

Encounter Canada.....

Identity & Nationalism

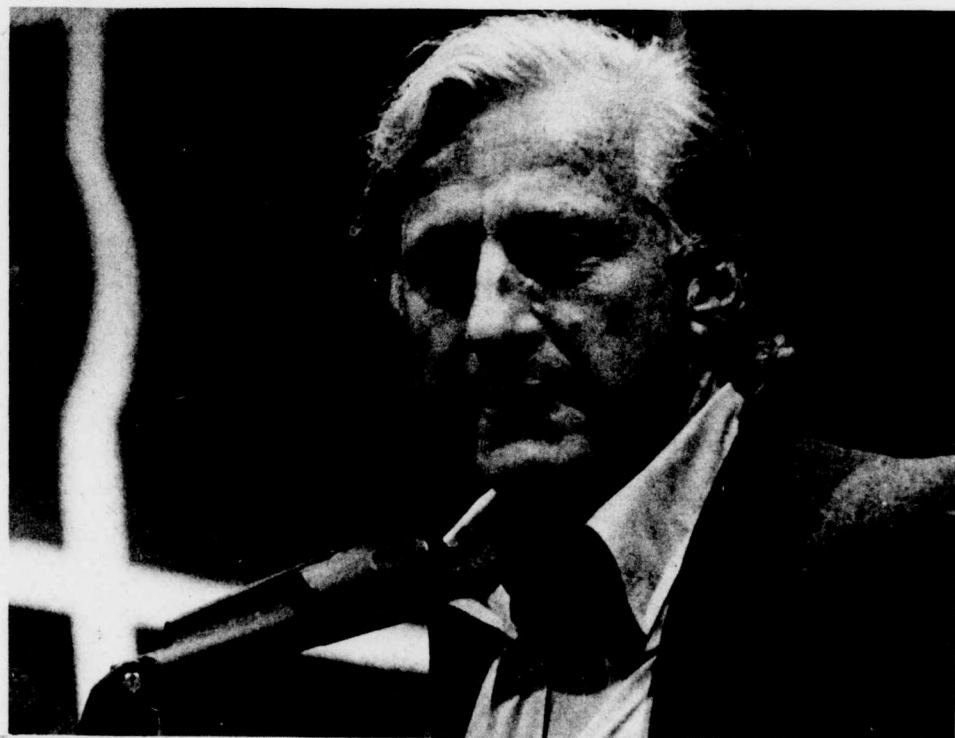
"What we in Canada have always feared is to be our own judges. If this particular fear is conquered, we will not, of course, be secure, because no one can be secure in the twentieth century, but will at least give ourselves a chance of being more fruitful than we have been before."

Hugh MacLennen

By Paul Thomson

&

Winston Chao



Jack MacClelland



People participation.

Hugh MacLennen's speech echoed the crowning sentiment spiriting the organizers of Encounter Canada, being held last Saturday in an effort "to discover if Canada really does 'exist'" by "looking for a number of themes running through her history and her culture, and to create a number of environments around these themes." Including Pop Culture, Visual Arts, Prints, films and TV and French Canada. On top of these the main event of the day was a series of informal short talks and discussions by a panel of invited guests.

A common sentiment expressed throughout the discussion was that Canada, in her search for identity has to rid herself of foreign, especially American, domination; be it economic or cultural; and to start building herself a distinct image.

Cultural Pluralism is the concept Canada has herself believing in as opposed to the American "meltint pot." Yet, how true the conception really is, this is an interesting question. Ask a Canadian what is a Canadian, and ask him what he sees are Canadian values; then, turn to him and ask him to compare the Canadian values to the American values. His answer will turn out so confusing as to puzzle even himself. Basically, the Canadian and the American values are the same, only subject to minor alterations, and the best term we have for it should be the North American values. To call Canada a more tolerant country is debatable. Certainly, as far as the history of minority groups goes, the claim is not justified.