Nebraska City News-Press
PARK NEWSPAPERS OF NEBRASKA, INC.
Publishers
Vol 123 No. 25 Sunday December 12, 1976
Publication News and Business Office, 123 South Eighth Street, Nebraska City Otoe County Nebraska 68410

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VIEWPOINT

THE NEW PRESIDENT—VOTING DECEMBER 13

The American election prodecures are well enough known that many voters realize they did not choose a President last Nov 2. Instead, they chose electors-state-by-state-who will in turn cast votes Dec. 13 which will decide the outcome of the race between President Ford and Jimmy Carter This will be done in each state capital and the lists will then be sent to Washington where the official tally will take place in a joint session of the Congress.

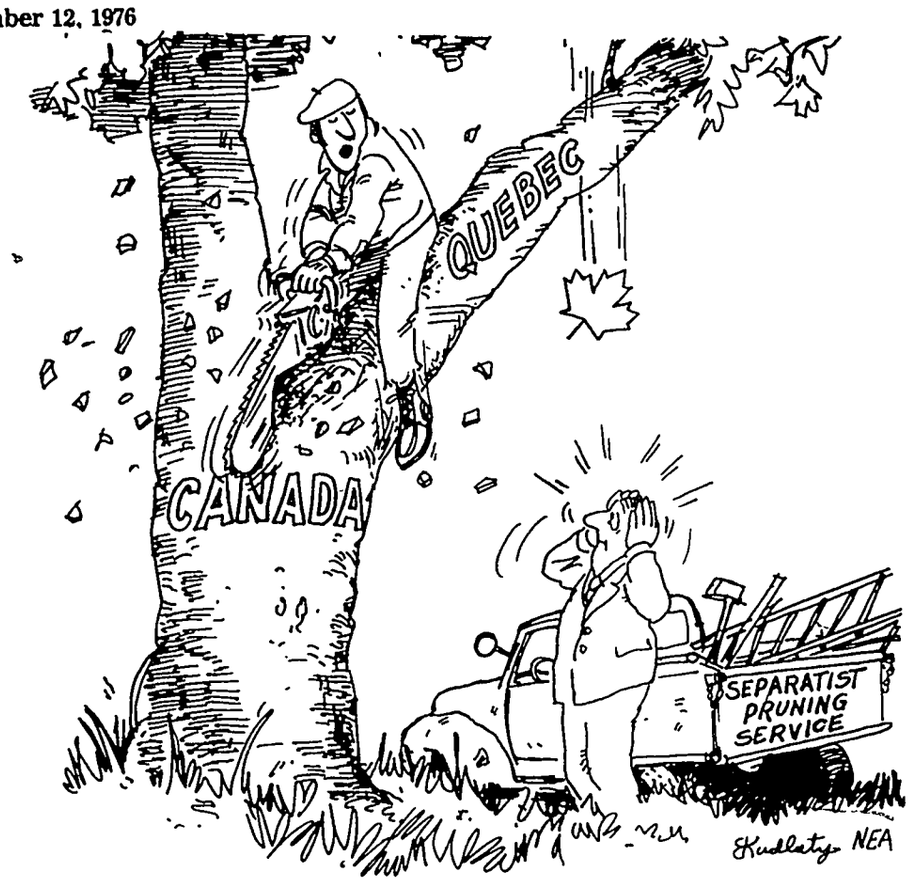
So the apparent winner in November does not become the President-elect until Congress convenes and determines the outcome of the balloting by the electors.

It is a procedure that may have served a purpose in an earlier era when the present two-party system was not as dominant and communications were not as highly developed. But it has no place today, especially because it introduces unknown electors into a decision-making process, and they could thwart the desires of a majority of voters, according to the Norfolk Daily News

That happened under suspicious circumstances in the 1876 election. Democrat Samuel J Tilden won the popular vote, but Southern electors dominated by the Republican-run Reconstruction governments of that era produced a 185-184 margin for Rutherford B Hayes in the Electoral College.

Americans ought to assume they have been lucky this incident has not been repeated, and that candidates elected by popular vote in November have not died at a time to put the independent electors on the spot about whom they might choose. While the succession pattern is well-established otherwise, no provision is made for that period between the popular vote and the time when the apparent winner actually becomes the President-elect by virtue of the official action of the electors. If the electors are to remain so powerful they can, in the event of an untimely death, select virtually anyone they choose, then more attention must be given to the naming of these men and women.

Better, though, that the popular vote will not be subject to review, and that the winner of the most votes in November become President-elect at that time in fact rather than in spirit.



"Relax, of course I know what I'm doing!"



Don Oakley

Fragmented Canada would lose viability

By Don Oakley

Generations of schoolchildren have been taught that when British Gen. James Wolfe defeated the Marquis de Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham in 1759 and captured Quebec, this settled for all time the question of who was to rule North America — the French or the Anglo-Saxons.

It now turns out that the history books have been wrong all these years: One of the most decisive battles ever fought on this continent may not have been so decisive after all, at least as regards Canada.

Gallons of speculative ink have been spilled in the wake of the stunning victory of the separatist Parti Quebecois in the recent election in French-speaking Quebec province. Party leader Rene Levesque, who now becomes premier of Quebec, has promised that be will place the question of independence before Quebecers in a referendum.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has also indicated that he may ask for a national plebiscite on the issue and that if the vote is decisively in favor of separation, Quebec will be allowed to go its own way in peace.

Although Levesque's referendum is at least two years away, and despite the fact that an estimated two out of three Quebecers are reportedly against separation, people on both sides of the border are wondering what an independent Quebec would mean to the futures of both the United States and Canada.

An independent Quebec would split Canada into "thirds" — geographically, politically, economically and linguistically. There is already speculation that Canada's English - speaking maritime provinces or its English - speaking western provinces — or both — might seek some kind of federation with the U.S

This, however, ignores the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by Canada's provincial governments, as well as the strong element in the population composed of descendants of those who fled the United States during the American Revolution and threw back American attempts in two wars to invade Canada.

Certainly a fragmented Canada would be a much less viable entity than it is today, for all its internal problems, and the difficulty of existing in the shadow of a giant neighbor to the south would be multiplied by far more than three.

All such speculation is, of course, extremely premature. It may well be that the election victory of the Parti Quebecois is the high-water mark of the separatist movement, and that when it comes down to the actual crunch, the heirs of Wolfe and Montcalm will choose not to change history so drastically.

AS TIME GOES BY

Edward abdicates

FORTY YEARS AGO
—1936—

King Edward VIII abdicated from the English throne to marry the woman he loved, Mrs Wallis Warfield Simpson...Two Nebraska City men faced grand larceny charges in connection with the theft of six coats from Peru State College students, according to Police Chief Julius Ottnat...Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello, a recipient of the Nobel prize for literature, died in his sleep in Rome...County Treasuer C.L.Kelly announced that 1937 license plates would go on sale December 15.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
—1951—

Will Seyfer of Wyoming precint was elected president of the Otoe County Fair Association...The penny postcard was scheduled to die at the end of the year..."Aaron Slick of Punkin Crick" was the Junior Class play at Cook. Leroy Rosenthal was the student director...Major General Butler Miltonberger was a major speaker at a National Guard, Company A dinner at the Memorial Building. The Guard was launching a recruiting drive. Lt. Hoyt Sharp was company commander.

TEN YEARS AGO
—1966—

The Ford Foundation announced it was gambling $10 million to demonstrate the possibilities of a live, noncommercial educational television network beamed coast-to-coast by space satellite...The United States planned to orbit an assortment of insects and plants in a space age "Noah's Ark" to see how spaceflight affected the process of life...Senoir candidates for the Senior High Holiday Dance were Jackie Pummel, Nancy Golden, Sharon Deaver, Chris Metcalf and Mindy,Sackles...Communist China admitted publicly that there had been violent fighting during its sweeping internal purge of opponents of Mao Tse-tung.

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Dec. 12, the 347th day of 1976. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

In 1642, the Dutch navigator Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand.

On this date:

In 1792, 22-year-old Ludwig Van Beethoven paid 19 cents for his first music lesson — from Franz Joseph Haydn.

In 1804, Spain declared war on Britain.

In 1894, Japanese troops invaded Korea.

In 1937, the U.S gunboat Panay was sunk by the Japanese on the Yangtze River in China.

In 1944, Tokyo was partially evacuated because of firebombing by American planes.

In 1964, Kenya became an independent republic within the British Commonwealth.

Ten years ago: Former President Dwight Eisenhower was reported in good condition after an operation for the removal of his gall bladder

One year ago: Sara Jane Moore pleaded builty in San Francisco to charges of attempting to kill President Ford Sept. 22.

Today's birthday: Frank Sinatra is 61

Thought for today: It is impossible, in our condition of society, not be sometimes a snob. — W.M. Thackeray, English writer, 1811-1863.

Bicentennial footnote: Two hundred years ago today, the American Continental Congress moved from Philadelphia to Baltimore as British forces advanced toward the Pennsylvania city.

News in Brief

DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler Corp. says it will challenge a precedent-setting government order to recall 208,000 of its large-engine cars because they emit too much carbon monoxide.

Friday's recall order by the Environmental Protection Agency involved nearly one-fifth of Chrysler's 1975 models.

Second class postage paid at the Post Office in Nebraska City, Nebr Published every evening (except Saturday) and on Sunday

MEMBER Nebraska Press Association, Inland Press Association National Editorial Association; Audit Bureau of Circulation Leased Wire Service of the Associated Press and NEA Feature Service

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CIRCULATION RATES: Single copy, 15 cents; by carrier, $3 a month in advance; by mail in Nebraska City trading area, $28.00; outside trading area $36.00 per year.

The Prayer For Today From

The Upper Room

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'." (John 7:38 NASB)

PRAYER: Our Father, help us to become the channels for Him who alone can bring spiritual revival. Release divine light and life upon the thirsty, dying souls about us. Amen.



Ray Cromley

A short-lived honeymoon?

By Ray Cromley

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — Behind the sweetness that prevailed at President-elect Jimmy Carter's recent session with Capitol Hill leaders, there were some carefully phrased warnings.

For one: "Let us in on the takeoffs if you want us in on the crash landings."

The roots of a Carter-Congress confrontation do not, as of this moment, lie with Mr. Carter. He has deferred to the leading lights in Congress, returned their phone calls quickly, promised early consultation on major issues, asked their advice on whom to appoint down to the second and third echelons.

He has promised or implied more cooperation than any president can possibly give in keeping that body informed. He has added some fine print, however, noting that "I am not naive enough to think that everything I know or everything that is in progress on an international scale needs to be (told) in the early stages of a sensitive analysis process. There will be times when nobody needs to know about foreign policy challenge except me and the secretary of State or sometimes perhaps just me and the head of a foreign government. I will have to use my own judgment on all things . . ."

I sat in the other day on a discussion between a number of men who are consulted daily by leading senators and representatives. It was their opinion that regardless of how sincerely Mr. Carter and Congress may try for accommodation, there has built up in the past decade such basic rivalry between Congress and the president — any president — that Mr. Carter will inevitably face stormy clashes with the legislators. Especially an activist president, as Mr. Carter promises to be.

The struggle between Congress has been going on, of course, since the beginning of this nation. Over the years, the president slowly gained ascendancy. A few years back the scales began to tip the other way.

A series of events — the Vietnam war, Watergate, the Middle East and Turkish - Greek - Cyprus crises, Angola — gave Congress a feeling of its own importance and correctness.

The weak position in which these crises left Presidents Johnson and Nixon gave senators and representatives the opportunity to flex their muscles.

The Congress cut off funds in Vietnam. It wrote a veto to give Congress a compelling voice in arms sales to the Middle East. It cut off arms aid to those fighting the takeover in Angola and cancelled the embargo on chrome imports from Rhodesia.

A member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee told Mr. Carter bluntly that "the committee's views on the big issues generally have seemed to be more accurate or better for the national interest than the president's. This was true in connection with Vietnam, Angola, the War Powers Resolution and the Greek junta."

The feeling among Hill observers I know is that, having effectively shown its power, being satisfied with the results and flushed with the feeling of importance those actions have given its members, Congress is not ready to relinquish its strength to any president.

To complete the picture, add that Mr. Carter feels strongly his prerequisites as chief executive and by his own admission, enjoys the sense of power this gives him to make decisions.

It does not take much to foresee what will happen when there is disagreement between Congress and the White House.

The observers I've talked to believe, therefore, that the gestures of cooperation by Mr. Carter and by congressional leaders will melt as disagreements develop on the handling of detente with the Soviet Union, the Arab-Israeli confrontation, Cyprus, a "normalization" of arrangements with China which could lead to the abandonment of Taiwan, the struggles in Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa.



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Beemblossoms remember

Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The Christmas card —

Mr and Mrs Max Beemblossom, former residents, write from their home in Monroe, Mich., that they think of Nebraska City as home and miss their friends.

Mr Beemblossom was employed by Morton House Kitchens, Inc., a number of years ago. He now is plant manager for the Richter Vinegar company.

The Beemblossoms have two children, Bruce, a sophomore and Barbie, a fourth grader Their address is 605 W 6th Street, Monroe, Mich., 48161

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Memorial Building —

It was good news to read that Mayor Fenstermacher is attempting to do something to improve Memorial Building and its use She recently appointed a committee to look over the facility and come up with some recommendations.

Jack Simms, a member of the Nebraska City Park board is one of those interested in getting more use out of the building He pointed out the other day the money spent by the city for the use of the armory

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Didya know. .

that there are an estimated 800 people working at the OPPD Nebraska City Power Station southwest of town? That's a whole lot of people. And. . . .didya know. . . .that the payroll runs about $200,000 a week? That's what new industry can do for a community.

It'll be a couple years before the project is completed and there won't be that many people on the job, of course. However, the people who do work there hopefully will make Nebraska City their homes.

And in the future. . . .OPPD has plans for additional power plants on the site, so the growth is sort of an on-going venture. All of which should mean growth for our community.

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Sorry, Ray Stevens —

The Ray Stevens orchestra, band or whatever you call 'em just went on my list. . . .with the new recording of the "Hen House 5 Plus 2."

If you haven't heard it you probably soon will because it's a novelty type number. The only words are sounds of what are supposed to be hens "clucking."

The song Stevens chose is in poor taste — Glenn Miller's "In The Mood." I'm too much of a sentimentalist to go along with shredding Miller's song. I would have suggested Stevens use some of the Beatles music for his clucking.

The only satisfaction for the few of us is that we're confident In The Mood will be around a long time after the "clucking" song. Correct me someone. . .was Miller's big hit about 1938?

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Skinning a cat —

The high school wrestler came in the kitchen door the other day carrying all those "necessary" things that athletes have, plus a plastic bag.

He dropped his gear on the floor and flopped into a chair at the kitchen counter He was ready for a meal . .a light meal. . .because he is dieting to stay in his weight class.

A bowl of chili was agreed upon.

"What's all this stuff you brought home?" his mother asked as she prepared the chili.

"Oh, just my wrestling stuff and my cat," came the response.

"What cat?" questioned the Woman-of-the-House.

"MY CAT," he exclaimed "the one I'm going to skin."

I could see in her eyes that she was about to explode. . . .about like the time she did when I came home and told her I traded for a car. . . .there wasn't time to warn the young man. . . .

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"You. . . .you. . . .get that. . . .that. . . .thing out of my house!"

(The boy shirked. I've been around for 26 years so I knew how to handle it).

"Now, mother," I said softly, "don't get so riled. The boy has to skin that cat in a science project."

"Not in MY house," she snorted.

"Oh, mom," he explained. "It's nothing but a dead cat."

It was at this point that I noticed the curl was coming out of her hair).

"Oh .oh .get that thing out of the house!"

"Better do it, boy," I suggested. "We'll handle this later."

As the boy left the room, I suggested to the Queen Bee that she tread a little softly on the subject "After all, mother, when I was his age we trapped and skinned muskrat, coon, skunk, and possom every winter."

"But," she snorted again, "you didn't do it in the kitchen"

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After things calmed down a bit I suggested to the young man that he do his "science project" elsewhere .out of mother's sight.

He agreed. In front of the TV

So what the heck, I thought we didn't win the war, but we got through one battle

Very carefully he spread a plastic bag over the floor in front of the TV (this is in the basement rec room) a number of newspapers and then proudly displayed his "surgical" instruments explaining how each was to be used

The discussion during the surgery concerned the blood vessels, the arteries and the animal body structure. We kept the conversation on sort of a low key so there wouldn't be much of an "upstairs" response.

A couple of TV show later. . . .and the job was done. The clean-up took almost as long.

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The next morning, the young man made his usual appearance at the breakfast table. .sleepy eyed, toting his wrestling gear and the plastic bag.

The Woman-of-the-House didn't say anything and we didn't press the point

He went outside with his gear, started his pickup truck and then came back in the house while the engine warmed.

A few minutes later, he left. .and then came the shock .he offered his sister a ride to school.

The Queen Bee was suspicious

I never gave it a second thought

"Whatever got into that boy this morning?" she asked

"Whattya mean?" I asked.

"He took his sister to school!"

"Yeah," I answered "That was kinda neat Maybe he's decided sisters aren't so dumb after all"

"No," she said, "it was something more than that Say! Where's that cat?"

"Oh," I said with a flair of nonchalant poise, "YOUR son took it to school with him"

"Oh, thank heavens he got that thing out of the house"

"He sure did, mother," I explained. "He put the cat in that see-through plastic bag and put it in the seat between him and his sister"



Dr. Lamb

Gonorrhea can be fully cured

By Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR. LAMB — I need an answer badly to a question that has been bothering me for sometime. I don't know how else to phrase it so here it is bluntly.

About a year ago I was unfortunate enough to contract a severe case of gonorrhea I went to my gynecologist, and with time and medication I was given a clean bill of health.

I am now going with a wonderful man and we have discussed marriage I have never mentioned this incident to him for it is something I prefer to forget. When I go for my blood test, I am petrified that perhaps due to some chemical reaction the test might show some evidence that would indicate that at one time I had V D I have heard that this is possible Is it true? Can our children be affected by this in any way even though I am O.K. now? Also can it ever recur again without any reason?

DEAR READER — I understand how desperate you must feel. The blood test done for marriage examination is not a test for gonorrhea and your previous infection will not be detected by the test. The blood test is only for syphilis.

Tests are being developed for gonorrhea, but they are still in the research stage The diagnosis of gonorrhea is still made by identifying the organism from a smear taken with a swab or by similar techniques That is one reason why it is more difficult to diagnose gonorrhea and develop more effective ways of erradicating it.

You did the right thing, and I want to commend you on going to your doctor right away

Your early treatment may have made it possible for you to be a mother

One of the big dangers of gonorrhea is that it will cause inflammation of the tubes and cause them to become blocked with scar tissue. In effect a gonorrhea infection may do a tubal sterilization of the woman. I hasten to add that the tubes can become blocked from many other causes, and just because a woman has blocked tubes does not mean that she has had gonorrhea

No, since you had the good judgement to see your doctor and get early treatment there is no real danger that the disease will recur If you have gonorrhea again it will be from a new sexual partner, not from one in the past.

Your children will not be affected with the disease now that you have been cured. Children can be affected during birth by a woman with active, untreated gonorrhea

I should take this occasion to remind all young people that gonorrhea is a contagious illness. You can get it from anyone who is infected if you have sexual relations with them

In women there is a fairly high incidence of asymptomatic gonorrhea The change in normal secretions may not be enough to warn her that she is infected. This also happens in men but not nearly as often Birth control pills, IUDs, and the withdrawal technique will not protect a person from venereal disease. The condom will help some if it is used properly This same information also applies to some people not so young Germs don't care how old you are — 9 or 90

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