

As Others See Us

LONDON:

Nixon's Visit to Rumania

IF MR. NIXON wanted to continue Mr. Johnson's "bridge-building" policy toward the smaller countries of Eastern Europe and to demonstrate the fact with a Presidential visit, Rumania was practically his only available choice. The Soviet rulers never liked the American bridge-building; since there was always some ambiguity about whether they were included or not, they decided to regard it as a form of meddling between them and their allies. Their suspicions are confirmed now that Mr. Nixon has picked out the most openly dissident of their allies for a Presidential visit, and they can find plenty of comment in the American press and on the airwaves to show that this is a gesture of encouragement to restlessness among the communist allies.

Whether it is really so intended none can say, since the knowledge, if it exists, is locked in the White House, where the foreign policy staff has been for some weeks under an injunction not to talk to the press. The reason is not the President's world tour (which actually requires publicity if it is to be counted a success) but the struggle between the various powers in the Administration to decide what proposals the American delegation should take to the arms limitation talks with the Russians when those talks eventually start. . . . —*The Economist*.

MEXICO:

The New Politics

AT THE END of Nelson Rockefeller's dramatic odyssey through Latin America—23,000 miles marked by deaths, tensions mounting to impressive levels, and disturbances of previously unseen dimensions—there has come the unmistakable conviction that the relations between the United States and these countries must be redeveloped in a new way. "We must change our foreign policy," declared the New York Governor. This change, he said, must be not only in "objectives" but also in "concepts."

Rockefeller should be warned that this should not refer only to commerce, despite the importance of commercial exchange to the countries of the south. It is the start of a revolution and other routes of action—other concepts—must be adopted. These must be undertaken to clear the confused situation born of the lack of real communication between the diverse parts of America. They must allow the development of the many communities that today are

economically, socially, and culturally crippled.

If there is, in effect, a lack of absolute comprehension, there is the danger of regional misunderstandings leading to bitter conflict and a threat to peace and the stability of the continent. And none of this—it must be underlined—has anything to do with philanthropy or the price of raw materials. It seems paradoxical that this must be proclaimed so energetically at a time when the communications media are so prodigiously developed. The fact is that we don't know each other, and in this ignorance we accumulate resentments which can explode at any moment.

—*Excelsior*.

TAIPEI (TAIWAN):

Exporting the Red Guards

STUDENTS for a Democratic Society is an American student organization responsible for creating all campus riots across the United States. This organizer of all the recent campus riots and disturbances in the United States is receiving financial assistance from the Peking regime, according to U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph.

This is no surprise to us. Actually, we have time and again pointed out in these columns in the past few months that Peking is pulling the strings behind the scene in every campus and racial riot in the United States.

It is easy to understand why Mao Tse-tung is doing whatever he can to create turmoil in the United States, the leader of the free world he has avowed to bury. Mao knows more clearly than anybody else that his regime, which is

teetering on the verge of a total collapse, can never bury a superpower like the United States. The only thing he can do is to undermine America's prestige. That is why he has been exporting the Red Guard movement to the United States.

—*China Post*, as reprinted in the *Free China Weekly*.

PARIS:

Rumanian Concern

IN BUCHAREST, more than anywhere else, people are wondering whether to be optimists or pessimists. The average Rumanian, who is usually more or less indifferent to sundry official visits, greeted the news of President Nixon's forthcoming visit with a mixture of astonishment, pleasure, and concern. The man in the street is happy to welcome a President of the United States and especially Richard Nixon, whose wife is purported to have Rumanian ancestors. Nevertheless, the Rumanians are concerned. They fear this visit may have disastrous effects on Rumanian-Soviet relations since the Czechoslovak affair is still recent—recent enough to cause fear. —*Le Nouvel Observateur*.

MANCHESTER:

Robbed or Otherwise Assailed

THE SOVIET MISSION to the United Nations in New York protested to the Americans recently that seventeen members of its vast delegation there had been mugged, robbed, or otherwise assailed. Wasn't this, they wanted to know, a deliberate affront to the great Soviet Union and its peace-loving diplomats?

Not at all, was the State Department's reassuring answer. No discrimination against Russians was involved.



"My wife is frigid . . ."

The attacks on the Soviet diplomats were proportionately no higher than those on New York citizens as a whole. If anything, the Russians were lucky. The assaults were slightly below average. —*Manchester Guardian Weekly.*

MOSCOW:

Accomplices of the U.S.?

AMERICAN BASES and garrisons in many South Asian countries now serve the aims of aggression against the people of Vietnam. Many are directly used by U.S. imperialism for armed interference in the affairs of Laos and for organizing endless provocations against Cambodia.

The conduct and support of armed aggressive actions is not, however, the sole aim of those who set up military bases in Southeast Asia. American bases are an instrument for bolstering avowedly puppet, anti-national regimes—such as those in Saigon and in Seoul—and a means of exerting constant pressure on the states that placed their territory at U.S. disposal for Pentagon bases. It is not accidental that the circle of Asian countries where American bases have been set up have become direct or indirect accomplices of U.S. imperialist aggression in Vietnam. These strongholds for the American military have become a constant threat to their neighbors, a source for increasing tension. —*Eric Alexeyev, Pravda.*

JERUSALEM:

Soviet Intentions

THE U.S. ASSESSMENT of Soviet intentions in the Mideast is at variance with Israel's. The United States is interested in taking advantage of what it believes is Russian willingness to "defuse" the Mideast crisis. The U.S. interpretation is that the Russians want to avoid another June 1967 crisis and do not want to be faced once more with the "no-win" alternatives of confrontation with the U.S. or loss of prestige in Arab eyes. American diplomats are not certain that a settlement will come out of the current talks but they are convinced that there is value in the process itself. Americans acknowledge, however, that the Russians are not interested in peace or in a final Arab-Israeli settlement. Their model for Arab-Israeli relations appears to be similar to the relationship prevailing between East and West Germany. . . .

—*The Jerusalem Post Weekly.*

LITERARY I.Q. ANSWERS

1e, 2f, 3i, 4j, 5h, 6g, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10d.

Answer to Wit Twister, page 34: hardest, threads, hatreds.

Letters to the World's Editors

The Voice of the People in the Foreign Press

Ousting Uncle Sugar

THE TIME for studies has passed; the time for action has come. The government can no longer merely "study" the issue of U.S. takeovers of Canadian wealth, as it is doing in the case of the takeover of Royal Securities, but must move to prevent further takeovers.

The mortgaging of our economy to the United States has gone beyond all reason. No other nation, outside of Central America, has tolerated the degree of foreign ownership which we are stuck with. . . .

This nation has allowed its foreign debts to rise to over six times their former level since 1945. Foreign takeovers should be declared illegal, and the start made on liquidating our foreign debts.

—*Edward Carrigan,
The Telegram, Toronto.*

Shot Heard Round

TERRY COLEMAN seems to have been given the impression that the shot that sounded round the world was fired at Concord.

Surely the trigger was pulled at Lexington, where the embattled farmers lined up to oppose the British march to impound arms and ammunition at Concord. Naturally, they got the worst of the encounter, and very sensibly from then on the colonists fired at the British troops from behind cover. No doubt somebody somewhere is laughing heartily at the irony of the idea of a Republic, conceived in liberty, whose delivery was in fact effected by the rifle shot fired from ambush at the representatives of "law and order." But the credit should at least be given to those who stood up—and died—at Lexington.

—*Christopher Cox,
Manchester Guardian Weekly.*

Applause on Order

PLEASE EXPLAIN the reasons for Husak's [First Secretary of the Communist Party] and Prime Minister Cernik's speeches at the CKD [factory of heavy machinery in Prague]! The arguments used by Husak and Cernik were very fitting for a hired mob that would scream and applaud whatever was said. The pack that gathered in the factory canteen will have great difficulty conveying to the people the "truth" uttered by the two speakers.

—*Ovidius,
Rude Pravo, Prague.*

The Abortion Capital

THE NEWS THAT London has become "the abortion capital of the world" is reported to be causing surprise, consternation, and horror in the precincts of Whitehall and Westminster.

What surprises one is the surprise. Having done everything logically and legislatively possible to ensure precisely this

grisly outcome, what did our blinkered, though well-intentioned, rulers expect? A reduction in the number of terminated pregnancies?

How else can one account for the ease and speed with which London has acquired the unsavory reputation of being not only The Abortion Capital of the World, or, less euphemistically, the abattoir of the world's unborn, but also a serious rival to Macao and Las Vegas?

—*H. P. Rae,
The Times, London.*

Speed Traps

HERE IS A FAIR warning to Canadians using Interstate 87 to Albany (specifically in the area of Chesterton, New York) to stay within the 65 mph speed limit as the radar traps are well concealed, with state troopers spaced at intervals of three to five miles.

—*Rachel Holtzman,
The Montreal Star.*

A Communist Speaks

SPEAKING AS A communist voter, while not wanting to insult you and noting that you are not with us, I ask you if the French are really stupid enough to think that I get my voting instructions from Moscow, or anywhere else. I vote for whoever will give me day-to-day protection of my daily life; whoever will concern himself with my salary and lodging; and whoever has a little consideration for me.

—*F. Levert,
L'Express, Paris.*

Onward and Upward

IT'S BAD ENOUGH that this dastardly kidnapping of airliners to Cuba is still going on. Up until now the air pirates have stolen airplanes one at a time. But now with Saeta Airlines, owners of a single DC-3, a whole airline has been kidnapped.

—*Unsigned,
El Tiempo, Bogota.*

NU Convention Criticized

WE HEAR a lot of talk by Quebec politicians about the need for preserving French Canadian culture.

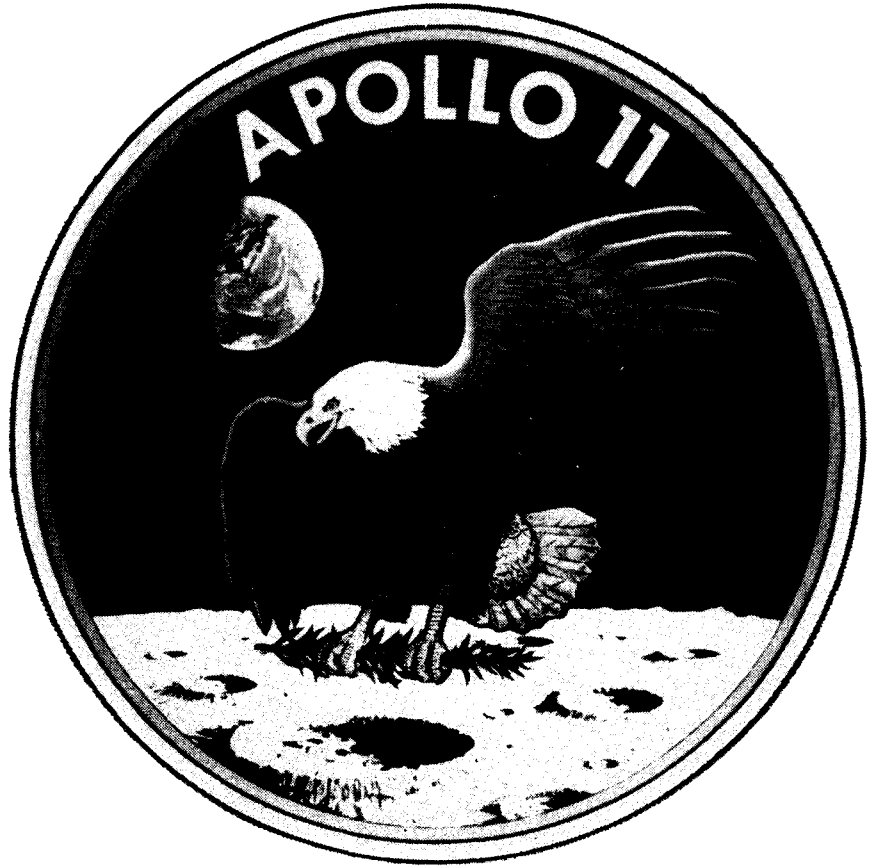
The proceedings at the recent National Union leadership convention would seem to indicate that French Canadian politics have succumbed completely to American influence.

As a point of interest, I wonder who paid for all the bands, miniskirted cheerleaders, and all the rest of the needless nonsense that has somehow become connected with politics. Would it be any chance be the much abused taxpayer?

—*D. Finlay,
The Gazette, Montreal.*
—COMPILED BY NICHOLAS G. BALINT



“IT IS FOR US TO GROW...”



After days of groping for words appropriate to the landing of the first earthmen on Earth's moon, I find myself unable to improve upon this sentence from the pen of Bertrand Russell:

It is for us to grow to the stature of the cosmos, not to degrade the cosmos to the level of our feudal squabbles.

Lord Russell put his case in a long essay in *The Wall Street Journal* on the eve of *Apollo 11*'s departure for the moon:

Projects for reaching the moon . . . were not considered in a spirit of scientific detachment, or as redounding to the credit of the human race. They were regarded instead as an opportunity for a race between rival great powers. It was felt that the important thing was not that the moon should be reached, but that it should be reached by our side (whichever that may be) sooner than the other. This is paltry, and makes the whole enterprise one in which it is difficult for sane men to see much of value. . . .

I should wish to see a little more wisdom in the conduct of affairs on Earth before we extend our strident and deadly disputes to other parts. Mars and Venus shine very effectively and are a joy to behold in the night sky. I should not derive more pleasure

from their brightness if debates were being conducted in Congress as to which of the two should be admitted to statehood, it being understood that one of them favors the Republicans and the other the Democrats.

To me, Lord Russell's philosophy is unanswerable. Yet, I cannot accept the admonitory title of the essay in which his argument was presented, *Let's Stay Off the Moon*. Millions of TV-watchers all over the Earth have seen two fellow humans hopping over the moon's surface like kangaroos, taking photographs, collecting rocks, setting up scientific experiments. Appetites are whetted. Only a tragedy could stop the four more moon voyages now planned. Our objective should be to place these in the perspective from which exploration of extraterrestrial space was first projected.

The very earliest outline of scientific problems to be encountered en route to the moon was written in a spirit of utter scientific detachment, and its stated purpose was "the glory of God." The author was Johannes Kepler, a German clergyman - turned - scientist. After working as a research associate of the celebrated Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, Kepler succeeded Brahe as science adviser to the Hapsburg Emperor Rudolph in Prague. Using Brahe's observations of Mars, Kepler

discovered how the planets move around the sun. Thus he made sense out of the Copernican theory of sun-centered astronomy.

Two of Kepler's three laws of planetary motion were published in 1609, the year before Galileo Galilei, across the Alps in Italy, wrote the first known report on how the heavens appeared through a telescope. When Galileo asked Kepler to comment on the telescopic observations, Kepler told him that during the previous summer (of 1609, that was) Kepler had put together a "geography of the moon" in readiness for the day when people would sail away from planet Earth "on the breezes of heaven."

Unfortunately, the text of the "lunar geography" was phrased as an allegory and Kepler's contemporaries could not understand it. In fact, the ensuing confusion was so thoroughgoing that Kepler's old mother endured trial as a witch on account of the book. She died from the effects of her imprisonment, and during the next twenty years her indignant son appended footnotes to the "geography" to explain what he had meant.

Read in the light of today's scientific knowledge, this manuscript is incredibly prescient. In it, Kepler foresaw the dangers of solar radiation, the need for enormous upward thrust to overcome the resistance of gravity in departing