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Alaskan View on Norman

THERE must be more back of the suicide of Herbert Norman than the publication of reports that he was a former communist. As the ambassador to Egypt from Canada he had been checked and okayed by the Canadian security commission.

Even if he had been a former communist, as reported by American officials, it was none of their business as he had been accepted by the Canadian and Egyptian governments. Naturally Canada feels resentful over the publication when he was returning to Egypt as ambassador.

Most of us know that a few men prominent in official and public life once were communists, men who had been deceived by false ideals and repented their error. It is not what they had been but what they are today that counts.

Being a conscientious man, and he must have been a man of character to be checked and passed by the Canadian government, he was given a tough assignment. He knew that the reds in Egypt and elsewhere would bring pressure to bear in every possible manner to interfere with his officials duties. In fact, it was because of confidence in his ability that he was given such a tough assignment. He probably thought the cards were stacked against him and his official life was "hamstrung" by publication in Washington of reports that he had been a communist.

Though committing suicide did not solve anything, the adverse circumstances were more than he could face. Knowing the devilish ingenuity which communists employ to gain their ends, he probably felt that he could not aid the interests of Canada.

—Ketchikan Daily News.

High Heels For Men?

THE time has come for men to rally to the cause of masculine independence, for women threaten to take over lock, stock and fashion. Not enough that masculine vanity has been bruised by a professor's assertion on a recent TV program that women are superior to men, now a chiropractor dares to suggest that men imitate women and adopt the fashion of wearing high heels. This is too much.

Dr. Irving Toftness of Wisconsin is the chiropractor who has contributed to masculine tribulation. On a visit to Toronto he delivered the challenging information that many men would feel better and live longer if they took to wearing high heels. They might live longer, as he says, but do you call that a life?

Imagine a man stepping in high-heel footwear along Yonge street. The mincing step may be conducive to looking into shop windows and merchants might not object to this development, but think of what it would do to the long, manly stride that contributes to the bustle of that great business artery.

Next thing you know somebody will recommend a throw-back to Elizabethan times, when males used perfume. Before that happens a masculine reaction is in order. The line must be held and inroads halted. Men must hold their ground, a ground that refuses to tolerate the tread of high heels.

—Toronto Telegram.

CARE IN DRIVING SUGGESTED FOR HAPPY EASTER HOLIDAY

Each week, throughout the year, 60 people are killed on Canadian streets and highways. Another 1,400 are injured, according to figures released by the All-Canada Insurance Federation.

Easter weekend will soon be with us and accident tolls rise as motorists take to the highways for the first long weekend of the year. The Federation makes these recommendations for a happy Easter:

- Have your tires and steering mechanism checked for damage which may have resulted from winter driving.
- Plan short trips. Save the longer drives until later in the summer when you have become more accustomed to hours at the wheel.
- Beware of rough spots in highways caused by frost heaving.
- Drive with particular care in the vicinity of churches which will be crowded at Easter.
- Use caution when approaching shaded areas near bridges, etc. where ice may remain.
- Be especially observant of the other driver who may be more interested in scenery than safety.
- As during the rest of the year, keep speed down and don't drive after drinking.

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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Hospital Insurance

THE first effect of the National Hospital Insurance Act, so far as B.C. and Saskatchewan are concerned, will be that the federal treasury will pay roughly half the costs of the provincial hospital insurance schemes, now operating.

In the case of B.C. this will amount to about $16 millions per year, at the present level of hospital costs.

But there are other advantages to the national, as distinguished from the provincial schemes. The new act provides for future payment for diagnostic and laboratory services, which are not covered in the provincial schemes which the two western provinces have been operating for several years past.

TO CITE one example, about an ailment about which I have personal knowledge.

Arthritis, or rheumatism, is a disease which afflicts a vast number of people. It kills some of its victims outright, but leaves a vastly greater number crippled.

While scientists and doctors have not yet discovered either the acknowledged cause, or any sure cure, for this disease, they can cure a good many cases with the methods they now use. And above all, they can prevent the worst forms of crippling if the disease is properly diagnosed and treated in the very early stages.

Unfortunately, many of the victims of this disease never get the thorough-going diagnostic tests which they need, if they are to be properly treated and restored to reasonably good health.

It costs from $75 to $100 for a sufferer from a new case of arthritis to get all the X-rays, blood tests, metabolism tests and so forth which expert doctors need to enable them to know how to treat the disease effectively.

Up till now, there has been no provision for such diagnostic aids, unless the patient was actually put into hospital by the doctor. But under the new National Hospital Insurance Act, any province which is willing to do so can get federal partnership in extending the plan to cover such services, even when they are given to patients who are not in hospital.

IN THE HOUSE of Commons debate there was virtually unanimous support for the National Hospital Insurance Act, but the difference of opinion as to whether it ought to start now, or whether the federal government should wait for the agreement of at least one more province.

It seems to me that there were excellent long range and short range reasons for sticking resolutely to the formula laid down long ago by the Prime Minister. He insisted that before the Dominion could agree to go ahead which this scheme "a majority of the provinces, representing a majority of the people of Canada," must agree.

That formula seems to me to be based on solid common sense, and true democracy.

In a country like Canada, it is impossible to draw any strict and permanent line as to what the federal government should or should not do in co-operation with the provinces. But when the Dominion is moving into any field which was originally assigned by the BNA Act to the provinces it is surely right and proper to assure true national consent—from coast to coast. On this vital matter, a federal union like Canada can never be too careful.

20th-CENTURY PILGRIMS—Eleven bare-foot members of the WKFL Fountain of the World Group arrive in Edmonton from Los Angeles on their way to Anchorage, Alaska, where they plan to establish a community on a 2,000-acre tract of land 25 miles from the nearest road. Krishna Venta, founder of the 140-member California sect, is second from left, back row. WKFL stands for; wisdom, knowledge, faith and love. The robes and markings signify the wearer's position in life. (CP Photo).

A NOSE FOR NEWS—Only three weeks old, and unaware of what all the fuss is about, this baby seal born in a zoo at Stockholm, Sweden, pokes its snoot almost into the camera. Although jubilant zoo officials haven't picked out a name for the little fellow yet, they say the newcomer is probably the first seal in the world to be born in a zoo.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

One of the striking differences between being a member of the Canadian Parliament and a member of the United States Congress is the volume of mail you receive.

Canadians will never develop writer's cramp from the extent of their correspondence with their MP's. But a United States taxpayer will dash off a blistering letter to his Congressman at the drop of a hat. Furthermore he will expect his Congressman to do something about his complaint.

For example, at the present time there is a wide public agitation for tax reduction throughout the United States. But in the face of the demand, the Eisenhower Cabinet is persisting in increasing its expenditure program. The higher levels are sufficient to darken the hopes for tax concessions even in the 1958 budget.

As a result, literally tons of mail are flowing across the desks of the members of Congress. As one Washington political correspondent describes it: "It's no campaign by the rich against big spending and taxing. Most of the letters are written by hand, many on ruled paper from school tablets. And many are from women. Just about every class or community is represented. Home addresses show a heavy flow from so-called working class neighbourhoods—centres of union strength that in the past supported big spending and soak-the-rich taxes."

Well, in Canada at the moment the tax situation is largely comparable to the one South of the border. Every politician—especially the Liberal MP's—know how universally popular a cut in personal taxes would be. Yet government estimates within the past fortnight have been boosted to levels surpassing even the peak of wartime expenditures. Prospects for tax relief a year hence, which hadn't been too certain at best, have dimmed practically to the vanishing point.

Yet the flood of protest mail which this same situation has provoked in Washington has been completely absent from Ottawa. MP's still open their daily trickle of letters. An occasional one may mention the tax burden in mildly mournful terms. But the majority of the missives deal with the possibilities of securing an appointment as postmaster, an old age pension without the formality of a birth certificate, or some similar personal matter.

The truth seems to be that the United States citizen looks to his Congressman for more in the way of personal and independent action than is the case with a Canadian towards his M.P. In this country the Parliamentary backbencher isn't considered too potent an individual. The tradition of slavish support of a political party appears to have robbed MP's of much of their importance in the eyes of their constituents. At least that is the conclusion to which the lightness of Parliamentary mail bags seems to point.

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All Aboard

By G. E. MORTIMER

American Senate witch-hunters are going to continue peering under the bed and scratching around the yard in search of Communists. A little mishap like the suicide of a man hounded to death by slander won't deter them from their high purpose.

Reporters asked Robert Morris counsel to the so-called Senate internal security sub-committee, whether he had any concrete evidence that the late E. H. Norman, Canadian ambassador to Egypt, was a Communist.

He made no answer. Obviously he had no such evidence, or he would have said so. Silent Bob Morris some years ago quoted a renegade German Red as calling Norman a Communist: second-hand evidence from a dubious witness. On this kind of gossip, it seems they crucified Norman before the world.

Canada double-checked Norman's record and acquitted him of the charge. Yet the hag-ridden bumblers of the American Senate kept after him with a campaign of smear and hearsay until they had prodded him into his grave.

By the defiant tone of their latest statement, the amateur detectives of the Senate appear to feel that the ambassador's suicide was an underhanded trick to thwart their noble aims.

Perhaps the United States Senate, which considers itself all-powerful would like to subpoena its victim as a witness and demand that he come before the committee and explain his impertinence.

PRESERVE DIALECT

IPSWICH, England (AP)— Local dialect is being swamped by "television English," say Suffolk's Local History Society. As a result it has made tape recordings of village speech while it's still in use.

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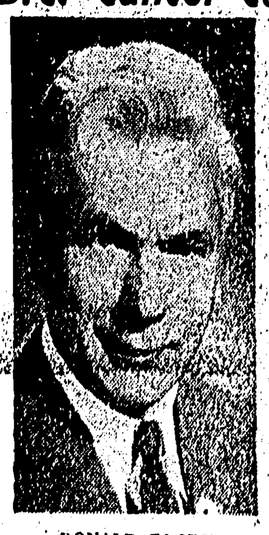

DONALD FARRIS
. . . . Cancer campaign chief.

Prominent Vancouver businessman Donald F. Farris, active in anti-cancer work for several years, is chairman of the joint appeal committee for British Columbia's 1957 Conquer Cancer Campaign.

Mr. Farris, a director of the British Columbia Cancer Foundation for the past four years, has taken part in previous campaigns as chairman of the special games committee, and succeeds another prominent Vancouverite, Jack Diamond, as joint appeal committee chairman.

"I am very hopeful about this year's campaign," Mr. Farris said. "Past campaigns have been very successful, and we hope this year that British Columbians will once again give their support to the Conquer Cancer Campaign."

Mr. Farris noted that public support has resulted in increased research grants, better welfare service for cancer patients and an expanded education program through the whole province.

"The people of British Columbia have always been very aware of the need to carry on the fight against cancer," he said, "and this province has a proud record indeed."

He also pointed out that "several thousand" individuals would be taking part in the April campaign, and promised: "I shall do everything I can to assist them in their efforts. The volunteer workers do a tremendous job every year and I certainly would not hesitate to aid them."

The British Columbia Division of the Canadian Cancer Society is raising $250,000 during April as part of the national objective of $2,200,000.

In British Columbia the majority of the money will be spent to further research and increase welfare aid to cancer patients.

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Egypt Protests Ship Passage

CAIRO (Reuters)—The newspaper Al Ahram says Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi has protested to United States Ambassador Raymond Hare against the passage of the American tanker Kern Hills through the Gulf of Aqaba to Abu Israeli port of Elath earlier this week.

Hare refused comment on the report, which came Thursday.

Al Ahram also quoted "an authoritative source" as saying King Saud has warned Israel that Saudi Arabian guns will open fire on any other ship passing through the gulf of Israel.

Family Reminder

MIDDLESBOROUGH, England (AP) — Army dispatch rider Bill Baker wrote a postcard to his wife from a prison camp in East Prussia. It has just arrived, 15 years late, at their home here. On the card Bill wrote: "the time is flying."

HAVE RIGHT GEAR

Chimpanzees have the necessary vocal equipment for speech but all attempts to teach them to talk have failed.

LETTERBOX

The Editor,
The Daily News:

To a despicable thief: I trust your conscience, if you possess one, will make you feel ashamed of such a despicable act as stealing the tin put in the Rupert Tobacco Store for donations towards the Cancer Fund.

Doubtless you are unaware of the need for every cent to carry on the research that it is hoped will lead to a cure for cancer.

E. B., Prince Rupert.

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