

The Drijber incident

Mitchell Sharp assures student government "deeply concerned"

On May 15 Marjan Drijber of Rockwood and Christine Sinclair of Guelph were killed at Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River in Africa.

Marjan's parents Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Drijber were the forum program's guest speakers recently at Milton District High School, where Mr. Drijber had taught for several years. Mr. Drijber warned the students of the dangers of travelling in a foreign country and told them to "expect no help from the Canadian government" if they encountered trouble.

The Drijbers spoke from the experiences they encountered following the shooting deaths of Marjan and Christine and encouraged anyone feeling strongly about the Zambian affair to write to Ottawa.

to be phony. What can be done about such an affair as this? What can we do?"

Her questions were answered this week in a letter from Mr. Sharp, part of which is printed here:

Sharp's reply

Dear Miss Coulson,

I would like to assure you that the Canadian Government and my Department in particular, have been deeply concerned about this tragic incident. To demonstrate the extent of our endeavours to assist the bereaved families and to impress upon the Zambian authorities the serious concern of the Canadian Government and people regarding the shootings, I am attaching a copy of a statement on this matter which I tabled in the House of Commons on July 16. Members of my Department have spent countless hours on this sad case since May 15 and continue to do so even now.

As you may know, President Kaunda of Zambia sent personal letters last June to both bereaved parents apologizing for the deaths and offering an ex gratia payment as an indication of Zambia's moral responsibility for the shootings. President Kaunda also received one of the bereaved parents, Mr. Drijber, in Lusaka last June and apologized in person for the May 15 tragedy. I have also been in contact with the parents and met with Mr. and Mrs. Drijber in July.

I should also mention that Mr. Leith from the Canadian

High Commission in Lusaka went to Victoria Falls to make arrangements on behalf of both bereaved families. Mr. and Mrs. Drijber sent Mr. Leith a personal letter thanking him for the assistance he provided.

Warn travellers

With regard to your query about warning Canadian travellers about areas of danger, I would like to say the following. Whenever my Department is informed of a Canadian citizen's plans to travel to an area of possible risk, they alert the individual to the possible dangers he might encounter. Anyone who plans to travel outside Canada need only write to the Consular Division of my

Department at the address shown below and they will be pleased to offer any advice which seems appropriate.

Director, Consular Operations Division, Department of External Affairs, 311 Daly Bldg., 557 Mackenzie Avenue, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

As you can appreciate, it is not always possible to know in advance where problems or serious risks might suddenly arise. Events in Chile this month illustrate the difficulty of forewarning travellers about such possible dangers.

Still concerned

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize that the

Government is continuing to impress upon the Zambian authorities its serious concern in this case. These views were also conveyed in very clear terms to the Vice-President of Zambia, as well as the Foreign Minister when they were in Ottawa last month for the Commonwealth Conference. You might also wish to know that an officer from this Department was sent to Lusaka this month to pursue this matter further.

I appreciate your taking the time to let me know your feelings about this sad incident. I hope that I have been able to answer your questions satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,
Mitchell Sharp

Baby : 3,629 grams

Hospital goes metric

If today a parent was told his newborn infant weighed 3,629 grams instead of eight pounds and was born at 0700 hours instead of 7 a.m. he or she would surely have a confused look on their face. And for good reason.

But before long Milton District Hospital will be switching to the metric system of measure and babies will be weighed in grams.

Under the metric system quantities will be weighed in milligrams, grams and kilograms instead of grains, drachms, ounces and pounds. Capacities will be recorded in cubic centimetres, millilitres and litres instead of minims, fluid drachms and fluid ounces. Linear measure will be taken in centimetres, metres and kilometres instead of inches, feet and yards.

Only three

Currently 90 per cent of the countries in the world are using the metric system.

Britain, United States and Canada are the only three major countries in the world not using the system now.

According to Director of Nursing at Milton District Hospital Mrs. E. Darrach, all of Canada is expected to be using the metric system by 1980. Hospitals seem to be leading the way in the transition.

The advantages of the metric system of measure are numerous. The system is more accurate. According to a handbook prepared by the Ontario Hospital Association, danger of errors in hospitals will be minimized because of its precision and simplicity.

Hospital application of the computer requires use of the metric system. The system is being used increasingly by medical journals and scientists.

Some industries are converting to the metric system and commercial products and canned goods are appearing with weights in both ounces

and grams.

Milton District Hospital has switched to the 24 hour clock and new scales have been ordered. New thermometers will be required to measure temperatures in centigrade rather than fahrenheit degrees.

According to Mrs. Darrach, one of the most difficult areas to make the transition will be in the kitchen where dozens of recipes will have to be rewritten.

Commenting on the transition for the general public, Mrs. Darrach said it would be like learning a new language. She felt some of the older people would never learn it, while all of those in the school systems now will—and she feels there will be a real benefit.

Now there is a difference between a Canadian and American gallon and other common terms have their differences in different geographic regions, she points out.



"Suppose we get a good meal under your belt first and then we'll talk about it."

Bowling

CANADIAN METER GIRLS
October 4

High single, Joan Deforest 288; High triple, Jeannette Paquette 738.

Big five, Della McPhail 647, Joan Deforest 637, Jean Casarin 637, Joyce Sshultz 629, Yvonne Teasdel 628

Team standings, Scisizzi 16, McPhail 13, Linder 12, Cooper 13, Coates 12, Schultz 9, Connor 7, and Baverstock 2.

Concerned student

Lois Coulson, a student at the school, sent a letter to Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp in which she stated, "We, the youth are interested in the facts. I find it difficult to understand why such a tragic event had to happen in the first place. Canada has always been a beautiful land to live in and to be proud of, but now I wonder. So much seems hidden."

In her letter she asked the questions, "Why aren't the youth of today who choose to travel warned of the dangers in other countries? Why did it hit the front pages, then creep into the back pages, and then nothing? Some facts appear

Raised touchtype aids blind to read

A new service for the blind of Canada, never available before, has just been established at The Canadian National Institute for the Blind. It is a training program in the use of the Optacon, a recently invented instrument which transfers the printed page into raised touch type. When a small camera is tracked across the printed line, the letters actually rise in pinpoint formations against the finger of the blind reader.

The program was made possible by a grant of \$15,000 from IBM Canada Ltd. The grant provided two instruments and enabled CNIB to send Bruce Gough, sighted mobility instructor and former teacher, to a special training program at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. There he learned how to teach the Optacon to blind persons. Rejean Proulx, a second year Western University student, was his first pupil.

Difficulty overcome

Rejean graduated from a 10 day course with a speed of 20 words a minute on the Optacon. "I will use the Optacon to read the print-outs and the punch cards as soon as they come out of the computer," said Rejean. "Braille and volunteer readers are wonderful assets but in a computer course like mine where you really need to read the material straight off the computer. Without the Optacon, the University would have been reluctant to enroll me in the course."

Blind all his life, Rejean hails from Hearst, Ont. Born in 1952, he attended the Ontario School for the Blind for Grades 1 to 12 and took his Grade 13 in the regular high school in Hearst.

The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services provided the assessment and special training for Mr. Proulx and his own Optacon for use in the university residence.

Archeology . . .

(Continued from Page Six)

come part of an operating farm depicting agriculture of the turn of the century. As the Ministry is concerned with expressions of man's use of the province's natural resources, it was felt that agriculture was a primary expression of the theme "man and the land". The farm will display how soil and climatic conditions were utilized and along with developing technology affected the lifestyle of the individual farmer.

At the house itself, architectural study has determined its state of repair and outlined the steps required to turn back the clock on the house. Similar investigation has been carried out as regards to the surrounding out buildings and gardens at the site in order that the house may stand, as it did before, as a part of a functioning unit.

Presently, work crews are

removing buildings or their parts which are newer than 1914. A general clean-up and repair of the house exterior has begun and the foundations of the new 'old' out buildings are being laid. In this respect, skilled guidance is being provided by Bruce Stewart, whose experience relates to his work at Black Creek Pioneer Village. It is hoped that with good weather the exterior of the house, which has suffered years of neglect, can be put back in trim this summer.

If a car travelling at 30 mph hits an immovable object, gravitational forces would cause a petite, 112 pound woman to hit the dash board with all the weight of a one-and-a-half ton elephant. . . unless she was wearing her seat belt, states the Ontario Safety League.

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