

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1977

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited

103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E5, Ontario

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Second Class Mail Registered Number—0943

Government shoulders blame for air chaos

While we can sympathize with the travelling public inconvenienced by the strike and then slowdown by air traffic controllers, the blame for the present state of relations between the controllers and the government must rest with the federal government.

A full-scale walkout of controllers wouldn't have occurred had Transport Minister Otto Lang announced that parliament would be convened to pass legislation to prevent the originally scheduled rotating strikes. The controllers association had purposely called the rotating strikes as a way of reducing the impact on the travelling public.

Bill 101 harms Quebec minorities

Quebec's language bill will make minority groups "under-educated second class proletarians, locked into a French Quebec ghetto," the Winnipeg Free Press states in a recent editorial.

The paper says the nationalistic drive of the Quebec French which refers to itself as "white Negroes" are oppressing their non-French minorities and are behaving in a classical manner of every nationalist group that first had clamored for freedom itself only to deprive others of their freedom as soon as its own aims are realized.

The paper quotes John Stuart Mill who "wrote (in 1849) that nationalism made men indifferent to the rights and the interests of any portion of the human species, save that which is called by the same name and speaks the same language as themselves."

It is not the English minority which will suffer under the proposed language law, it is the European minorities such as Italian, Portuguese and Greek, the Free Press adds.

"The time has come, therefore, to call a halt. The Italians, the Greeks, the Portuguese and others of Quebec are Canadians like the rest of us. If their human rights are being violated, as they are with Bill 101, they have a lawful call on the rest of Canada—represented by the federal authority—to come to their aid."

"Bill 101 is iniquitous, it tramples upon personal freedom, the most cherished of freedom of choice of a parent to educate his children. It should be disallowed. This country has no place for helots. Nor for oppressors."

Hydro's arrogance on decrease after Bruce disclosures

By DONO'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

Years ago, shortly after the war, Ontario had a desperate need for new hydro plants.

These were difficult times to get anything built.

Hydro plants needed cement, steel, turbines and many other materials.

To get Hydro on the road, George Drew brought in Bob Saunders, the dynamic mayor of Toronto, and made him chairman.

He was principally an expediter of course. And he was an excellent one.

He first got his personal aircraft. And he used it to roam the continent bugging suppliers.

And Hydro got its materials. In fact considering the conditions of the time, its record was quite fantastic.

NO NICETIES
But along with this, the Commission also got a certain arrogance.

Saunders was not one to be held up by niceties, particularly any protocol such as consulting with the elected members here. He deftly avoided this.

The question is not purely a matter of wage differences, albeit indirectly. The controllers have been attempting since 1975 to have their profession reclassified by the government. They are still waiting.

Controllers sought 12 per cent as an increase taking into account this reclassification they have been seeking. The government said only eight per cent is in line with the anti-inflation board's regulations, conveniently forgetting that there is provision in the AIB for the additional percentage increases in wages for such situations where reclassification was under review prior to October 1975, when wage controls were imposed.

The action of parliament in passing back-to-work legislation also makes a mockery of the government's avowed position that the anti-inflation board does not interfere in the system of collective bargaining.

That policy seems to apply only to the private sector which is allowed to settle a contract at any negotiated increases in wages and then await a ruling of the anti-inflation board which has the power to roll it back. If it exceeds the guidelines. The Liberal government appears bent on molding public opinion to political advantage by bending the rules half way through the game.

Allowing the controllers to tell the AIB they wish a 12 per cent increase while the employer says eight per cent is a maximum is no settlement. With the AIB being a creation of the federal government it is also comparable to a manufacturer of luxury cars saying an employee can have any car free as long as it is no bigger or expensive than a subcompact.

The controllers have now taken a position, though without union sanction, that they will abide by the regulations set down by Transport Canada governing their role in passenger and aircraft safety. The fact that abiding by the rules has created almost as much chaos as a full-scale strike seems ironic and begs the question of whether the government was in fact getting a bargain in recent years by employing enthusiastic and well-qualified controllers.

And possibly underpaying them for responsibility?

Fall election slides past. Is spring likely?

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

It appears we have quietly slipped past that magic date on which Prime Minister Trudeau would have had to announce a fall election. And barring some enormous event which could justify an unprecedented December vote, we now can relax until spring.

For this, at least in part, we can thank the Queen.

There is no indication that Trudeau was seriously planning a fall vote in any event, although he never totally dismissed the idea, but there is no doubt that his vote-hungry advisors were trying to push him to the polls. However, he seems to have fended them off.

The Queen enters the picture by scheduling a Canadian visit to begin Oct. 14 during which she will open a new session of Parliament. Since she couldn't do that very well in the middle of an election campaign, when Parliament doesn't really exist, any fall vote would have to be held no longer than Oct. 11, the day after Thanksgiving. And since 63 days are required for an election, the prime minister would have had to announce it by

Aug. 8.

It will be too late to call an election after the Queen leaves Ottawa since that would mix it up with blizzards and Christmas shopping.

Those Liberals who have been pushing for an early vote, notably Senator Keith Davey who will lead the party's national campaign committee, have been heavily influenced by the public opinion polls. For the last two months, the Liberals have been supported by 51 per cent of the decided voters compared with only 27 per cent for the Conservatives and 18 per cent for the New Democrats.

It's easy to see why the Liberal backroom boys would be tempted.

NO REASON
But, as the prime minister has pointed out repeatedly, there should be a reason for an election, and so far none has emerged.

"If I thought there was a good reason, I guess I would have called an election last week or last month," Trudeau said not long ago.

"...I suppose if I find enough good reasons I'll call an election."

He seemed to be developing an issue a few weeks ago when he talked about the possibility of the federal government stepping into guarantee language rights to minority groups in each province. Unilateral action was possible he said but only after seeking a mandate from the people.

In view of the current language dispute in Quebec, Trudeau's proposal would have been greeted with some enthusiasm among English Canadians. But we are unlikely to hear much more about this in Ottawa until the premiers meet and make their views known later this month.

Then there are the economic considerations, perhaps the most influential of all. Over the last few months, all the economic forecasts being fed into the prime minister's office painted a rather pessimistic picture for 1978, and this helped fuel speculation that he might want to seek a mandate before conditions worsened in the spring. Even the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development had predicted "gloomy economic prospects" for Canada until the middle of

next year.

But lately, it could be argued that economic events and indicators would favor a 1978 vote. By then, if all goes according to plan, the government will have removed price and wage controls which it opposed to vigorously in the 1974 campaign and these will no longer be an election issue. Also, with luck, the Canadian dollar may regain its international strength, and Canadians will have forgotten that the Wall Street Journal blamed the weak dollar on a lack of confidence in Trudeau.

And, most important of all, recent economic predictions for 1978 have gained a new optimism in recent weeks. The influential Conference Board of Canada predicts that the economy will grow by five per cent this year, compared with 3.4 per cent last year, that unemployment will decrease, and that the gap in regional disparities will close slightly.

And when all these factors are added to the Queen's visit, it's not difficult to understand Trudeau's preference to wait.



A passion for tick off quiz, or, discoveries about one's self

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

We humans are a very strange and funny lot...

If you take a look at our magazines and newspapers you are quick to discover that we like to make newfound discoveries about ourselves. We do this through a quick and ingenious method - the tick off quiz.

Here we discover if we are... too clean, lack a sense of humor, hate our mother-in-laws picked the right mate, are too forward or too backward. All this is done in the twinkling of an eye and the scratch of a lead pencil.

Ah, alas, and alack, we become painfully aware that there is something basically

wrong with one who washes one sock in detergent while blindly refusing to wash the other.

Picture the look on the face of "Poor Soul" who takes the "Are you prone to suicide" quiz and fails.

Whenever I try any of these psychological wonder tests they never seem to tickle me with the appropriate choices.

For instance, they ask such tricky questions as: "What Are Your Deadliest Sins?"

The choices are: a) dinner at a fine restaurant; b) a visit to the theatre; c) a giant box of chocolates.

It becomes so difficult for they never tell

me if, a) I'm dying of hunger; b) if it takes place during a full moon; or c) if each and every choice is loved equally and passionately.

I come to such brain teasers as: Are you satisfied with yourself?

Here they pose the question: Do you believe people who wear glasses are ugly? Again I don't get the proper choices. They make no mention as to whether I'm wearing the glasses.

Quizzes that pose such mindbenders as: Are you popular with your friends? To which I can only answer, yes, it is my enemies that don't like me.

In answer to all of the above I got a quiz for you. Grab a pencil and get ready for the discovery of a lifetime.

- 1) Would you describe yourself as a morning person or do you prefer night? Here you get two choices: yes, or check afternoon.
- 2) Do tin sardines make you nauseated? Yes, or ask yourself why you are neurotic against innocent sardines.
- 3) Would you prefer half of your laundry starched? Yes, or which half of your pants and towels do you prefer: upper or lower, and don't you consider the process a bit weird?
- 4) Does a handsome man or an attractive woman turn your head? The response here is... Would you feel the same way if an ugly person turned your head. Or, why don't you do your own personal head turning?
- 5) If today was your last day on earth would you:
a) water your petunias knowing full well you'll be gone for awhile.
b) send your mother-in-law on ahead in your place.
c) finish this quiz on the basis of what have I got to lose.

Of course all of the above responses are inappropriate and show that you are not in touch with reality. The correct answer is send your mother-in-law to water the petunias so that when ticking off the answers to the quiz you will have enough time to correct your mistakes.

6) If you agree to continue on... please drop your pencil. I have just finished a quiz on Do you have writing ability? The answer after totalling up 1 to 10 was...

Please don't try it or you'll be embarrassed for life. However you show definite talent for braiding rugs from high mountain sheep's wool for you have a definite way of putting the wool over.

Toronto as an alien place

By SUSAN De FACENDIS

I have now lived in Canada, or more particularly Toronto and its environs, for 24 years.

I worked downtown during those early years and Yonge Street was a familiar friend. I shopped there for clothes, ate in its restaurants and Simpsons and Eatons were virtually my second homes.

The 1950's were the boom years of growth for Toronto. The Gossif and a time of relative innocence. Yonge St. was where we well dressed Torontonians strolled and window-shopped and I even recall when the small movie theatres showed real movies.

In the beginning it was exciting to see places of entertainment spring up, with the bars featuring top acts such as The Platters who were then in their heyday. It was the start of Toronto becoming a major city and catering to the varied needs of a swelling population.

When I eventually moved to the suburbs to raise a family, the evenings out became more rare, but still downtown Yonge Street was the place to go. So slow were the changes that it took a while to pierce the consciousness.

The summertime malls came and went, along with the flower children and then suddenly there were the blaring backsters extolling the promises of pleasure and girls in upstairs establishments; empty-eyed dancing girls in bars that had become sleazy beer joints and Yonge Street became an after dark haven for all the pathetic pieces of human debris.

Today Toronto provides many superior and attractive alternatives to Yonge Street, but how pitiful that this blight should have been allowed to happen on our Main Street. The most frightening aspect is that a similar insidious takeover could happen in any town, so slowly does it appear to move in.

Toronto has grown up with a vengeance and as long as a demand and money exists for this type of entertainment it will continue, legally or illegally. Every large city has its share of vice alongside its virtues and it would be foolish to believe that we can eradicate these sore spots. We could and should however, strictly control it.

I am afraid that a backlash riding the current wave of hysteria may result in demands for a total shutdown of the existing establishments, an action that would be similar to throwing a rock into a nest of cockroaches and watching them scatter into darker and safer corners. While I do not profess to know the answers, it would seem logical to keep them confined to one area and in the open where they can be patrolled, kept under surveillance and their growth checked.

Crimes of violence can happen anywhere, but I am so sorry that in a city I have loved, always considered safe, and been so much a part of, a little boy died because he was not "streetwise". What an appalling epithet for a child! As a mother I can understand the agony of the child's parents who, in their innocence, believed in Toronto's.

I am equally sorry for the young children who survive the city because they are "streetwise". It is a terrible truth to face, that a full knowledge of the depravities of human nature must be acknowledged and understood by a 12 year old child.

Toronto, I am glad I knew you when you were young for with maturity came corruption and to me, you have now become an unfamiliar and alien place.

the HERALD

A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD

103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E5

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Phone 877-2201

Second Class Mail Registered No. 0943

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CIRCULATION As of February 1977: 12,752

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