

Tribune Editorials

No Doubt Ever Left Here

When new taxes are to be imposed in Canada there is never any doubt left in the minds of taxpayers that the proposals will or will not be carried out. Not so in the United States where the President has suggested three new possible tax proposals over which the Congress will haggle.

The thing seems strange to Canadians that although the President has announced these proposals for tax increases, nobody knows whether they will happen.

In the standard American manner, the public debate is likely to go on for weeks, or even months, before Congress decides to accept, amend or reject the president's tax proposals. Meanwhile every businessman in the United States is left in helpless uncertainty.

Similarly, every American taxpayer who wonders when to trade his car is

uncertain about the excise tax which will be part of the price, and about the take-home pay he will have to finance it.

Our Canadian parliamentary system of government has merits which show up in sharp contrast to this kind of thing. In Canada the prime minister and his cabinet members are in Parliament, not outside and opposing it. American cabinet ministers cannot belong to Congress.

If Prime Minister Pearson and his cabinet decide there should be a tax change in Canada, the policy would be kept secret until announced in the House of Commons. Then it would go into effect right away. No one would be left in doubt.

The Canadian way is more sensible in practice. Extra taxes are bad enough, but it must be even worse to be kept in suspense.

Statistics Not Comforting

By the look of it we shall have to run a bit faster to stand still in the important area of highway safety.

There is little comfort to be found in the statistics of highway accidents reported in Canada for 1966 as compared to previous years.

The national increase in road accidents was 7.4 per cent over 1965 with the staggering total of 425,237 incidents. Only four provinces were below the national increase average, and of the more heavily populated only Quebec was included. Provinces with the highest rate of increases included Newfoundland, whose rate was 11.9 per cent higher than 1965; Manitoba 10.6; Saskatchewan 17.4 and Yukon and the Northwest Territories 14.4.

The opening of more roads in these provinces and the increase in tourist travel through routes like the Trans-Canada Highway are possible explanations.

Every year, of course, there are more cars on the roads and it is likely that the increase in accidents is about the same as the increase in the number of vehicles. The sombre part of the story is that the accident rate, continually rising as it does, fails to reflect much benefit from the safety programs that are in operation.

But this may be the negative way of looking at it. Just think of what the totals might be without the safety campaigns!

More Pay, Less Boredom

When a kitchen hand in a factory finishes his 8-hour day he can go home, take the children to the playground, cut the grass or indulge in his hobby.

When the same man on a lake ship finishes his work, where can he go? Unless he wants a long swim, he stays right aboard. Shorter hours to him mean nothing but longer hours of boredom.

The strike is on with 5,400 men idle, nearly 200 ships and numbers of other dock workers off as well.

The union says it wants a 40-hour week instead of the present 60. The Dominion Government will be drawn in

since it gave the ship owners a deferment until the summer of 1968 for a 40-hour week.

Do sailors really want to stop work each week as soon as they have been on duty 40 hours. From friends we have talked to close to the business, we are led to believe that this is not the case.

What they want is overtime pay that starts with the 41st hour of each week, instead of the 61st. This would make quite a prize, 20 hours weekly at overtime rates.

The 40-hour week aboard ship, really means more money. This really is what the strike is all about.

Prompt Cuts Only Realistic Course

Higher unemployment insurance benefits and extended coverage, planned by Labor Minister John Nicholson have been put off at least until January or February, according to Ottawa reports.

Sources in Mr. Nicholson's office on Monday insisted that the proposed amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act were not victims of the economy drive that saw a number of programs from several departments put off till a later date, but since the Cabinet has not yet given a clear go-ahead for the increase, it may well be put back even further.

Unless the financial climate improves drastically, it may well be as the Financial Times stated this week that the proposed increases were one of the casualties of the cabinet's ax-wielding sessions more than a week ago. The scheme would have added about \$100 million a year to both employers' and employees' contributions, and would have embraced every employed Canadian, whatever his income.

Ottawa sources said Mr. Nicholson has an understanding from his cabinet

colleagues that an increase in jobless benefits is in order, but even if the Act is amended to allow for an increase to compensate for inflation (the last raise was to a maximum of \$36 per week in 1959) the grandiose scheme for universal coverage may fall by the wayside.

It certainly doesn't rate consideration if housing is to feel the pinch of the government's determination to reduce its demand for borrowed funds.

For the first time in living memory the government of Canada is faced with a situation where it will be unable to borrow anywhere near the amount of money that would be required next year if the government were to accede to departmental requests and borrow money as "financial intermediary" for such agencies as Atomic Energy Corporation and others.

It is well that the government is recognizing the real limits on its borrowing power. But the only way to keep within these limits next year and in the years to follow is to cut back promptly on many activities which may be economically and socially desirable.



Andy Donato, 30, cartoonist whose work appears weekly in this newspaper, was awarded sixth place in the editorial cartoon section of the Fourth International Salon of Cartoons, for the above cartoon.

SUGAR AND SPICE



The Expo Trail

By BILL SMILEY

Well, Expo is all they say it is. It's fantastic and fabulous, exhausting and expensive. It's got everything from Saturday night in Hayfork Centre to a round-the-world cruise in your private yacht.

It's true that the line-ups are long at some of the pavilions, but you can easily get around this. Some people put on a walking cast and are ushered to the head of the line. Others use a wheel-chair. Or you can buy a sailor suit. Visiting sailors march straight to the head of the line, wink at the girl and walk in.

One chap I know spent two hours in a line-up with no strain at all. He was organized. He set up his folding stool, sat down, put on dark glasses to make him think he was in a bar, and opened the quart-size thermos of iced-cold martinis which he had prudently brought along. All about him people were cursing, fainting and wishing they were home in bed. He killed the quart and never did make the pavilion, but he made a lot of life-long friends when he shared his potion, and still claims it was the best party he was ever at.

United Nations without the scab-picking and back-stabbing.

Montreal, which had the imagination and guts to create the thing, will probably salvage something. Toronto would solve the problem with dispatch. The whole thing would be knocked down smartly to make a super parking lot.

Whatever happens, I hope they don't take it away until we get there. What's that? You thought we'd been? Oh, no. We're just getting packed at the moment.

You don't have to go to Expo to write a column about it. I could write a book. The country is full of Expo experts who are only too ready to fill you in on everything about it, after spending two bewildered days there. We've been hearing about Expo from friends, relatives, neighbours, and casual acquaintances until we have Czech blown glass coming

out our ears.

It's rather amusing to have people who have never seen anything bigger than the county fair dismissing the Russian pavilion as "brittle" or "ponderous," or praising the British pavilion as "subtle" or "wonderfully understated." They've picked up these expressions from the critics and are going to use them even if it makes you throw up.

Everything we've heard about it has been contradictory, from the availability of laboratories to the price of meals. However, that's life, that's people, and that's probably Expo.

Today we leave. We're all set. My wife hasn't slept for two nights and has a blister on her heel. Kim has a fallen arch. I have a vicious corn on the ball of my foot. But never mind that. It's the spirit that counts. And ours are very low.

THIS WEEK & NEXT



Vietnam Election

By RAY ARGYLE

The nightmarish contradiction of holding a national election in a country torn asunder by 20 years of nearly constant warfare has finally shown itself for what it is in South Vietnam.

Elections there Sept. 3 for president and vice-president follow by several months the writing of a new constitution.

But it has been impossible to run a political campaign of any real democratic intent, and this has finally become clear in the last days before the voting.

Elections in backward, or semi-developed countries are always given to much doubt anyway. The lack of effective political organizations make it difficult to involve the average voter. If illiteracy is an added burden, as it is in South Vietnam, the use of colorful emblems to identify ballots (because voters can't read) does little to build confidence in the ability of voters to make a judgment in the campaign.

But staging of an election in a country torn apart by war, where the enemy — the Communist Viet Cong — holds effective control over more than half the villages, and where half a million foreign troops — Americans — occupy the harbors and cities, can only be described as an act of either sheer folly or doubtful courage.

The U.S. government has undergone a subtle but significant change in attitude toward next week's Vietnam elections. When the campaign began, the elections were to prove that democracy can be made to work in Vietnam. But now the campaign is in the home stretch, amid all kinds of charges of military interference, American spokesmen are cautioning that not really much can be expected from Vietnam, but at least a step is being taken toward democracy.

The military clique which rules South Vietnam will of course be elected.

Premier Coa Ky, the strongman of the present government, is running for vice president under the present chief of state, Lieut. Gen. Van Thieu, who is on the ticket as the Democratic party's presidential candidate.

It is said that Ky took second spot in the interests of military unity, but it is

likely that he will continue to wield major influence after next week's voting.

Of the various civilian candidates, some are outright dovish, while others would press the war against the Viet Cong. The leading civilian candidate is Tran Van Huong, who has good relations with the military.

But as the New York Times quoted one Vietnamese general, "There's a war to fight. We are willing to go along with the voting, but things must come out right."

The elections are a calculated risk that by going through the motions of a democratic choice, the military regime will be legitimized and the vote will be taken as fresh evidence of the Vietnamese determination to press the war against the Viet Cong.

The 5,850,000 eligible voters... an increase of 390,000 in a month... will have to turn in voting cards when they show up at the polling booths in the rice paddies, hamlets and cities where the Viet Cong does not exercise complete control.

Assuming that the military regime is thus given a quasi-democratic stamp of approval, the next risk will be that the military group running the country will be able to remain sufficiently united to ensure the survival of the government.

The several regimes which have taken hold there since the fall of the Diem government all came to power by military coup.

While the elections will not assure political stability in the face of military power, either will they make the American cause in Vietnam very much easier.

Growing criticism at home has plunged President Johnson's popularity poll to an all time 39 per cent low. He has clearly exceeded the bounds of the Congressional resolution which in 1964 authorized him to take action to defend U.S. forces following the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The government pleads lack of money for the war on poverty because of the war on Communism. Its society at home becomes sicker, its domestic problems more critical, while international support for the American presence in Vietnam continues to fall away all around the world.

Editor's Mail

Aug. 20, 1967.

Dear Sir,

Why is it that the grounds near every railway station in small towns such as Stouffville do not have any care by the company that owns the property? It's the same pretty well all up and down the line, not only this line but elsewhere.

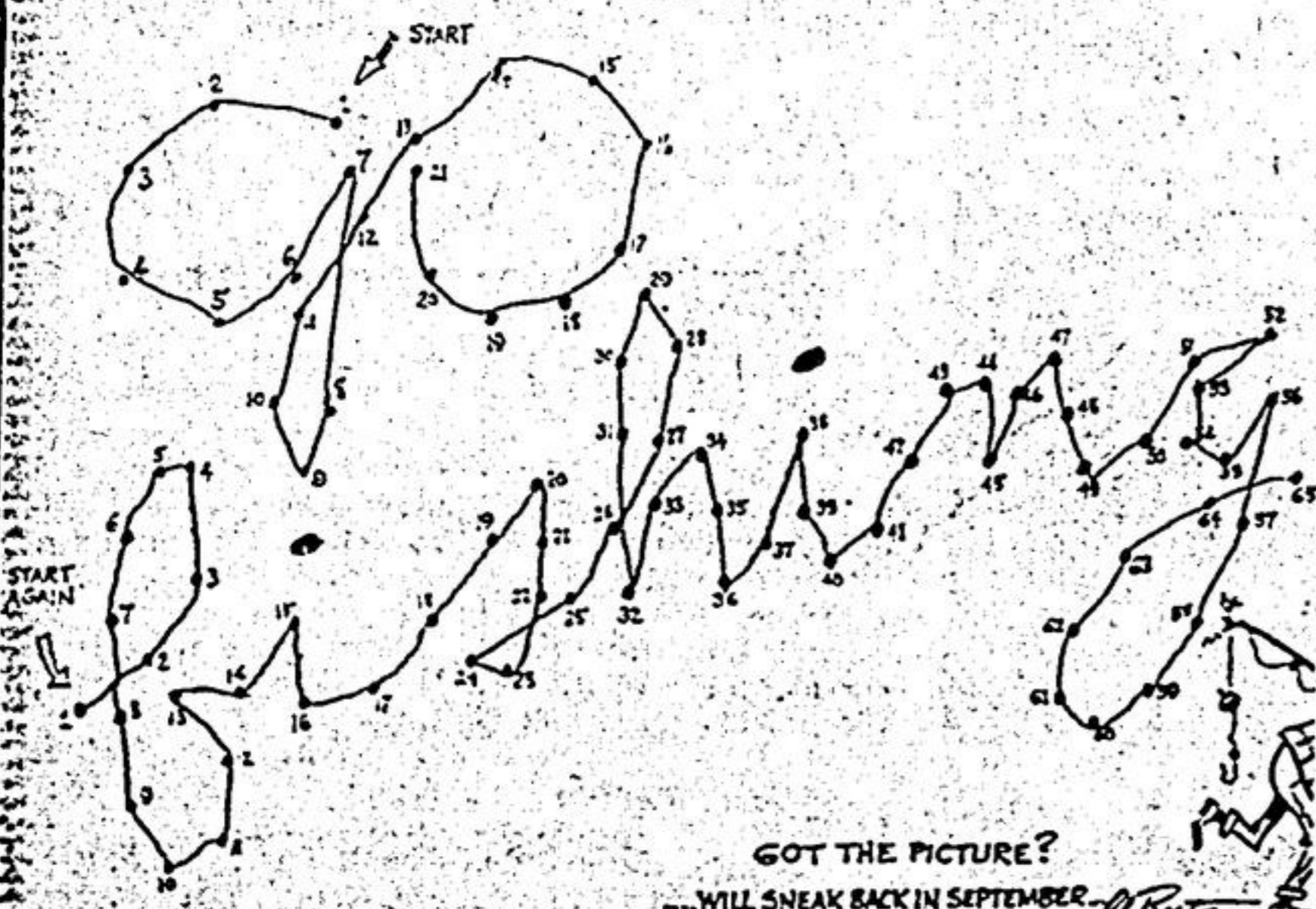
At one time when more passenger trains were running some effort was made to keep the station grounds looking attractive. Since then however they have become some of the sorriest looking properties in each town. Why couldn't the section men in each division be given the job of keeping things better looking?

The railway is still looking for freight and express business; even if the passenger trade has fallen off. Some day we on this line may have a GO train and things will look better, but in the meantime it's a sorry sight.

OSCAR HULSE,
Stouffville R.R.

DEAR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

FROM TIME TO TIME YOU HAVE SUGGESTED THAT, AS A CHANGE OF PACE, WE PRINT A CARTOON ON THE STYLE OF THOSE GAMES WHERE OUR READERS CAN TAKE A PENCIL AND FILL IN LINES FROM NUMBER TO NUMBER -- SORT OF "DO IT YOURSELF" ART. GOOD IDEA FOR A LAZY SUMMER DAY (YOU SAID) AND WHILE WE'RE BEING LAZY, I THINK I'LL...



GOT THE PICTURE?

...WILL SNEAK BACK IN SEPTEMBER

A bright light has gone from the editorial world with the passing of Al Beaton, prominent cartoonist. We publish here the final Beaton cartoon

and takes the form of a "do-it-yourself" puzzle. Cryptically, it says that he had "gone fishing."

ROAMING AROUND

One In Forty Working For The Government

About one Canadian in 40 now works for the federal government compared with the ratio of about 1 in 350 in the early 1900s.

Using figures mainly compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, an observer can chart the slow but steady increase in federal employment as a percentage of the population.

Unfortunately exact government-employment statistics are not available for any but the most recent years. The royal commission on government organization ran into this difficulty a few years ago.

It expressed the difficulty this way: "Lack of historical data based upon uniform and constant statistical concepts makes it impractical to measure precisely the growth of the public service."

But using the best data available a picture of the growth of the Canadian government appears.

The most recent federal employment figure puts the number in all departments, Crown corporations, on ships and in prevailing-rate employment and casual labor, as of December, 1966, at 363,700.

Not part of the statistical tables — but a large part of what chews up the taxpayer's dollar — is the military establishment, currently running about 105,000. That brings the over-all total to about 30,000 below the half-million mark.

Latest population data shows 20,014,880 persons living in Canada, as of 1966. The two figures produce the 1-in-40 ratio of federal employees to the population.

In 1912 there were about 20,000 federal employees, out of a population of some 7,000,000. That's the 1-in-350 ratio.

It didn't hold for long. By 1920 federal employment had reached almost 50,000 — the First World War gave the federal public service its first big boost — out of a population of some 8,500,000.

From 1912 to this decade federal employment figures reveal only salaried, departmental employees. Thus the figures are low. None of the statistics include the military and the ones being used here also omit Crown corporations, casuals and hourly-rated workers.

However, with the exception of the military, the great bulk of federal employees were salaried, departmental workers. The Crown corporation build-up came more recently.

The figures show a climb in employment to 41,800 in 1919 from 25,100 in 1914 at the start of the First World War. Federal employment reached 47,100 in 1920 and then, due apparently to a reduction after the war effort ended, fell back to 38,100 in 1924.

Canada's population in 1924 was about 9,000,000. Thus the ratio of federal employees to population was about 1 out of every 225. The total Canadian labor force at the time was about 3,200,000.

Federal employment moved slowly upward through the start of the Depression in 1929 when it was 42,800 to 45,600 in 1931. By 1935 it had dropped to 40,800. Then came the Second World War.

In 1939 federal employment stood at about 46,000. By the war's end in 1945 it reached 116,000 — and remember, the armed forces are not included.

Canada's population in 1939 was 11,267,000 and its labor force was about 4,500,000. The ratio of federal employees to the population was about 1 in 225.

By the war's end the population was 12,072,000 and about one in every 100 Canadians worked for the federal government.

FIGURES SOAR

Federal government employment fluctuated after the war. It reached 125,300 in 1947, dropped to 118,400 in 1948 — the theory is that jobs were created for returning soldiers, who gradually slid back into the non-government labor force.

By 1953 employment had climbed to 131,200 and the population stood at more than 14,000,000 — a federal employee to population ratio of about 1 in 107.

Then came a wave of new government programs and the need to get the personnel to man them. Federal employment reached 160,300 in 1961. The population was 18,000,000.

At this point the Conservative government of the day instituted a hiring pause as an economy measure. Employment dropped some 10,000 until the Liberal government took office in 1963 and government employment began to rise again.

The big federal work force now has a budget of more than \$10,000,000,000 to spend and administer — a far cry from 1921 when the budget was under \$500,000,000 and there were some 40,000 federal employees to handle it.

★ ★ ★ TEENAGERS VOTE AGAINST POT

More than 36 per cent of 800 teenage voters at the C.N.E. turned thumbs down on a proposal to legalize marijuana.

The results were part of a poll being taken at the C.N.E.'s Teen-Age Fair by the Young New Democrats.

Just over 92 per cent approved more student participation in setting school study and exam standards and 67.2 per cent thought Americans have too much control over this country's economy.

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