCED

The appointment is expected to speed up German rearmament. Fritz Schaeffer, the previous finance minister who now is shifted to the justice portfolio, had delayed the program because of budget worries.

There is speculation that this change was forced on the old chancellor who called six weeks before completing his cabinet. Dr. Ludwig Erhard, aggressive economics minister who was named vice-chancellor in the shuffle, wanted Etzel to get the job.

If this is so, it was one of the few times that Adenauer's hand has been forced. Austere and strict, he is more famed for uncompromising devotion to duty than flexibility. In Germany, he has become more of an institution than a politician.

Perhaps the image of calm power that he presents — the opposite of the hysterical Hitler — was what Germany needed in its return to democracy.

The measure of West Germany's property — only 12 years after war devastation — is that Adenauer has pledged assistance to a free world program of economic and cultural aid to less fortunate countries of Asia and Africa.

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LETTERBOX

WASTE OF MONEY

The Editor,
The Daily News,

Precious Arthur Gordon, formerly known as "Archie The Shark," the Parks Board's self-appointed authority on bushes, has finally spoken.

He apparently agrees with Mayor Wells and others that an investigation into the Algoma Park contract isn't necessary.

He said for six months that there was a waste of money at Algoma Park.

If Precious Archie wishes, I will be very pleased to give him all the information I have.

Now that he has found his voice, Mr. Gordon sounds to me as if he were the type to blast back out of anyone he found hiding in the bushes wasting city money.

Alderman Peter J. Lester

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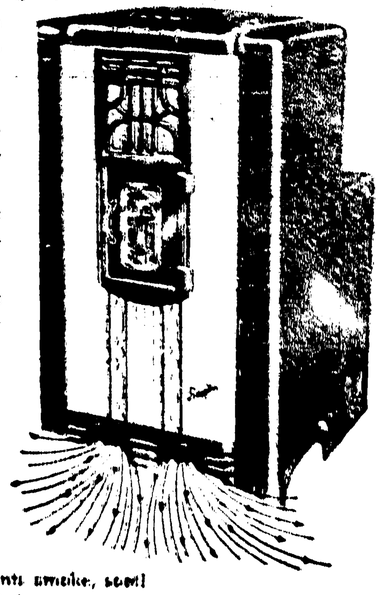
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