

Well, now that Joe "Kamikaze" Clark has been replaced by "Jaws III" Mulrooney, we can all sleep quiet in our beds again, and drift into summer senescence, along with our parliament.

That's something that has always rather intrigued me—the long holidays enjoyed by politicians. The only people who come near members of parliament, when it comes to holidays, are teachers, and at least they are of some use.

Can you imagine a huge company shutting down for the summer, unless it had to, because business was bad?

Yet our government, looking after, supposedly, the needs and welfare of about 25 million people, and running a deficit of over \$30 billion, can close up shop for several months without a second thought.

Does nothing happen in the summer? Are the poor souls in the House of Commons so exhausted from scrambling to get into the TV picture right behind the leader that they are burned out? Or are their brains so drained from thinking up witty ripostes like "Hear! Hear!" for Hansard that they simply must climb into a ham-

What happens when MPs holiday?

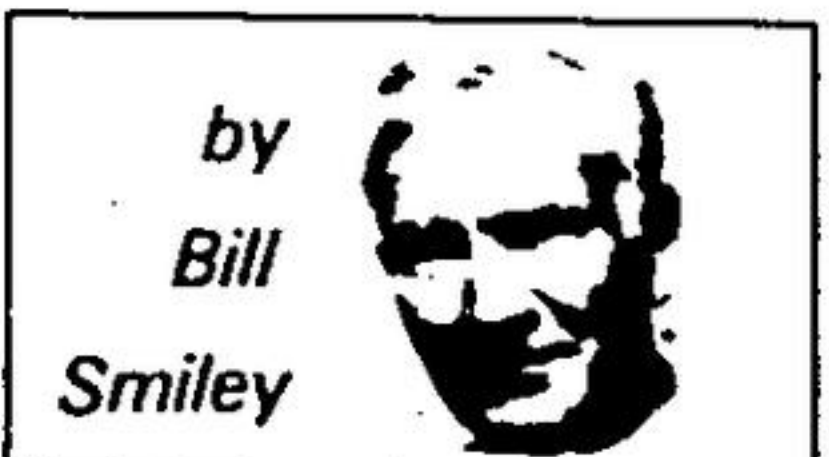
mock and let the moss grow back into their craniums?

Oh, I know the country keeps going. Thanks to a dedicated civil service, which hangs around steamy old Ottawa, slaving away in those air-conditioned offices, breaking away from the coffee break to sign the pension and welfare cheques, we stagger along somehow.

But what would happen if a real crisis occurred? Let's say Cuba decided to invade Canada about the middle of the July, just to make the Yanks even more uneasy? Wouldn't it be foolawful?

Most of our obsolescent planes and tanks are in Europe. Most of their pilots and drivers are on leave. The four ships of our navy that are not in drydock for more patches are cruising in the Mediterranean, or the Sargasso Sea, or somewhere.

Our Minister of Defence would probably be in China, trying to buy some fighter planes that don't crash every time they



by **Bill Smiley**
 catch a pigeon in their intake.
 Our foreign affairs minister would probably be in Cuba selling guaranteed bulls, at which he is an expert. Our prime minister, God bless him, could be—your name it.

Actually, if it happened, the Cubans would probably be so baffled, they'd just go back home and try to think of invading some country that showed a little panache, formed a guerilla opposition, died with a smile on its face while singing the national anthem, or even welcomed the "liberators," as all conquering troops are called these days, with wine and flowers.

First of all, if they attacked our major cities on a July weekend, they'd find them as empty as Napoleon found Moscow. If they wanted to kill somebody they'd have to head north.

Can't you see a tank-full of Cubans sailing into one of our national or provincial parks on a Saturday night, and trying to find a place to park? No Canadian is likely to die singing O Canada? The first couple of bars are so slow they'd put the firing squad to sleep.

But any red-blooded Canadian will fight to the death, and those of his children, wife and mother-in-law, to hang onto that camping spot he got up at 4 a.m. and drove 200 miles, and fought off six other site-hungry campers to squat where he had a view of the water.

Just suppose they did get up north, knocked off a couple of thousand, and headed back to the cities on Sunday night to take over the centres of power, like the post office, the pubs, and the poolrooms.

Their forces would be completely demoralized by the Sunday night traffic. Their tanks and armored cars would be sideswiped, rear-ended, and stopped so often in jams that they'd over-heat and stall.

If they parachuted into Vancouver, they'd be surrounded, in some districts, by junkies begging for some of that clean Cuban stuff.

If they hit Montreal in force and started shouting orders in Spanish, they'd get nothing but shrugs. Somebody would say, "Speak white, man!"

If they hit Toronto, and demanded to see the boss, some flunky would tell them that Bill Davis was at Go-Home Bay for the weekend and couldn't be disturbed.

All would not be lost, of course. By the time the Cubans had got back into their planes and flown home, bewildered, Peter Pocklington would have threatened to buy Cuba; John Crosbie would have organized the Newfie navy; and Joe Clark would have called for a new leadership campaign.

Just a summer "scenario," the latest fad word, for your consideration.

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