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Canada Is Bottleneck In Land Trade Deal

ONLY A WAG would suggest trading the Panhandle of Alaska to Canada in return for 10,000 square miles of useless mountain peaks and glaciers. Such a suggestion might be expected from a comedian living in western Alaska who wanted to hide his friends in the Panhandle.

He could argue, of course, that some of the people in the Panhandle have been known to express a desire to separate themselves from the rest of Alaska. This came to light when they proposed a separate state for their part of the world.

He could also argue that such a swap would solve the problem of moving the capital. It could not remain in Canada, hence it would have to be moved somewhere. He could also contend that the swap would solve the problem of those fish traps in Melikata, Angoon and Kake. The Canadian government would take over where the state left off.

But the suggested trade did not come from an Alaskan wag. It came unexpectedly from a Canadian engineer in Vancouver, B.C. He made it with straight-faced solemnity. There was no indication that he had tongue-in-cheek.

MORE RECENTLY, the Canadians were given a negative reply to the suggestion. The reply came in no uncertain terms from Senator Gruening. The Senator made a counter-proposal. With straight-faced solemnity he suggested it might be possible to trade a piece of Arctic wilderness in the northeast corner of Alaska for the 10,000 square miles of peaks and glaciers. He went further and suggested that it might be possible to arrange for a corridor through the Panhandle and some free ports. Those are the main wants of Canada.

This exchange of ideas is the latest in a string of proposals made over the years. In the past the Canadian government has turned thumbs down on swaps, contending that the price was too high.

Ottawa rejected the idea of exchanging Yukon River power rights for corridors through the Panhandle.

Demo Hassle

By Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON—Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler is continuing to add to his remarkable record of feuding with leaders of his own party.

Latest to be angrily offended by him is Sen. Thomas Dodd, Conn. The New Englander is so furious at Butler that he has written him a blistering letter for being personally discourteous and for going out of his way to stir up party dissension.

In effect, Dodd bluntly tells Butler to shut up.

"I think you are doing the whole Democratic Party a disservice," wrote Dodd, "and thus provoking a needless cause of cleavage within the party."

Two factors are behind this new clash with Butler.

His recent pronouncement that no one from the south or southwest can get the Democratic nomination next year, and some astute criticism Butler shot at Dodd at a public meeting in his home state.

This provocative poke has been reverberating in Connecticut and national Democratic circles ever since. Dodd has received sympathetic messages from party leaders throughout the country. The last has not been heard of this matter.

SEN. DODD makes that clear in his scorching letter.

Significantly, the Connecticut lawmaker also warmly lauds Senate Democratic leader Lyndon Johnson, Tex., whom Butler had inferentially assailed on the civil rights issue.

"I believe," Dodd wrote Butler, "that Sen. Johnson can accomplish more to bring about real progress in civil rights, both in shaping public opinion in the south and in achieving concrete action by Congress, than any other Democrat."

The importance of this high praise arises from the fact that Sen. John Kennedy has been considered Dodd's first choice for the 1960 Presidential nomination.

Highlights of the Connecticut leader's unusual letter to Butler are:

"I was much offended by your disparaging references to me at the women's luncheon in Hartford. I cannot understand why you would come into my state and accentuate what you describe as an area of disagreement with me. I do not know what views of mine you disagree with because you have never

asked me, and I was therefore surprised that you should choose a public occasion in Hartford to make such a statement.

"Had I acted toward you in the spirit in which you acted toward me, I could have referred to some disagreements I have with you over the way you have been handling the affairs of the Democratic National Committee.

"Since you have publicly raised the question of disagreement with me, it seems appropriate to inform you that I think the Democratic National Chairman has no business announcing that Democrats in the south and southwest cannot, or should not, or will not be nominated for president of the United States.

"I HAVE always believed that it is the man who is important and not the place where he lives. The fact is that there are so many problems before us, foreign and domestic, that the essential qualification for a presidential candidate is not his views or any particular issue but, assuming his general approach to public issues is sound, the essential point is rather his capacity for leadership.

"You are, by your efforts to eliminate southerners and southwesterners from consideration for the presidency, taking a position which is manifestly unjust and which betrays the ancient Democratic claim that our party is America's only national party."

Quotes

If the fire department of a great city is able to put out a big fire in a 40-story building, the chances are it will be able to put out a little fire in a one-story building.

—Rep. George H. Mahon (D-Tex.), arguing that preparation for total war would prevent limited war.

Some people tell me that we can't run again on "Peace, Progress and Prosperity." If we have them we can. And we have them.

—Thurston B. Morton, Republican national chairman.

... But You Promised Only One More Oom Pah Pah"



Equal Time

By Bruce Bissell

THE BURDEN now is upon Congress to act speedily to wipe out the FCC's so-called equal time ruling as it is applied to radio and TV news programs as well as paid broadcasts.

The FCC left the lawmakers no choice when it reaffirmed its controversial ruling despite criticism from other top government officers.

For years, the standard ruling has been that when one or more political candidates buy air time, the station or network must automatically make available to all other candidates an equal time to appear.

The dispute arose this year when, in deciding an appeal, the FCC ruled that he was entitled not only to buy equal time but to have allotted to him the same "space" given other candidates on regular news programs.

The absurdity and unfairness of this are patent.

IT IS absurd because it means that if in a given instance there were 10 candidates in a race and one got two minutes air time on a 10-minute broadcast, the other nine would fill out two complete news programs. Even if the balancing broadcasts were strung out, the resulting distortion of real news values is still plain.

Furthermore, this rigid ruling destroys the program editor's freedom of judgment as to what is news and what is not. This should, for the most part, be as unshackled as the newspaper editor's freedom. It should be his decision, not the FCC's, whether what a man says or does is worth 50 seconds or four minutes on the air.

NEWS is not something to be doled out in carefully calculated slices of pie. It has its own rules, and commands attention according to its content of drama, excitement and importance. If the men who know those rules can't follow them with freedom, we might as well let the FCC do the programming.

Surely Congress will do something before this absurdity becomes frozen as the pattern for the 1960 presidential campaign.

Speculation

By J. M. Roberts

A PLUGGED nickel will easily get you a plugged dime's worth of opinion about the future course of East-West diplomatic negotiations.

Some say Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's recent statements indicate an intention to try to frighten the West's leaders into a summit conference despite the breakdown at Geneva.

Among those holding this opinion are some who think the Soviets are less eager on this point now, being willing to wait for developments in the political division which has recently developed in West Germany, and in the dispute between the United States and France.

Others expect the Soviets to make some gesture indicating that since Khrushchev has proved himself right

Man's World?

By Ruth Millett

Sometimes I have strong doubts about that old saw that "it's a man's world."

What has got me skeptical about it right now is a story, telling how a Chicago judge ruled in favor of a wife who asked that her husband be prevented from taking over the kitchen in their home.

"A woman's place is in the kitchen," said the judge, enjoining the husband from buying the groceries or taking over the kitchen.

From where I stand over a stove it looks as though women's place is in the kitchen when they want to keep a husband out of it.

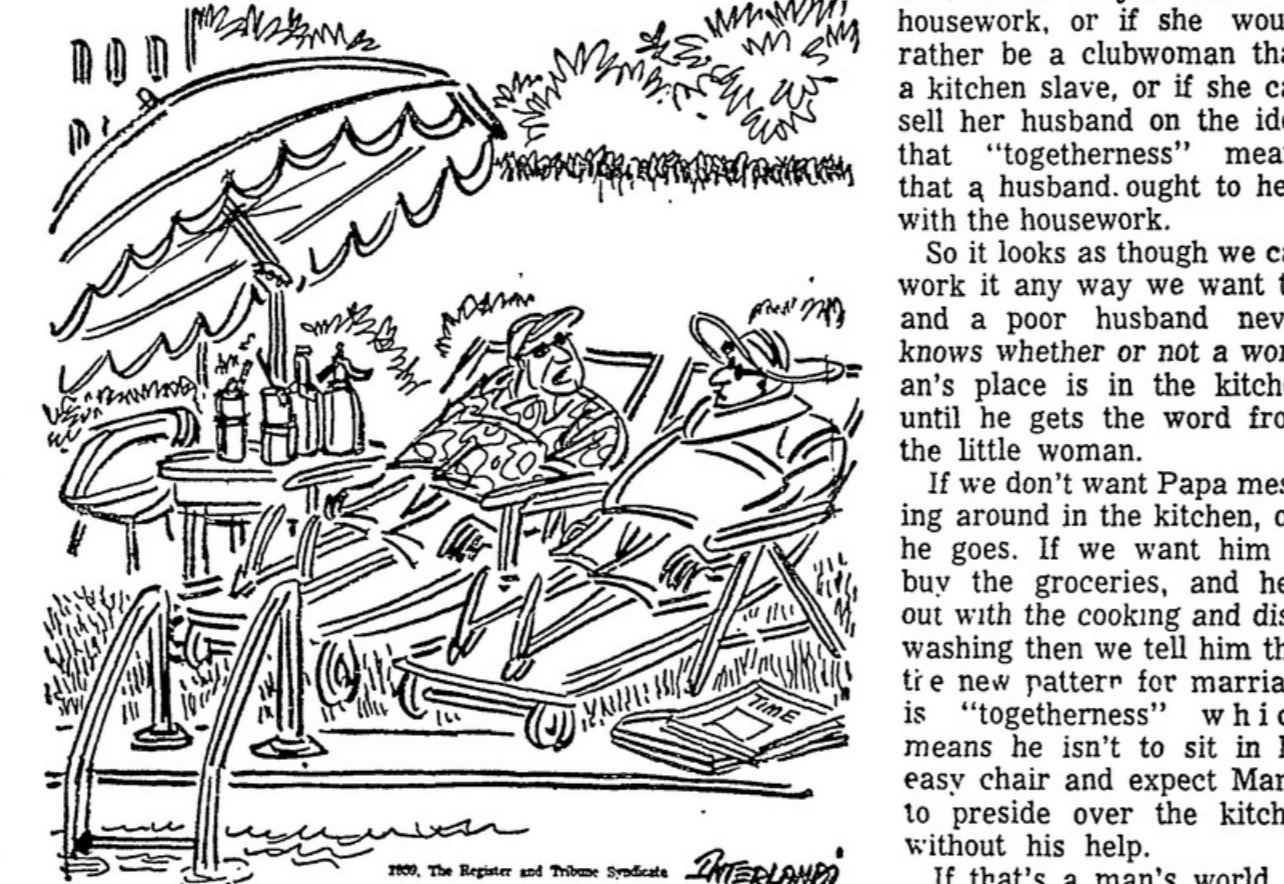
But a woman's place is not in the kitchen if a woman would rather hold down a job than do housework, or if she would rather be a clubwoman than a kitchen slave, or if she can sell her husband on the idea that "togetherness" means that a husband ought to help with the housework.

So it looks as though we can work it any way we want to, and a poor husband never knows whether or not a woman's place is in the kitchen until he gets the word from the little woman.

If we don't want Papa messing around in the kitchen, out he goes. If we want him to buy the groceries, and help out with the cooking and dishwashing then we tell him that the new pattern for marriage is "togetherness," which means he isn't to sit in his easy chair and expect Mama to preside over the kitchen without his help.

If that's a man's world all I can say is that in a man's world a woman seems to get all the breaks.

The Cynic's Corner



"Oh, I grant you, fallout is a serious problem, but not in this neighborhood..."

All Around Alaska

By Bob Kederick

WHAT ARE THE outstanding features of Alaska?

If you were asked to list the seven greatest natural wonders of Alaska, the seven greatest man-made wonders, the seven greatest historical wonders, which ones would you nominate?

A man by the name of Harry J. Shay of Lansing, Mich., (those Michiganers really go for Alaska) wants to know about these "wonders."

Mr. Shay is writing a book about "wonders" and he is stumped on what to put down for Alaska. Apparently, the rest of the states aren't too much of a problem. In fact, most of the other states would do well to come up with just seven of each.

However, in Alaska, where we have so much, almost everything is a wonder. It's difficult to pick the top seven. The top seventy would be more like it.

MR. SHAY gets the ball rolling by listing a dozen or so candidates for these "wonders" of Alaska.

In his "man-made wonders" category, he includes such unlikely possibilities as the University of Alaska, the city of Juneau and the military bases.

Others, a little more appropriate, it would seem, are the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, even though part of it lies in Canada, the Alaska Highway and Haines-to-Fairbanks pipeline, to which the same part-Canadian case applies.

Mr. Shay's list of man-made "wonders" is long, including the Alaska Railroad, the Russian Church at Sitka, the Anchorage International Airport, the Ketchikan Pulp Mill, Alaska-Juneau Gold Mine at Juneau and the Matanuska Valley agricultural development.

Suggesting Juneau as a "wonder" probably occurred to Mr. Shay during the winter months, when he heard reports of the Alaska Legislature in session. In that case, he's perfectly accurate in describing Juneau as a "wonder." At the very least it's a wonder.

Tragic Chapter

By David Lawrence

WASHINGTON—One of the most tragic episodes in the entire history of the United States Senate was the fight to prevent the confirmation of Lewis L. Strauss as secretary of commerce.

It is tragic because it was based on a personal feud. When hatreds become deep-seated, they sometimes produce far-reaching cleavages, with emotion substituted for reason.

The dispute was the outgrowth of friction between Mr. Strauss and Sen. Clinton Anderson, Democrat, of New Mexico. When the former was chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, he rubbed Sen. Anderson the wrong way.

The New Mexico senator is chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee in Congress. He is influential with his colleagues. Many sided with him—as members of the senatorial club often do—without particular regard to the merits of a question but with greater regard for the wishes of a fellow-senator.

Mr. Anderson's home state—New Mexico—is the seat of the atomic laboratories where many scientists are gathered. Some of them are embittered over what they believe was Mr. Strauss' animosity toward J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist whose "clearance" was denied for security reasons by a presidential board. While Mr. Strauss was not a member of this board he did present to the White House the charges that led to the inquiry. It was natural that many of Mr. Anderson's constituents should expect him to do what he could to punish Mr. Strauss.

But this wasn't all of the controversy. It couldn't be focused on the Communist issue alone. It so happens that Mr. Strauss fought against governmental operation of power projects and in favor of private

power. So this gave an opportunity for some of his foes in that field to be lined up against him.

The tactics were palpable for months. The hearing in by a Senate committee was more of an inquisition than the normal recording of the views of a prospective Cabinet officer. Usually the opposition party doesn't object to the appointment by a president of whomsoever he wants in a cabinet post. But the recent hearings resulted in a bitter fencing match and naturally the answers provoked were not always as clear-cut as they would be if a different atmosphere had prevailed. Mr. Strauss was thereupon attacked as being "deceitful" and as lacking in character.

But not all the Democrats allowed this vendetta to envelop them. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut, for instance, in a speech to the Senate, said:

"Lewis L. Strauss is a man of sixty-three years. He is a former shoe salesman with a high school education who has received honorary degrees from 20 colleges and universities.

"He has a background of devoted service to philanthropic and religious affairs.

"He has been distinguished and wealthy in the field of finance.

"He has a record of honorable achievement in the Naval service in which he rose progressively to the rank of rear admiral.

"He has played some role in almost every administration, Democratic or Republican, since the days of Woodrow Wilson.

"He has earned letters of commendation from five presidents.

"He has been awarded five of his country's highest decorations.

"He has been honored by grateful nations of the free world.

"He has taken positions on matters of first importance to this nation, positions that were controversial, positions that were right.

"In the forty-second year of his public life, at its climactic hour, we in the Senate are asked to reward this man by voting upon him a condemnation and a reputation that have not been accorded any American in a generation."

Poet's Column

CONTRIBUTORS to the Poet's Column should be mailed to Poetry Editor. All manuscripts must be original. Rights are reserved by the authors.

OUT AND IN

My house is old the floor is thin
But Little People go out and in,
In and out from dark till dawn,
My home is peopled with Leprechaun.
Over the years my head grows grey,
But still it was only yesterday
That in and out through my open door
Romped feet danced thin the floor.
Danced and capered out and in,
Blazed the trail for the Gremlin.
My house is old, the floor is thin,
But my home is peopled with Little Men.

Bob Klem
Palmer

OBSERVATION DURING THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL

Tonight, when death is but a word away,
When fire waits a continent beyond
For even this earth where our slight roots
are set,
A man touches from innamate wood
and wire
Animate glory.
This is the voice no fear can hush—
It moves in our ears until the final
silence.
Of the race.
For this let us be thankful, you and I—
And everyone, indeed, who, listening,
Feels his heart grow still with praise—
But most especially us, having thought
of it.
In these days.

Linda Wilson