

# Canada "collusive" against Africa

by Mary MacDonald

Canada's role in southern Africa has been one of collusion and hypocrisy, according to a prominent professor of political science at York University in Toronto.

"On the one hand, the Canadian record shows a great deal of rhetoric," John Saul said in an address in SUB Theatre Friday afternoon, "but when juxtaposed with the concrete record, there is a 180 degree swing in the opposite direction."

Saul was invited as a representative of the Canadian people to the Mozambique Independence celebrations and is considered to be an authority of Canadian-African political relations. He told his audience on Friday that the incongruities between Canadian action and rhetoric lie in the fields of economics and diplomacy.

"In the United Nations," Saul said, "whenever a tough resolution dealing with African problems has come up, Canada has invariably abstained. Furthermore, our economic and military links with Portugal (NATO, etc.) have resulted in certain Canadian corporations, such as Gulf oil, being linked with rip offs in Angola and other African states."

Saul said that the entire situation in southern African is open in a way that it has never been before. "It's more a political situation like Vietnam, heading towards a real confrontation," he said.

Saul said he felt the situation could develop into a particularly bad situation if economic interests maintained their interference in the destinies of southern African states.

"And, of course," he added, "Canada has a finger in the pie, as well. We imported a great deal of oil from the Gulf oil operations in Angola and this economic interest, which is often the United States' interest funnelled through Canada, will see more of this kind of thing."

As an example of current Canadian economic interests at work in southern Africa, Saul pointed out that Falconbridge Mines, a Canadian corporation, is operating in Rhodesia against the United Nations sanction and is also operating illegally in another African country.

Saul also commented on the Canadian media's "distorted" view of the war in Angola. "The picture presented by the media in Canada, and supported by the Canadian government," Saul said, "is inaccurate. They have stated its meaning as a great power

conflict - at worst a red menace. But I think if you start at the internal dynamics, there is a clear distinction between the MPLA and the other two movements."

The media, he said, show the struggle as a recent one while the struggle actually began 15 years ago with the organization of the MPLA. "The MPLA was the liberation arm and had developed a political base and social program which established it as the front runner. It was that fact," said Saul, "that got South Africa involved."

The other movements in Angola, he said, are external. "Under pressure the MPLA turned to Cuba and the Soviet Union for help. 'The Soviet Union has socialist imperialist aims but the MPLA cannot be forced to hold a form of them,'" he added.

In the future, predicted

Saul, Angola will become "somewhat like Mozambique, a land where they have inherited an economy warped and distorted over time. In Mozambique a great deal of action was related to South Africa. Mozambique is modifying relations in the short run and will break them in the long run. Angola has made it clear that they want to move toward a socialist economy."

As far as Canadian-Southern African relations are concerned Saul said, "Canada's role will become less ambiguous as the situation escalates. There should be changes of a profound nature in Canada, if not through the government, then it should be of our own activity. We should generally educate each other and others of what is happening. It's easier then," said Saul, "for the Canadian government to do less of the worst."



Jed Baldwin "neutered" by the system. Photo Kevin Gillese

## Information gap causes stopped democracy

by Kevin Gillese

Private members in the House of Commons are "neutered" by a system which allows for no effective challenge of the House. Jed Baldwin (PC-Peace River) said in a university press conference Monday.

"It is time we recognized the failure of the so-called participatory democracy," Baldwin stated during a news briefing at the university's Law Centre. "We have very little participation in the system and very little democracy."

Baldwin became chairman of a non-political citizens committee on Freedom of Information on March 3 in Ottawa and for the past six years has been an ardent promoter of a Freedom of Information Act, currently before parliament. He told his audience the move to increase public accessibility to government information was a recognition that "we've lost control, we smell the odor of decay in our system ... and we have recognized that our country is being run by the top bureaucrats."

Baldwin said that the freedom of information is an essential right of every people that wishes to have input into the making of their laws and rules. "We are unable to learn the truth, at present," he said, "and this has been clearly shown by the events of the past two weeks."

Baldwin was referring to the judge's affair, in which allegations of interference with the judicial system have been levelled against four federal cabinet ministers. "There has been a conflict of 'fact' in this situation," Baldwin alleged, "and at present we have no recourse - there is nothing that compels a minister to answer any charges. He may answer with some of the facts, relate none at all, or stonewall - as has

been the case in the last two weeks. A Freedom of Information Act would change that and force the minister to answer to an independent tribunal."

Baldwin added that he hoped a Freedom of Information Act in Canada would follow a similar act in the U.S., which was instituted in 1965. "It is human nature to grasp the levers of power, if they are there," Baldwin said. "But it is essential that decisions regarding the secrecy of certain projects not be left to the government alone. A decision has to be made by an independent tribunal, completely separate from the government."

Baldwin said it was the present system that must be changed. "Of course, not all information would be made public. For instance, details of a new Lockheed fighter would have to be kept secret - but it would be quite improper to hold back the details of the purchase. Those should - and must - be made public in order to prevent corruption in high places."

Baldwin also said government files on individuals should be available to the persons involved and "if there is anything improper or false in the file, it must be changed."

The Citizens Committee that Baldwin chairs will be holding major symposiums on the subject of public access to government information.

### CAMERON LIBRARY RESERVE ROOM CHANGES IN LOAN PERIODS

To make reserve readings available to the greatest number of students during the examinations period, effective March 29, 1976, all Cameron reserve material will be restricted during the day time to 2 hour loans.

#### OVERNIGHT AND WEEKEND CIRCULATION:

Overnight	Out	DUE
Monday-Thurs	after 8:30 pm	8:30 next am
Friday	after 4:00 pm	1 pm Sat.
Saturday	after 3:00 pm	8:30 am Mon.

Reserves may be made as usual, i.e. after 10:30 a.m. weekdays and after 1 p.m. Saturdays.

## Rocks get decent Christian burial

NORTH GLEN (ENS-CUP) - A North Glen, Colorado man has received permission from the town's zoning office to establish a cemetery for pet rocks.

Everett Walters will be allowed to operate the cemetery providing that no embalming is involved. Walters says that for \$2.50, he will bury any pet rock in a simple ceremony. A more

glamorous burial - complete with flowers, recorded music, and even a wooden marker inscribed with the rock's name - will cost \$7.

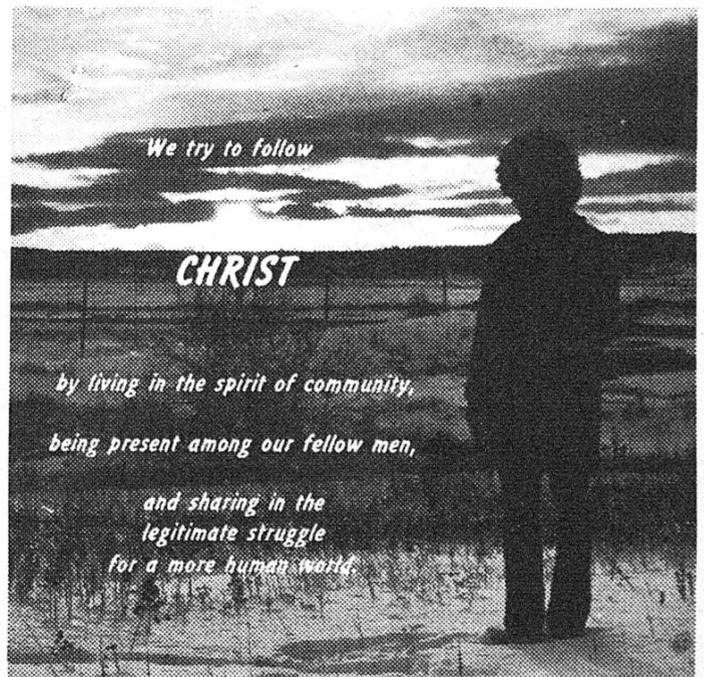
There is only one restriction. Pet rocks no larger than six inches square will be accepted, because cemetery plots are only ten inches square.

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