



THE TIMELY DEBATE



GREGORY XIII vs. EDWARDS '29eng

An, Time—which waits for no man—is curious at least about Willard E. Edwards, '29eng, originator, publicist and promoter of the Perpetual Calendar.

Edwards has spent 37 years perfecting this cure-all for the shaky old Gregorian calendar—our time measurer for the past 377 years.

Actually, though Pope Gregory XIII made his leap year change about 1582, today's calendar is basically the same one we've been using for nearly 2,000 years. Since the whole thing was just one large mistake to begin with, Edwards sees no reason to cling sentimentally to an outmoded custom.

Under Edwards' Perpetual Calendar, now being considered by Congress and the United Nations, every year would be like every other year with each month beginning on the same day each year, Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Little, undernourished February would attain full-length status, and Friday the 13th would be a danger of the past. Not very exciting, maybe, but a whole lot more sensible in Edwards' opinion.

Edwards' calendar divides the 12-month year into four equal seasonal quarters of 13 full weeks each. A quarter contains three months of 30, 30 and 31 days beginning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday respectively (described by Edwards as the "significant weekdays").

For holiday lovers, there is to be an extra added attraction in the new calendar. New Year's Day would be an international civil holiday—but not on January 1. N. Y. D. would be a day apart, member of no week,

no month, just there, alone on a stable calendar.

Even as New Year's Day would be a "zero day," the first year of the Christian era would be "zero year" under Edwards' system. Instead of dating the birth of Christ as January 1, A.D. 1, the year would be zero with the year 1 to follow in 12 months.

Optimistic single ladies who pin their hopes on Leap Year have not been neglected under the proposed plan either. Leap Year will make its appearance as scheduled, but the extra day would become just another lonesome holiday, designated as L.Y.D., following Sunday, June 31, and preceding Monday, July 1, third wheel on another three-day weekend.

Still in the holiday spirit, Edwards has arranged for Christmas and other proposed festive occasions to land on Monday—more three-day weekends. He has suggested that Easter Sunday be permanently planted on April 14 to be followed by Easter Monday as a legal holiday.

Even though dates would fall on the same day each year, Edwards' new calendar is not just a handy device to aid anniversary-forgetful husbands. The Perpetual Calendar is designed to save the business world thousands of dollars and man-hours annually. The 1st and 15th of each month, stand-up-and-be-counted days for many enterprises, always fall on weekdays, Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Thus payroll, bill-paying and accounting days would go on as scheduled with no thought to those tricky weekends.

Since all quarters (the three-month seasonal divisions) begin on Monday and end

on Sunday, a ready-made time-and-a-half day is provided for employers who need the extra day for juggling the quarter's accounts before tax figuring time. The added time and money spent in scheduling and comparison work are also eliminated, particularly for insurance and transportation companies, banks, bookkeeping and internal revenue workers, schools and colleges—to say nothing of the boon to calendar manufacturers.

Edwards has whirled around the world three times from his Hawaiian home during the past 37 years to urge the adoption of his brain child in 65 countries and 175 foreign cities. The legislatures of Hawaii (1943) and Massachusetts (1952) have given the plan their approval stamps. Congress labeled it House Resolution 4242, and Edwards has spread the word among delegates to the United Nations.

Edwards, a *Who's Who in America* listing, has succeeded in having his proposal endorsed by college presidents, military and naval men, astronomers, historians, chronologists, bankers, insurance companies and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce.

If and when the Perpetual Calendar does make the grade, it will reduce to obscurity Richard Grafton's 400-year-old "Thirty days hath September" etc., etc. But Edwards has penned a verse replacement for that relic of our schooldays:

*With a day apart, the year's begun,
Followed by thirty, thirty, thirty-one.
Months always start a certain way,
On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
Each quarter and each year the same,
Is The Perpetual Calendar's aim.*