

## 'Backward, Turn Backward...'

**T**HE PREOCCUPATION OF French President Charles de Gaulle with the glories of the past was tolerable when it was confined to his own country and did not intrude on the forward movement of Europe and the Western world as a whole.

When he moves out into the wider arena, however, his ideas must be viewed with considerable dismay for as one observer has noted: "As a world statesman, President de Gaulle has an unerring eye for opportunities of going backwards."

A quite astonishing example of this propensity was provided by the French leader last week during one of his rare press conferences. Dealing with three of the issues of major importance at this time, President de Gaulle proposed:

That the problems of international monetary reform could be solved by a return to the gold standard; that the question of payment of dues in the United Nations could be settled by turning control of the organization over to the five permanent members of the Security Council including Peking, China; that the United States and Russia should withdraw all their influences from Europe and leave a rejuvenated France to lead the continent back to its classical, pre-1914, era of nation states.

What is so perplexing about President de Gaulle making these proposals is that they all represent abject failures of policy at the times they were operative.

The world left the gold standard because it was not possible to settle international debts with gold alone and the attempt to do so was one

of the root causes of the depression of the Thirties.

The UN Security Council failed as an effective peace-keeping organization because it was hamstrung by the veto provision of the UN Charter; hence the assembly's assumption of the peace-keeping role.

Finally, the notion of a Europe rigidly separated into nation states and utterly free of all American or Russian influence is anachronistic nonsense which runs counter to reality.

It may be both likely and desirable that the United States and the Soviet Union should have less direct control over policies of western and eastern European countries respectively. This would leave more opportunity for the growing detente between the two blocs. It is unlikely and undesirable that they should withdraw their influence to the point where Europe reverts to its pre-1914 status as a congeries of nationalities struggling to maintain a balance of power around a united Germany.

In actual fact President de Gaulle's views on the gold standard do not matter much, since they are so demonstrably absurd. But he is playing a dangerous game when he attempts to stifle action by the United Nations or tries to persuade Europe that its future lies in the past.

He seems prone to forget when he woos Germans with a promise of re-unification that France in its days of glory was never strong enough to keep the peace in Europe. And he ignores throughout all the rest of the world the emergence of new countries for whom the United Nations is a hope for survival and a better future.

## Mr. Sharp Speaks Out

**T**HE CONCERN OF MANY CANADIANS that any plan for full free trade with the United States would infringe the independence of this country was bluntly expressed by Trade Minister Sharp at a press conference in Toronto the other day.

"A customs union between Canada and the United States," he said, "would involve one large country and one small country and we would tend to be submerged." At another point Mr. Sharp stated: "Inevitably all major decisions would be made in Washington."

This was the minister of trade's negative reaction to the recent Canadian-American Committee free trade study and it is of particular interest since Mr. Sharp has been intimately concerned with the very developments that have sparked such sharp interest in the subject.

The most recent of these was the auto free trade agreement. But the trend was established earlier through tacit and explicit accords on monetary policy, the rationalization of petroleum production, the continental energy concept embodied in the Columbia Treaty, encouragement for integration of products from plants under common ownership and others.

A great deal of this activity makes sense from the economic viewpoint. The question is whether the trend is leading, as the Canadian-American Committee states so emphatically, to "inevitable" economic integration of the two countries.

Judging from Mr. Sharp's comments that he is against a customs union type of integration, while at the same time he has been one of the principal engineers of the economic rationalization that is in progress, it seems reasonable to suppose that he does not support the theory of inevitability. But how far can Canada go on this road without passing a point of no return?

Furthermore, would advance along the suggested road be as economically valuable as many think? Or would Canada, like some exploited areas within the United States, be sucked into the American industrial vortex without adequate and rewarding development in Canada?

Again, do Canadians see their ultimate destiny in terms of economic advantage only, to which all else must be submerged, or are there other considerations—as there have been in the past—which give the Canadian identity something more than a cash price tag?

## Sources of Pride

**P**LANS FOR THE NEW MUSEUM and archives complex as British Columbia's official Canadian centennial project, popular at the outset, produce added public enthusiasm as they progress.

The most recent announcement indicates that further funds will be provided so that the buildings and facilities will not suffer from skimping. Space is to be available for all present needs and for those of the foreseeable future. This promises to increase many times the existing usefulness and attractiveness of the two departments.

How the buildings themselves will be judged by those familiar with the finer points of architecture remains to be seen. To the layman, however, their presentation in the

form of artists' conceptions is highly pleasing.

These are additions which will contribute greatly to the interest of this section of our provincial government precinct and the Inner Harbor. As a local attraction both for residents and visitors they will have a high magnetism.

Yet it is not alone from the Victoria perspective that they will be viewed. Here is to be created a monument to all of British Columbia—suitable housing for representative flora, fauna, history, anthropology, and the human story of the province. All our people are concerned and may take justifiable pride in buildings marking a significant date in the Canadian history and character of the far west.



"The international situation confuses Fred . . . He doesn't know whether to start his spring planting or do some more work on the fall-out shelter . . ."

## FROM WASHINGTON

### Lessons of the Viet Nam Weekend

By WALTER LIPPMANN

**I**T is hard to believe that the raid on American installations in South Viet Nam was not closely related to Prime



Lippmann

Minister Kosygin's visit to North Viet Nam. It is hard to believe, too, that Mr. Kosygin would have picked the day after his arrival to Hanoi to touch off the raid. He was in no position to help the Vietcong to carry out the raid nor to protect North Viet Nam against American retaliation. It is most probable, therefore, that the affair was ordered and directed by men who intended to spoil Mr. Kosygin's mission in Southeast Asia and to interfere with his role as a principal power in bringing about a negotiated settlement.

Most probably, therefore, the gambit was directed both against the Soviet Union and the United States, which happen to have a parallel interest in preventing a big war in Eastern Asia and of containing the expansion of China. The administration is no doubt right in interpreting the raid on Pleiku as a test of American will. Had the United States refrained from retaliating, the Chinese and their supporters in Asia and elsewhere would have called it a demonstration that the United States is a paper tiger, and that therefore the Soviet policy of peaceable co-existence is unnecessary and absurd. The other side of the calculation was that if the United States reacted, as in fact it did react, it would demonstrate that in Asia the Soviet Union is a paper tiger unable to defend its clients.

### Success for China

From the Chinese point of view the gambit worked successfully. It showed, on the one hand, that the Americans are highly vulnerable on the ground in South Viet Nam; it showed on the other hand that the Soviet Union has no power to protect East Asia against the United States.

Much depends on what lessons are drawn in Moscow, Peking, and Hanoi and Washington from the affair.

We have had a very clear demonstration of the strategic reality in Southeast Asia. The American army at Pleiku was unable to protect itself against a comparatively small guerrilla attack, against a force estimated officially at about two squads and one platoon. The American forces got no warning of the attack from the Vietnamese people in the nearby hamlets where the raid was prepared. It got no protection from the Vietnamese security guards. In fact, when asked at his Sunday press conference whether the United States could not protect its own forces in South Viet Nam, Secretary McNamara replied that he did not "believe it will ever be possible—and I think when I say this I reflect the views of our own joint chiefs—to protect our forces against sneak attacks of that kind." Sneak attacks is in this case another name for guerrilla warfare.

### World Peace at Stake

But that is only half of the lesson which was demonstrated this past weekend. The other part of the lesson is that the United States fleet, standing a hundred miles offshore, is capable of inflicting devastating and unrequited damage on the Asian mainland. There was no power in South Viet Nam to protect our own forces or to retaliate. But at sea there exists an enormous American power which is quite independent of our forces on the mainland.

The peace of the world may depend on whether all of the powers concerned take the meaning of these lessons to heart.

For Americans, the meaning is that the commitment to participate in the land war in South Viet Nam is an entanglement, is a hostage to fortune, which exposes us to defeats and humiliations. The best that the more convinced believers in the commitment can say is that if we stay there long enough and accept the losses which they regard as "tolerable," the Chinese and North Vietnamese will eventually grow tired and become indifferent. For myself, I would not count too much on American patience being greater than Chinese patience.

It is less likely that the American people will wish to wash their hands of the whole business of containing China if they do not have to lose American soldiers week after week in a war that cannot be won on the ground where it is being fought.

The meaning of the affair must not be missed in Moscow, Peking, and

Hanoi. Let them remember that, reduced to its fundamentals, the situation is that the United States possesses paramount sea and air power in the Far Pacific, and no one can count on such a degree of restraint in the use of that power that it will never be used. The United States is not a paper tiger. That phrase reflects the greatest delusion on

which our adversaries could possibly gamble. The truth is that President Johnson profoundly desires to avoid war but his power to do that is not unlimited nor can he be counted on not to be provoked if the provocation is continual and cumulative. There should be no mistake about this anywhere. Copyright (c) 1965 The Washington Post Co.

## FROM LONDON

### 'Mother' Turns Raucous

By MARTIN DEWEY

**T**HE Mother of Parliaments isn't always the wise, dignified old lady she is cracked up to be. Sometimes, when Mother forgets herself, she can be an abusive, shrill-voiced harridan. The House of Commons was at its raucous worst the other day when the Conservatives introduced their motion censuring the government for "hasty, ill-considered action" during its 100 days in office and Labor blamed the late Conservative government for leaving the country in a mess.



Dewey

The stage was thus set for the first serious confrontation of the present Parliament. Unfortunately, however, what should have been a memorable debate became for the most part a shouting match between opposing backbenchers. The Conservatives, tasting blood after Labor's sorry showing in the Leyton and Nuneaton byelections, clearly felt the kill might be at hand. On the government side of the House, the defensiveness that was apparent immediately following the byelections had been supplanted by a mood of wounded belligerence.

The two sides met in a cacophonous chorus of hoots, catcalls, jeers and stamping. Despite no fewer than 21 separate calls for order, Mr. Deputy Speaker at times lost control of the House for periods of up to 10 minutes.

**Bad Day**

But if it was a bad day for the Mother of Parliaments, it was a worse day for the Conservatives. Knowing that the nine-man Liberal party planned to abstain, they fully expected their censure motion to be rejected—which it was, by 17 votes. But what they weren't prepared for was the vehemence and deadly effectiveness of the government's counter attack. By the end of the 7½-hour debate, the censure motion lay in tatters and the Conservative front bench appeared to be in a state approaching shell shock.

It was a surprise ending in view of the way the debate started. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, aglow with urbane confidence, led off the opposition attack as if his only task were to administer a long-overdue coup de grace. He was delivering a "count-down" on the government, he said, and if Mr. Wilson and his colleagues had any sense or integrity they would resign forthwith.

For the better part of an hour, the opposition leader deftly prodded the government's bruises. Labor's promised dynamism had turned out to be the dynamism of a bull in a china shop, he said. The government had created its own sterling crisis and had then mismanaged it. The government had destroyed confidence in Britain both at home and abroad. After deceiving the electorate, it now stood discredited amid the litter of broken promises.

### No Stone Unthrown

It was a competent speech which left no stone unthrown. London's evening papers, which went to press shortly after Sir Alec sat down, reported a Conservative victory in which the government had been severely "lashed." The morning papers had a different tale to tell, but then they had the advantage of sitting through the second act.

Taking his place at the despatch box, Prime Minister Wilson first demanded to know how Sir Alec could call for Labor's resignation after he himself had "clung to office until the last humiliating moment." The next cut drew blood. "I notice that most of my right honorable friend's speech was taken from this Tory central office pamphlet." Mr. Wilson grinned as he flourished an orange booklet. "But he missed a rather neat point on page 45."

This was the signal for a prolonged din marked by loud laughter on the Labor side of the House and howls of indignation from the Conservative

benches. From that point on, Mr. Wilson was in control of the field. Amid growing clamor, he began with telling effect to play on the theme that a party which has been rejected by the electorate after 13 years in office is in a poor position to criticize the record of a government which has held office for little more than 13 weeks.

The prime minister was at his most devastating when he turned to the charge that his government was responsible for the recent economic crisis. Brandishing a set of figures which showed sharply increasing balance of payments deficits through 1963 and 1964, he accused Sir Alec of deliberately misleading the electorate last October with the repeated statement that "seldom, if ever, has the economy been stronger."

"Does he still think that?" Mr. Wilson demanded, pointing a stubby finger at Sir Alec. "Now he hasn't got the guts to stand up and say that he stands by it."

### Personal Challenge

Time and again he turned his attacks into direct personal challenges to the opposition leader, demanding each time that Sir Alec rise and defend himself. When Sir Alec refused to budge, Mr. Wilson heaped scorn on him, more than once referring to the leadership struggle in the Conservative party and the shaky position of the "so-called" opposition leader.

By this time, the opposition had lost its sting. Sir Alec, looking even frazier than usual, sat hunched far down on the opposition front bench, the urbanity and confidence seeming to have deserted him. When Mr. Wilson reached the critical part of his speech—the announcement of the government's plans for the aircraft industry—it became evident that he had not only out-talked the opposition but that he had outmaneuvered it as well.

Sir Alec had said earlier that Mr. Wilson's plan to unveil his program for the aircraft industry during the debate was a transparent device to draw attention from the censure motion. As it turned out, the new program was as flimsy and vulnerable as Sir Alec expected it to be. But Mr. Wilson's device had the opposite effect: He used the debate on the censure motion to ensure that the opposition would be thoroughly deflated before it had a chance to tear holes in his aircraft proposals.

At the end of the day, one thing seemed certain: Prime Minister Wilson and his government may yet be defeated on the hustings, but they will not likely be defeated on the floor of the House.

## Letters

Letters will be considered for publication only if the writer is clearly identified to the editor, who may permit pen names at his discretion. Submissions will be edited and may be condensed. Short letters are favored. None will be returned.

### No Flag-Waver But . . .

I am not and never have been a flag-waver and I've done my share of scoffing at the people who have given the issue such great importance while more vital causes have been ignored.

But just the same, on Monday our nation officially flies its new flag for the first time. We stand with it before the other nations and say "under this emblem we shall seek our future greatness."

And on this momentous occasion we have no flags for our schools, no ceremonies for our children, no civic or provincial government recognition of the day. Just this once, I think, I could have cheered a marching color party.

Canada, I never noticed before, but I think you are falling apart.

R. P. L.

### Flag

Prime Minister Pearson promised Canadians that if his party got into power at the last election he would give Canadians a new flag.

General H. D. G. Crerar, the distinguished commander of the 1st Canadian Army in the Second World War, recorded an incident of great historic significance for all Canadians when, recounting an official welcome to him in Ottawa on Aug. 8, 1945, by our war-time prime minister, the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, he wrote in the March, 1963, issue of the Legionary:

"As we moved away from the central entrance of the Parliament Buildings Mr. King turned sideways in the car and looked upward to the Peace Tower, where at the top the Canadian Red Ensign waved. He then said: 'And that, General is another problem which your Canadian Army has solved for Canada—the matter of our national flag.'"

As regards the new flag, all I can say is ex nihilo nihil fit.

A. W. GALLMER.

433 Government St.

### Car Insurance

I predict that the subject of automobile insurance will be a very sore point with citizens in this province before the year is out.

This is a matter which could be profitably investigated by the provincial government.

My automobile insurance increased this year by 100 per cent—from \$44 to \$88. I was given the following reasons:

(a) The population of Victoria has increased.

(b) I am driving a later model car.

(c) I use my car to drive to and from work.

In regard to (a), I fail to see what relation there can be to the birth rate and the influx of retired persons, both constituting the bulk of the population increase.

On the subject of point (b): I drove a 1948 model for 10 years, and during those years each time the subject of an insurance increase was raised I was told it was because the car was getting older. Now I am being persuaded to believe that the later the model the more insurance is necessary!

We are persistently informed by the authorities concerned that the high rate of accidents and fatalities on our roads is mainly attributable to intoxicating liquor. It therefore follows, according to my reasoning, that the majority of Canadians drive to work intoxicated.

S. B. SPENCER.

1296 Richardson St.

### Need No Instruction

Mr. Robert Barrie, president of the Victoria Labor Council, commenting on the 30 per cent increase in the salaries of our legislators said, "We will have to bear this in mind in future negotiations for rate increases."

I don't think the labor unions need any instruction when it comes to securing an increase, completely out of line, from the helpless public. Under threat of strike the carpenters' union last year demanded and received a 24 per cent increase in their rates, half this year and half next year.

Under the terms of an agreement forced by the electricians union under threat of strike, last year electricians received an immediate increase and an agreement which will give them in three years, 40.5 per cent which means that, in April of 1967 they will receive \$3.31 per hour including fringe benefits. This comes to \$9,300 per year.

Talk about fair increases, no one seems to notice labor increases but wait until you get the bill for new schools, public buildings and—heaven help you—repairs to your home. Too bad for poor old Joe Dokes if he doesn't belong to a pressure group that can raise its own salaries whenever it wishes and as high as it wishes with ruthless disregard for the fact that increases are out of all proportion to their fellow workers.

M. P. FAINE.

3620 Quadra St.

### DENNIS THE MENACE



"Hi Mr. Wilson! I thought I'd come over and watch ya shame!"

### Looking Back

From the Times of Feb. 11, 1890:

One of the city's attractions next week will be a grand opera, which has scored successes in all parts of the United States from Washington to San Francisco. The engagement, the greatest attraction of the year, showed great enterprise on the part of the local managers. Reviews published in the San Francisco Post and the Washington Post praised Emma Juch and her company, including tenor Charles Heidem, basso Franz Vetta and the orchestra the direction of Mr. Nuendorf.