

Issues raised at Conference demand response

By VICTOR FIC

The Calumet College Peace Conference of November 14, 15 was an unqualified success, with a wide variety of speakers offering different views on nuclear superpower politics, Canada's foreign policy options in the future, and the role of peace activist groups. However, some of the opinions expressed deserve a response.

Pauline Jewett, NDP foreign affairs critic, made some highly controversial statements. She asserted that "the US is the driving force in the arms race in recent years" and that, "it is possible to think about non-alignment for Canada; its time is due." While Ronald Reagan's military build-up is certainly excessive, the USSR is just as blameworthy for escalating the arms race. It has established its own Strategic Defense

Initiative (SDI) program (started in 1969); it deployed SS-20s in Eastern Europe; and it is violating the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the 1979 Salt II Treaty.

Jewett's call for Canada to pull out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) so it can play the role of neutral mediator between East and West is also objectionable. Canada's withdrawal from NATO would be seen by most people in Western Europe (who are quite anti-nuclear, but not anti-NATO) and in the US as a shameful abandonment of our responsibility to help protect the West.

After antagonizing our Western allies, Canada could not possibly mediate effectively, since a clear prerequisite for effective mediation is faith and confidence in the mediator by all parties concerned.

Canada should speak out about the arms race, *but* within NATO, which will give us credibility with those whom we wish to prod towards peace.

Brigadier-General Taggart's comments about "self-appointed spokesmen" among "the clergy, and peace groups who terrorize our youth" with claims of imminent nuclear war and misinformation were partially welcome. Taggart seems unwilling to see how intelligent it is to socialize the younger generation to work for peace. Yet, he is justified in claiming that certain peace groups are alarmist and incompetent when speaking about nuclear issues.

Five years ago, one recalls how some groups proclaimed the fiction that nuclear war is inevitable because old men like Reagan and

Brezhnev, who are ready to die anyway and don't care about the future, "rule" their respective nations. Fortunately, this claim was so widely rejected it is no longer made.

George Ignatieff, president of the Science for Peace organization, was pragmatic and balanced in his assertion that, while Canada should stay within NATO, it must ensure that it is not dominated by the US in defence arrangements. Ignatieff found it deplorable that the Brian

Mulroney government renewed Canadian involvement in North American Air Defence without demanding a greater voice for Canada in the process for declaring alerts.

The Calumet conference was important for helping Canadians to define their foreign and defence policy. Hopefully, the success of this year's conference will encourage even greater participation from the York community next year.

Abortion is 'ultimate castration'

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According to Beverly Hadland, however, the question is not whether abortion is a private choice or a public choice, but rather, who is making the choice. "It is not women," she

said. "It is a man's decision."

"Abortion is the ultimate castration of a woman," said Hadland, adding, "Women have lost their rights, that's why they think that they have to choose abortions."

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