

Mister Pearson



By Dave Parsons

"That's nonsense—the issue of the next election will be the record of the present government!"

This was the answer Mr. Lester Pearson gave when I asked if he agreed with Prime Minister Diefenbaker's claim that the issue of the next election will be free enterprise versus socialism. He went on in fine political fashion to prove the Conservatives don't stand for free enterprise in the nineteenth century sense, nor does the New Democratic Party stand for socialism (rather a planned economy).

I asked him where the Liberal Party stands and this he did not answer. His party faces the same dilemmas which faced and destroyed the Liberal Party in Britain; the dilemma of a party to the right and a party to the left. Though Mr. Pearson did not state Monday evening where his party stands on the political spectrum, he will have to decide soon; and on this, to a great extent hinges the fate of the Liberal Party in Canada.



I asked what he thought of the UN decision to consider the entrance of Red China. He said he is "glad the subject has come up for discussion." But as for Red China becoming a UN member, he would want to be sure the independence of Nationalist China would be preserved. The forfeiting of Nationalist China's Security Council seat to the Reds and the relegating of Nationalist China to an ordinary General Assembly member is acceptable to him. But he said he is glad he doesn't have to deal with this problem.

"What do you think of 23-year-old Jim Coutts becoming president of the National Young Liberal Association," I asked.

"He is the youngest man to hold this position," replied Mr. Pearson, and then added, "It's nice to have a young man, and yet the best!" Mr. Coutts graduated in Law from Alberta last May.

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Liberal dilemma



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