



Debris and smoke is all that's left of a former house on the Texaco site. Cohen and Cohen of Ottawa has the contract for the clean up job. (Staff Photo)

Canada, A Double Dealer

It's not pleasant to think of Canada as a double dealer in the field of international politics, but when it comes to a question of oppression in southern Africa there is little doubt that our government speaks with a forked tongue. We say we deplore apartheid yet we pour investment dollars into the country and even spend public money to advertise the opportunities for capital gains in Namibia. Similarly we are horrified at the tales of atrocities in Angola and Mozambique but are easily fobbed off with the excuse that these are internal matters between Portugal and her overseas provinces. And so we sit at the NATO table with the aggressor and remain silent.

Recently our prime minister made representations to Mr. Edward Heath deploring the fact that Britain sells arms and frigates to South Africa to "defend the Cape Sea route against Russian war ships." Yet Canada herself sells parts for repairing guns to Portugal. Mr. Trudeau admits that Canada's policy is inconsistent and says: "we should either stop trading or stop condemning."

Recently four Canadians authored a Black Paper and made constrictive suggestions for the improvement of Canadian

policy towards southern Africa. They are Prof. Cranford Pratt of the University of Toronto, Dr. Garth Legge of the United Church, Board of World Mission and two former CUSO volunteers, Richard Williams and Hugh Winsor. So far their suggestions have had a disappointingly cool reception in Ottawa.

There are many non-military ways for Canada to help the oppressed countries. The Black Paper, for instance, suggests an investigation into the economic involvement of our country with southern Africa with a possible termination of present trade agreements - even at the risk of reciprocal treatment for Canadian goods.

We may not be the biggest or most influential nation in the world but it's a sorry day for Canada if we can't survive without such doubtful favors.

A GRAIN OF SALT

Despite the massive on-the-spot coverage being given the Vietnam conflict, there's as much reason to accept it with the proverbial grain of salt as there ever was coverage accorded past wars. - Swift Current (Sask.) Sun.

FORGET PEOPLE

Southern government officials and politicians ... mouth such phrases as tender tundra and about the need to protect wildlife, but appear to be little interested or concerned with the welfare of the people who live in the North - Yellowknife (N.W.T.) News of the North.

Hagersville

The library staff, and Library Guild were pleased at the excellent response and wish to thank William Mott Furniture for the carpet squares which made the next story hour will be on Saturday, May 1, 10.30 a.m.

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Waste Might Help

TAWA (CP) - Pulp paper wastes might help a home - at least the hope of National Arch Council engineer Macauley.

Mr. Macauley noted that by mixing waste sulphite liquid, a major pollutant from pulp and paper mills, with low-grade clay he could produce what is technically called "a foamed clay-building material."

The sulphite liquid and clay are mixed with a pinch or two of other ingredients, one a waste product of the paper process, added for stability. The mixture is poured into moulds and air-dried. Each brick is then fired into solid ceramic material in a kiln.

Ideally, Mr. Macauley says, the result would be strong light-weight building blocks with a high sound

absorbing property and thermal insulation provided by the air-bubble-filled material.

So far, Mr. Macauley hasn't succeeded in producing large-size blocks because of shrinkage during drying and the large amount of production space needed.

He's been more successful mixing the foam-clay aggregate with materials such as cement and plastic. For example, he has produced a striking terrazzo-like panel by mixing foam-clay pellets with cement and finishing with plaster. He says these light-weight and economical panels can be used as

interior walls.

Mr. Macauley has been getting his sulphite liquid free from the Canadian International Paper plant at Catineau Point, Que.

NRC has applied for a patent, and of some 50 companies Mr. Macauley has approached, seven have indicated interest.

To eliminate the sulphite pollution problem from pulp and paper plants, Mr. Macauley has estimated, Canada would have to use foam-clay for all its building material - an unlikely possibility. But he regards the pollution block as a good block to build on.

Rebels, Young And Old

Bridging today's generation gap is hampered by the belief of some young people that their elders are "all against them." The young feel their parents are out of sympathy with their aspirations, totally committed to a wrongly-motivated "establishment" which is despoiling the planet and leading humanity to its doom.

This is not the whole truth. Some of our young rebels would be mightily surprised to learn that there are those among their elders whose fondest hope is that youth's revolt against war, exploitation, discrimination, pollution and corruption will brilliantly succeed.

For they, too, were once young and idealistic, saw many of those same evils, raged against them, fought in the wars it was mistakenly thought would end them, dreamed of establishing a world order built on justice and love.

Some, rebels in youth, may have apparently compromised with things as they are but not because they hold them just or right. Their real beliefs are as they always were.

And it is they who worry most about one disconcerting manifestation of youth's revolt - its contempt for adult guidance, for any advice based on the experience of its elders.

Can a present which disregards the past lay sound foundations for a better future? Mature progressives see with horror the danger of a new generation repeating all their own mistakes. They do not want to dictate but do feel they can advise. Youth's clear vision may glimpse new ways out of our impasse but their seniors - from bitter experience - think they can still show them some blind alleys to avoid.

Civil Service Strikes Costly

There was a riot and a man was killed in the streets in Montreal in 1969 when the police went on strike. Londoners lived in the stench of their own refuse last year when the garbage collectors struck.

A strike involving essential services, such as those provided by doctors, hospital workers, police and firemen, dock workers, transportation workers, teachers and postal employees, pose a serious threat to the health and welfare as well as the economy of a society. Each time such a strike occurs the same question is raised: Should people in essential service have the right to strike?

More important, however, is the compelling argument that the right to strike is a measure of freedom in society. An employee must retain the right to withhold his services from an employer without being liable to prosecution unless he is bound by an existing work agreement.

That is the ideal. The reality, however, is a different matter. On one hand illegal or wildcat

strikes happen often and on the other, government exercises the right to intervene and legislate workers back to their jobs. Neither course complements the process of collective bargaining.

Usually, only two courses seem open: compulsory arbitration and the right to strike. But a third alternative may be to study the possibility of introducing in our society that which is common in European industry - the practise of industrial democracy. This simply calls for participation in decision-making by both management and organized labour.

Everyone seems to agree that improvements are needed in the collective bargaining process. It is too cumbersome and takes far too long to go through all the procedures. But changes in the system require better relations between employer and employee, better representation of staff on budget committees and improved two-way communication between staff and upper levels. In other words - industrial democracy.

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