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Sweet Reason

CONSIDERING the Gordon Report in the light of what went on at the hearings, the least impression was made on the commissioners by the excited, the vehement and the angry delegations that came before them, the Financial Post remarks.

In fact the impact on the commissioners seems to have been in inverse ratio to the amount of emotion employed in presenting an argument. The commissioners heard plenty of emotional oratory. Judging from their report, they must have concluded that such witnesses were acting on the advice a preacher once wrote in the margin of his sermon: "Argument weak here, pound the pulpit and yell."

By this we don't mean that the Commission was insensible to the emotional content of the questions it had to deal with, or unsympathetic with the people who were defending tough causes.

The difficulties of the Maritime economy and the relative decline of farming as a major factor in our economy and way of life both gave rise to proposals to soften the effects of any changes in national policy which must, in the opinion of the commissioners, be made in the national interest.

The cries of pain that are being heard from all parts of Canada about the Gordon report are probably the best evidence that the Royal Commission on Economic Prospects did the job it was set up to do. That was to provide Canadians with a candid camera shot of the future; not a studio portrait with all the unappealing lines and wrinkles touched out.

Putting Out the Cat

IN THE march of progress nothing, apparently, is sacrosanct. For generations the late evening routine of civilized man has been to put out the cat and wind the clock. In the near future he is likely to have this chore reduced to simply putting out the cat.

Over the weekend a watch manufacturing company in the United States announced that it has developed a system that eliminates the main spring in the ultra modern timepiece.

A "tiny energizer converts chemical energy into electrical energy." The result of this is that a "stream of electrons" operates a tiny electric motor which, in turn, operates a balance wheel which operates the watch.

Air conditioning has long since made it possible to avoid the evening routine of opening the bedroom window. Now clock and watch winding is doomed. The conventional among us will hope that science will keep its slide rules and microscopes away from the little that remains—the walking of the dog or turning out of the cat. —Winnipeg Free Press.

— GEMS OF THOUGHT —

Obedience is yielded more readily to one who comamnds gently. —Seneca.

AMBASSADOR — Lambertus Nicodemus Palar, 54, is the new Indonesian ambassador to Canada. Mr. Palar was his country's representative in India between 1953 and 1956. (CP Photo).

MRS. D. B. SINCLAIR has been loaned by Canada to take over the post of deputy director of the United Nations' Children's Fund in March. Mrs. Sinclair, a native of Toronto, is the first woman to hold the position.

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As I See It

by Elmore Philpott

Who's An Aggressor?

HOW WOULD you like a job as a judge at the world court?

Or how would you like to be a member of the UN police force, sworn to uphold only the Charter of the United Nations, and not the laws of any one particular country?

If so, could you really identify an aggressor under international law?

✣ ✣ ✣

HOW would you judge the following actions, each of which was deplored, denounced or ordered halted by the United Nations on the ground that it was an unjustified infraction of the UN Charter.

The invasion of Kashmir in 1948, first by wild tribesmen, and later by organized units of the Pakistan army?

The 1948 attack on newly proclaimed Israel by five of her Arab neighbours.

The 1950 attack by North Korea against South Korea.

The 1956 attack by Israel against Egypt.

The 1956 action by Britain and France, ostensibly to halt the Israeli-Egyptian war, but actually to re-occupy the Suez Canal zone.

The 1956 re-occupation of Hungary by the Russian army and the consequent massacre of 20,000 or more Hungarian freedom fighters.

✣ ✣ ✣

IN ONLY one of the cases in question did the United Nations do what it is theoretically supposed to do under the Charter—that is, name the law-breaker, if there was one.

When North Korea attacked South Korea in 1950, the UN moved like lightning.

Rumor tells us that it did so because Britain and Canada protested to the USA against single-handed action by that country which had been instantaneously ordered by President Truman. But whether or not those rumours are well founded, the fact remains that, within a matter of a few hours after the USA had decided to use armed force to halt the attack in Korea, the UN had formally moved not only to validate that action but to support it with contingents of troops.

In all the other cases of real or alleged aggression, the UN contended itself with trying to talk its way back to peace, not use force to impose it.

✣ ✣ ✣

TO THIS DAY, the United Nations has never officially declared Pakistan an aggressor in Kashmir, though roughly half the territory in dispute there is still in the hands of the Pakistan army.

The underlying reason for this was that many impartial outsiders believed, rightly or wrongly, that had the people of all Kashmir been given the chance to decide their own political fate, perhaps half or more of them would have voted to join Pakistan rather than India.

In the case of the Arab-Israeli war in 1948, the UN failure to condemn the Arab aggressor sowed the seeds for the second Israel-Arab war of 1956.

The 1956 Tripartite attack on Egypt was, of course, a direct breach of the UN charter. But it was certainly not an "unprovoked aggression" for the obvious reason that for over seven years, Egypt had been illegally blockading Israeli ships in two vital waterways and doing other provocative acts.

On the basis of morality, if not of international law, the Soviet re-occupation of Hungary was the most flagrant violation of the spirit of the UN charter. Yet UN reaction to it can only be classed as an exercise in timidity or, at least short-range futility.

If international law is to prevail in relations between the nations as it now does in relations between human beings inside national borders, really loyal and intelligent members of the UN have got to do more than pass pious resolutions when nations resort to the use of force, without prior permission of the UN itself.

CLOSE BALANCE

LONDON (AP)—Labor officials report 205,000 unemployed in Britain during November, an increase of 11,000 over 1956. But there were 300,000 unfilled jobs at the same time.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

It has taken the sometimes not-too-quick-thinking economists and politicians in the Capital here quite a few months to realize that dollar shortages are not necessarily the lot only of far-away soft currency countries, but that they can happen right at home.

For that is recognized now as the real meaning of the tight money squeeze which is causing MP's of all political parties to be flooded by an almost unprecedented deluge of complaints from all parts of the nation. The situation simply is that there aren't enough dollars available to finance all the transactions which stand waiting to be carried out in the field of domestic business. Basically that is the same problem as a sterling area or soft currency country faces when it lacks dollars with which to buy Canadian wheat or Canadian newsprint.

What has confused the issue for the MP's and the public alike is the effort of some of the so-called experts in the Bank of Canada and the Treasury Department to represent the domestic dollar shortage as a manifestation of supreme wisdom on their part. Such an attitude gives rise to controversy. And your MP, especially if he happens to be a government supporter, finds himself in the uncomfortable position of being in the middle of an argument about which he isn't too clear, —and also about which he can do nothing since the government has made it clear that it intends to back the Bank of Canada and the Treasury Department experts. After all, that is what the government should do, unless it is willing to dismiss them.

The experts say simply that they are arresting the boom in order to prevent a bust. They admit that the sudden ceiling on the dollars which the boom requires to keep rolling is bound to mean discomfort for a lot of people. But they assert that such discomfort is only a fraction of the distress that an over-extension of the boom into a collapse would bring.

What worries the business interests who are making things uncomfortable for the MPs is the fact that past experience has demonstrated that it takes 18 months to arrest a boom by the imposition of tight money policies. But no experience has demonstrated how long it takes to re-activate a boom after it has been arrested, for the simple reason that no monetary policy has yet succeeded in reversing a depression into an authentic boom anywhere. The failure of the Roosevelt administration's pump-priming policies back in the 1930's is still the subject of economic textbooks.

Thus what business interests are insisting that the MPs tell them is where the exports will be 18 months hence, — or rather where Canadian business will be? It is a question to which the MPs wish they had the answer. In their own minds they're not too confident.

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MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS MINISTER T. Babbitt Parlee of New Brunswick (centre) is missing with two companions in a single-engine plane which disappeared in south-eastern New Brunswick. With him were Howard Smith, 36, (right), chief training officer for civil defence in N.B., and pilot William Russell (left). Land and air patrols checked an area near Havelock where there were reports of an explosion. The plane was on a flight from Fredericton to Moncton, about 100 miles. (CP Photo).

VICTORIA REPORT

By J. K. Nesbitt

VICTORIA—Clerk of the Legislature E. K. de Beck has become an authority on B.C. legislative history, though he's the first to admit that nobody can be sure of anything about what went on in the past without constantly looking up the record. That's what he does.

It's 85 years ago at this time that the first Provincial Legislature of B.C. met in Victoria. Before that there were colonial legislatures, under Royal governors, who were far bossier than even Premiers of today. It was early in 1872 that there came into being the set-up of government and legislature we know today—a Lieutenant-Governor and a Premier.

Mr. de Beck has found there were only three cabinet ministers in B.C.'s first Provincial Government, under Premier John Foster McCreight—attorney-general, chief commissioner of lands and works, provincial secretary. Each received $3,500 a year. Sessional indemnities, including mileage, amounted to $7,800. Today this total runs more than $240,000 a session—and it's likely going up, as MLA's prepare to dip their hands once more into the public coffers, a general election being far in the distance.

There were 25 members in that first Provincial Legislature 85 years ago. Among them, under Premier McCreight, were six future Premiers of the province—Amor deCosnos (the most colorful, the most statesmanlike of all our political figures), Robert Beaven, William Smithe, John Robson, Charles Augustus Semlin and George Anthony Walkem.

Here were the ridings in those days: Victoria city, Victoria district, Esquimalt, Cowichan, Nanaimo, Comox, New Westminster city, New Westminster district, Yale, Lillooet, Cariboo and Kootenay. Greater Vancouver had not been born nor even thought of. The most important places in the province were Victoria, New Westminster, Cariboo and Yale.

Among the returning officers in the first Provincial election was a future Premier—A. C. Elliott, in Victoria, and a future, long-time Mr. Speaker—Charles E. Pooley, in Esquimalt. The New Westminster returning officer was Arthur T. Bushy, son-in-law of James Douglas.

A brilliant member of that first Legislature was A. Rocke Robertson, whose career was cut short by death before he was 40, and so we'll never know to what heights he would have rose. But into his short life he packed a tremendous amount—Mayor of Victoria, first Provincial Secretary, Supreme Court Justice. He had seven sons, one of them retired B.C. Court of Appeal Justice Harold Robertson.

There were other noted early-day citizens in that first Provincial Legislature. There was John Andrew Mara, a future Mr. Speaker; Joseph Hunter, son-in-law of John Robson.

Those men trod new paths in B.C., bridging the difficult gap between colonialism and provincial legislature. They struggled, making their mistakes no doubt, but they set up the system of democratic, legislative law-making that we know today, and which we will see under way once more with the opening of the 1957 session in this capital in a few days.

DISLIKES CANADIAN GIRLS Geoffrey Blore, 24-year-old Liverpool immigrant, said in a recent letter to the London Daily Express that Canadian girls are "poison." In an interview in Toronto he added that he thinks they are bad-mannered, cold, pampered, sour-faced, bossy and humorless. He plans to return to England.

GEORGE CHRISTIAN HANNA, the homeless wanderer, waves his arms and shouts "thank you, I am so happy," as he is freed from the Norwegian freighter Gudveig, which had been his home for the last 15 months. The ship sailed from Vancouver less than two hours after his release. The British Columbia Supreme Court will decide whether the 23-year-old stowaway will be deported or allowed to stay in Canada. (CP Photo).

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Hungarian Couple Starting Work In Same Hospital

OSHAWA, Ont. (CP) — A young Hungarian couple, both qualified doctors in their homeland, will start a two-year internship at the Oshawa General Hospital because the wife's mother, a dental surgeon, gave up her career to be the couple's baby-sitter.

Dr. Imre Ugray, 33, a Budapest urologist, and his wife, Eva, 32, a pediatrician, will work at their $100-a-month jobs while Dr. Helen Victor, 62, stays at the couple's flat to care for Daniel, 3, and Cecily and Kata, 16-months-old twins.

Last November, the Ugray family, using a commandeered ambulance, fled to Austria. At that time Dr. Ugray was working in a Budapest hospital. Dr. Victor was in charge of one of the city's largest dental clinics.

Dr. Ugray, who graduated from Budapest University 10 years ago, said if it had not been for his mother-in-law, he would never have been able to accept the Oshawa hospital's offer.

For Dr. Victor, who could probably find lucrative employment as a dentist's assistant, her job will never be boring.

I love the children very much," she said, "and if it helps Imre and Eva to receive their medical doctorates then, that will be all the payment I wish."

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