



Bulletin

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STUDENT POWER - A STUDY IN DISSENT

The following excerpts are from an address by Mr. John N. Turner, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, to the Canadian Club of Montreal last month:

...The student movement has now become international. Berkeley '64 is no longer a phenomenon. Troops use tear gas at Duke, police wave riot sticks at Columbia, and the National Guard fixes bayonets at Wisconsin. Student revolts in Europe threaten their governments. The National Convention of the New Left held at Michigan State University last June embraced Trotskyism and anarchism, Naoism and *Tiers Monde*, with the echoes of Kropotkin and Proudham, Jacobin and the *enragé* of the free-speech movement. Indeed, Marx himself might have felt alienated amidst the rhetoric of the new Babylon. Student militants proclaim guerilla warfare in the educational arena. The campus becomes fortified. We witness the birth of the garrison university.

Canadians who smiled complacently when Mao's Red Guards took to the streets, or watched condescendingly the developments at Berkeley, have now seen our own students take to the barricades. Educators in Canada who had deplored the silence of youth in politics now confront the violence of the politics of youth. From McGill University in Montreal to Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, the clarion call for "confrontation" goes forth. Our own universities are up against the wall. Students, in the words of Mario Savio, are implored to lay themselves upon the bureaucratic machine and bring it to a grinding halt. Some of our universities are closed because of occupation or opened only by the police, and Sir George Williams has become the scene of the greatest student disorder in Canadian history....

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CAUSES OF CONFRONTATION

Why was it Sir George Williams University? Or, more importantly, one may ask, why any university at all? What are the root causes of the politics of confrontation? At first blush the issues may appear local, the confrontations spontaneous. A theatre production is denied, a professor is fired, a student editor is suspended. The convulsions are set in motion. But the roots run deep and beyond the university. The seeds have been sown but on other terrain. The university is held responsible but for forces over which it has little or no control.

Three heroes of youth were assassinated. President Kennedy had proclaimed "that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans", but some of that flame died with him. Martin Luther King had a bold vision for black and white together, but some of that dream died with him. Robert Kennedy held forth promise of a newer world, but some of that promise died with him. The full impact of these assassinations on the youth of the world is yet to be appreciated. The shock waves are still reverberating internationally.

Those most cruelly disinherited or orphaned were the young. The politics of hope became the politics of despair. The promise of values became the crisis *in* values.

Nations stockpiled weapons in the name of peace. Governments destroyed cities in order to save them. Economies accumulated wealth and distributed poverty. Technology controlled man rather than