

BLUE-SUITED BOOBS BUNGLE JUSTICE

By "THE OBSERVER"

After observing with considerable curiosity for some years now the collection of several hundred smug little Mama's sons and Papa's daughters who comprise the students of various faculties of our anything but salty college by the sea, it strikes me there is no group among us that entertain quite so much conceit, snobbery, disdain, and pseudo-maturity, with so little reason, as that urbane, blue-suited, brief-cased, and jutting-jawed group of "men," who delve lustily into the science of profiting from human voice within the confines of our renowned and illustrious law school.

The immediate inspiration for this assessment of the stylized and sterling character of these money-minded robots was given birth at 10:02 last Wednesday morning when this writer observed some 20 of the breed file noisily into the canteen to delicately devour a like number of cups of coffee between bass-voiced legal harangues. Carrying rich brief cases of a quality so lavish they would grace the crown jewels, were they to be used for their transportation, the squad of virile giants expropriated two tables at the south-east end of the room, and began to drag on cigarettes with an air of languid sophistication sufficiently casual to turn a TV private eye green with envy.

Taking care not to dirty the white French cuffs protruding tastefully from the dark sleeves of their impeccable clothing, they nodded their immaculately combed agreement as one of their members made a telling point during their earnest, but correctly subdued, conversation.

Philip Wylie once received world-renown for writing that the urine of American mothers would etch glass; as one listened to these paragons of manly virtue discussing their cases in the middle of a sunny morning, one could only feel theirs would make similar shift of a

strongly alloyed steel. It was difficult to determine the point of the case involved on this particular occasion, but it did seem to concern a pauperized mother of eight children who had been deserted by a worthless husband. Somehow the problem had found its way into the courts, and the 20 steely-eyed, muscle-faced Christians were feverishly defending the position of the fine father.

Having resolved the problem to their satisfaction by returning the distressed women and their brood to their gutter-like hovel without visible means of support, the squad moved nonchalantly and powerfully out of the room, undoubtedly convinced they had been participants in the fine moral and intellectual accomplishment.

Coffee-break thus over, they returned once more to the building from which they had emerged, there to twist, manipulate and misconstrue the letter of the law until what little was left of their battered minds had adopted forever an immunity to Justice and a methodology for calculated financial exploitation of human error, tragedy and weakness.

It was like watching snakes wriggling into a cave.

Dal Model Parliament

WHY I VOTED AS I DID

By PROFESSOR J. H. AITCHISON

Pending my election as Speaker of the Model Parliament on February 15, I deliberately chose to sit on the Conservative, opposition, side of the House. The Prime Minister was surprised at this, but when he asked me whether I should not be sitting on the government side of the House, I replied "No," it was better for me to remain where I was. The Prime Minister was justified in being surprised, for never in the history of the Canadian House of Commons has a Speaker been chosen whose political affiliation has been with the opposition party.

I hope to live to see the day, however, when such a person will be elected—or rather re-elected—as he will be if the Liberals win the next federal election and Mr. Michener is, as he should be, re-elected to the Chair. In the United Kingdom this happens as a matter of course whenever the government changes hands in the interval between parliaments. Indeed, in 1959, the proposal to select a new Speaker from the ranks of the opposition was there apparently actively considered. In the event, other, and less wise, counsels prevailed and the British House of Commons ended by setting the worst precedent in the election of the Speaker since before the Reform Act of 1832.

Impartiality of Speaker Essential

The duty of the Speaker is to be strictly impartial and in giving his casting vote, he should not be concerned either to sustain a government or to defeat it, and he should be quite indifferent as to the merits of the proposal. Whatever the practices of the past, he should give his casting vote in such a way, if he can, that the question remains open to be re-considered later by the House if the House so wishes.

The substantive question before the House on February 15 was whether or not Bill No. 2 should be given second reading. If the motion for second reading had passed, that question would have been disposed of once and for all. Since the motion for second reading was

merely that the bill be NOW read a second time the negating of the motion means merely that the House decided that the bill shall not NOW be read a second time. It remains open to the government to move the second reading again on some later date during the session.

The only way in which the opposition can be sure of permanently shelving a bill for the session is to move and carry the six months' hoist, i.e., to move an amendment that the bill be not now read a second time but read six months' hence. If the opposition had moved such an amendment and the vote had resulted in a tie, I would have cast my vote against the amendment.

Importance of the Second Reading

It might be argued that if the second reading had carried, the bill could still be considered and even defeated on the third reading—and that therefore the Speaker should have cast his vote in favour of the second reading. Perhaps so. But the second reading is normally the stage at which the House decides whether a bill on a particular subject shall ultimately pass through all the stages of the legislative process in the House. The House then decides to approve or disapprove of the general principle of the bill and subsequent stages deal merely with the way that principle shall be embedded in the language of the bill.

Moreover, the third reading was due to come up immediately when

the result would have been the same, and the same problem would have arisen. A government cannot be sustained indefinitely by the casting vote of the Speaker. For a permanently evenly divided House the only remedy is a general election.

No disrespect is shown the Chair by members of the House asking the Speaker for the grounds for his decision. The members are entitled to know.

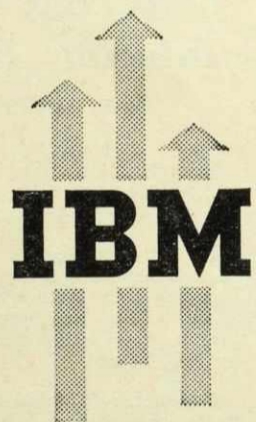
Madness—

(continued from page four)

Must leave quick, before I lose my soul or anything, that really matters. Wishful thinking. The Brazilian cadets conga line and myself were getting quite confused, when a voice from the blue queried, "do you need help?" Aha, one of the producers. Sanity at last. Apparently she must have got wind of the fact that a lost soul was wandering around backstage, and as the producer's policy usually is, decided to retrieve it. Or him.

I looked at her questioningly. "Oh, I always let down my hair here" she thought. "Nothing unusual. Now, are you sure you want to know what really goes on at rehearsals?" I nodded—yes, yes—anything, I was ready for anything now. "Come wiz me, and you will discover . . ."

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