

Drug Commission Told:

Ease drug restrictions

What is the responsibility of government and what is the appropriate role of law phenomenon like this? What is the meaning of the non-medical use of drugs and what is its relation to other things happening in society?

These are the type of questions the Commission on the non-Medical use of Drugs was asking when it came to Halifax January 29 and 30.

The vast majority of people who spoke at the hearings were in favour of liberalization of current drug laws, especially in relation to marijuana.

Prominent members of the Maritime community spoke in favour of legalization. Leonard Kitz, former mayor of Halifax and former head of

A phased-in legalization was favoured by Dr. Silverman. Initially the present surveillance and infiltration techniques would be cut out and further research of drugs would be carried out.

The second stage would involve the removal of marijuana from the Narcotics Act to coverage under the Food and Drug Act.

Further research would then be carried out and if favourable, legalization would follow.

Dr. Silverman also criticized the role of the police: "... as regards marijuana laws, the police seem increasingly to be appearing as advocates of their retention, entering into the debate, both as to alleged facts and with respect to the philo-

sophical, value-oriented dispute as to the implications of these facts." He went on to say that it would be a mistake to classify drugs users as deviants, for to do so would lead to creation of a criminal sub-culture.

While the Commission spent most of its time in the Lord Nelson Ball room, it held short meetings at both Queen Elizabeth High School and the Weldon Law Building.

At the Law school hearing, Dennis Patterson, a 1st year Law student, presented a brief in which he attacked the inconsistencies and the deterrent aspects of the current court sentencing policies: "Rehabilitation becomes secondary to deterrence," he stated. To back up his claims he produced a

Dan Lapres, another first year Law student, adopted a philosophical approach to the problem which determined that non-addictive drugs should be made available to the adult citizen.

One unidentified woman, whose son had been convicted of possession of marijuana, expressed the frustration of many parents.

"We want to help very badly, but we don't have the knowledge."

An open attitude toward the hearing was maintained, despite the fears of the presence of narcotics agents. Chairman Le Dain stated that he had been given assurances from the "highest levels" that information

given would not be used against any individual, and that although he could not give any guarantee, the Commission would take a dim view of any interference by narcotics agents.

A great many issues have been raised by this inquiry. As Chairman Le-Dain states, "This is not solely a technical question for experts; it is a broad social issue, going to the very nature of human existence in our time."

An interim report is being prepared for release in about two weeks. It should give a good indication as to the Government's future attitude toward this pressing social problem.

China conference impressive

by Gerald VanGurp

"Can a country change the 'nature of man?'" This was how Dalhousie delegate, Martin Jankowski, described the theme of this year's Conference on International Affairs, held January 20 to 23 at the University of Manitoba.

The topic of discussion was "Mao's China". 65 students from universities across Canada attended the gathering.

Five guest speakers, including China specialists Prof. Edmund Clubb and Prof. Paul T. K. Lin provided resource material.

Prof. Clubb spent 18 years in the U. S. foreign service in China and was the last American diplomat to leave the U. S. consul, Peking in 1950. He is the author of over 75 articles on Asian topics and various other publications, including *Twentieth Century China* (N. Y. 1964).

Prof. Lin, a native Canadian, has lived in China for 15 years, where he was actively engaged in writing, translating and doing research in Chinese history and international relations. He also served on the staff of Hua Chiao University and is presently in the history department at McGill.

Dal's delegation consisted of Trevor Parsons, 1st year Arts, Martin Jankowski, grad student in Political Science, and John Hault, 2nd year Arts. Travel and accommodation were financed mainly by the University of Manitoba. The delegates also got money from the Students'.

The tone of the conference was described as "very liberal with virtually no radicals in attendance." The prevailing attitude at its closing

was one of "greater respect towards the Chinese Experiment."

In a Gazette interview, the delegates expressed their views on how the 3-day conference benefitted them.

Jankowski: I'm writing my thesis on China and thus the conference was of obvious interest to me. Mao's thought and ideology were brought out particularly well in Prof. Lin's lectures. The history of the Chinese Revolution was a topic of equal concern. I now understand more clearly what the Chinese man feels and thinks as a result of hearing Lin's speeches. Melby and Clubb typified U. S. attitude in various degrees towards China. Being concerned as I am with underdeveloped countries, I saw the same factors at work in China as in every underdeveloped nation.

Parsons: I was amazed at the extent to which Mao's ideology has reached the peasants. The degree of participation by the peasant in the country's decision-making is also phenomenal by any standards including other Communist nations.

Hault: As far as the effect of the total conference goes, it provided me with an initial awareness of China with respect to foreign policy to the U. S., the Sino-Soviet split and the pressure on China by Western society. I also achieved a limited insight into what these policies may lead to.

In conjunction with the conference, Dal's Political Science Dept. will hold a colloquium on China, February 9. Professors Roger Dial of Dalhousie and Gavin Boyd of SMU, both Sinologists, will be participating in a panel discussion with the three delegates.



the Nova Scotia Bar Association; Dr. Silverman of UPEI; Dr. Mark Segal; and Ron Siegel who have both done research on hallucinogens recommended that marijuana be removed from the Narcotic Drug Act. Ron Siegel also expressed the view that legalization should apply to LSD as well. He stated that, "Everyone is entitled to a psychedelic experience."

sophical, value-oriented dispute as to the implications of these facts."

"The best vehicle for marijuana control is clearly the Food and Drug Act," stated Leonard Kitz. "A case can be made that its use is a lesser evil than alcohol."

However, Dr. Whitehead of the Dalhousie Sociology Department expressed the view that, "30% of those who

brief survey of drug use among Law students which showed that 33% of first year students and 44% of second year law students had experimented with drugs. The fact that 25% of second students were currently using drugs at least once a month, laying their law careers on the line, all too clearly illustrated the failure of the deterrent aspects of current policy.

Kimber, Campbell oppose increase

The Kimber-Campbell team in the upcoming Presidential elections have come out against a proposed increase in parking rates for members of the university community.

The new rates which will be discussed at a Senat meeting Feb. 9 would be \$30.00 per permit per year. Present rates are \$10.00.

Miss Campbell charged that students were already paying enough for parking spaces and expressed fears that an increase would create serious dif-

iculties for students who have to drive a car to classes. "It's already difficult enough at present to find a spot if you have a permit," said Miss Campbell. This year fifteen hundred parking permits have been sold for only eleven hundred spaces.

The reasoning behind the proposed increase, according to E. B. Mercer, Chairman of the Parking Committee, is that it would provide money for expansion of parking facilities. According to the report prepared for

Senate however, only 100 additional parking spaces would be made available with this money.

"One possible way of alleviating the current shortage," suggested Steve Kimber, "is to have all parking facilities currently available open on a first come first serve basis. At present there are designated areas for faculty, for students and for visitors. If we could have these spaces thrown open to everyone, since everyone pays the same amount anyway, then you wouldn't have the problem of empty faculty spaces while students' parking areas are overcrowded."

Miss Campbell disputed a claim made in the Parking Committee report that there is "not a crisis" in parking at Dalhousie. "We feel," said Miss Campbell, "that there is a crisis and we would suggest that before any action is taken to increase parking rates that the entire university community and particularly the students be consulted."

The Kimber-Campbell team urged all students concerned over the proposed increase in parking rates to express their concern at the Senate meeting Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Special Student Flights

London Return: \$150.

Contact Student Union

Room 222 SUB. 424-2146



Le Chateau
men's wear ltd.

10% Student
Discounts

2179 GOTTINGEN
STREET.

HALIFAX, N. S.

PHONE 429-5831