

Panel Majority Sees Defense Spending An Aid To Economy

Defense spending—is it a waste? Was the topical issue considered on the second P.C. Panel discussion of the year. The West Common Room last Thursday was filled with about 30 students who missed their noon hour session in Atwoods to listen, and afterwards participate, in the discussion.

Professor R. G. Murray of the Law School discreetly guided the discussion. The panel consisting of Mr. Carter, General Manager of Cossor, Mr. Bob McCleave, Bill Sommerville, and the Reverend Hanns Skoutajan, the chaplain of our university.

Bill Sommerville opened the discussion in saying that 1.7 billion dollars are spent on defense each year; 4% goes for civil defense, 6% for aid to underprivileged countries. Far from agreeing with the other members of the panel that Canada should continue her defense policy, he called for Canada to take the initiative in disarmament. He insisted furthermore that it would be an additional move for the cause for peace, if we were to give some of our defense money as aid to the hungry nations of Asia.

Economics then became the enlightening topic of discussion, Bill insisting that Canada could channel her defense expenditure into more peaceful uses—such as helping the scientific advancement of the Asian nations. Mr. McCleave stated that "Defense spending is practically an economic necessity; there would be much unemployment, and great hardship created if it were abolished."

Mr. Carter then entered the fray by asking who would defend Canada in wartime—"Big Brother to the south? If we had to rely on the USA we would fall completely under its economic domination." The purpose of defense is to safeguard the freedom and the way of life of any country. For instance, Switzerland's defense spending maintained its neutrality in World War Two."

Reverend Skoutajan added that there have been 23 small wars since

that time, so there is a definite need for conventional weapons. In case of a major war, the participants would not solely be the US versus the USSR, for the United States would rely on NATO and the European nations.

Despite Bill Sommerville's strong protests, the panel over-ruled him to agree that defense spending is not a waste and is a great aid to our economy; most important it is "a concrete symbol of Canada's independence as a nation."

Schiller Evening Presented

"Among the writers of the concluding part of the last century, there is no one more deserving of our notice than Friedrich Schiller. The world, no less than Germany, seems already to have dignified him with the reputation of a classic; to have enrolled him among the select number whose works belong not wholly to any age or nation, but who, having instructed their own contemporaries, are claimed as instructors by the great family of mankind."

Thomas Carlyle thus wrote in 1825, 200 years after Friedrich Schiller was born, on the 10th of November 1759, all of Germany and the literary minds of the whole world pay homage to his genius.

Last Wednesday, the "Dalhousie German Society" continued in its program with a Schiller-Evening.

Youth League Lodges Protest With NFCUS

OTTAWA (CUP)—Continuing its protest campaign against the petition requesting consideration for 150 Hungarian students, the Socialist Youth League of Canada has lodged a formal complaint with the NFCUS secretariat here.

The SYL has asked the executive secretary of the federation to "repudiate the charges which you have laid."

Andre L'Heureux said today, "The federation has yet to lay any charges."

In a letter to Mr. L'Heureux the league charged that NFCUS, "has been persisting in a petition campaign to free some Hungarian students who are alleged to be illegally held in jail . . ."

The SYL letter—circulated to all CUP papers—called upon NFCUS to, "state the source of its information that has lead you to undertake such a vigorous protest campaign."

And it continued, "We are certain that these so-called 'sources' if they do exist, are suspect from the start."

Mr. L'Heureux said that a letter would be sent to the league headquarters in Toronto to inform it of the actual policy of NFCUS in this matter.

"The secretariat collates information which is circulated among its members. The national executive may recommend a particular form of action or formulate an official policy, but the officers on each campus are free to undertake any action which they believe to be in the interest of the student body which they represent."

"The league is apparently not aware that the national executive has not accepted the charges concerning the alleged executions, and it is unlikely to do so until further information is available."

The letter also stated that the petition goes on, "in spite of a statement of the Canadian govern-

Excerpts of Schiller's poetry were read and an excellent film about his life's work shown. Mrs. I. Pechstein, acting head of the German Department, gave a lucid, if by necessity brief, account of the poet's life. Having started with music by Beethoven, the well attended gathering was concluded with the chorus "An die Freude" from the Ninth Symphony, in which Beethoven used Schiller's lyrics.

The students' attention is drawn to a display regarding Schiller in the lobby of the Library.

The long contemplated costume-masquerade Ball of the Society is becoming a reality. Tickets for the event of the year, to be held at the Flamingo, are now on sale.

"A Biologist and A Good One"

SCM LECTURE SERIES CLOSES ON DARWIN

By KEITH FLEMMING

"Darwin was neither a political thinker nor a sociologist; he was a biologist and a good one." With great appreciation of Darwin's life and work as a scientist, and with great restraint towards the controversies evoked by the theory of evolution (in which Darwin himself took no part), Professor Pelluet last week brought the SMC's first series of lectures on influential thinkers to a close.

Taking Darwin's intellectual development as the thread of her lecture, Professor Pelluet traced his life from its beginnings in the pleasant, peaceful home of his father to the publication of his controversial writings.

Born in 1809 the younger son of a doctor, Darwin was sent to Edinburgh to study medicine, but surgery on unanaesthetized patients made him ill, so he was sent to Cambridge to try for the Church; a country living would give him time to pursue his hobby of collecting things on natural history.

At Cambridge he seemed stupid and slow, but to a few friends he seemed a potential natural historian, especially to the botanist Henslowe, who arranged for Darwin to go on the "Beagle" expedition. Though at the time he had had no scientific training except what he had acquired through his hobby, he accepted the position, but was allowed to go only when his cousins the Wedgewoods persuaded his father that the expedition was respectable and natural history quite harmless to intending clergymen.

ment that it has no information that any such arrests have taken place and knows of no impending 'executions'."

An inquiry to the government today brought a reply that Sir Leslie Munro, "has submitted a report which in addition to presenting information, emphasizes the non-cooperation of the Hungarian authorities, who have refused to allow him to visit the country."

"The Canadian government is supporting his call for an early debate and is proceeding in the hope that a public airing and examination of the current charges may help to establish the facts, and to prevent injustice."

For the next five years, from the age of 22 to 27, at his own (i.e., his father's) expense, Darwin lived abroad the *Beagle* and collected specimens and made observations. That species of birds differed from island to island disturbed him; he himself accounted for this with his theory of natural selection. Others, especially Huxley, drew out those implications of the theory which so rocked the later 19th century with controversy: if species change, must not the theory of special creation be wrong, and therefore must not man be related to the natural system of the world? It was the fact that "Darwinism" seemed to question the dignified position of man in the universe that the Church objected to.

Darwin saw the inadequacy of his own education, especially in its inattention to the sciences. Few people of his time, indeed, were able to cope scientifically and philosophically with his ideas when "The Origin of the Species" was published in 1859. Nevertheless, the first edition sold out in a week. Professor Pelluet accounted for this fact by saying that Darwin's ideas had been to some extent prepared for by the recent assimilation of Malthus' theory into the thought of the time. "Certainly," she said, "the combination of Malthus' theory, the industrial revolution, and the substitution of the theory of natural selection for the theory of special creation had an impact on the thought of the time which is unrivaled by any other change in any other century."

Darwin believed in the dignity of man. He would have been appalled at the misinterpretations of his theory with which the fascist and Nazis attempted to support their ideas of super races. He made it clear that one must be able to trust his own judgment. He was the first great Englishman to show that a man should be free to express his ideas without provoking anger malice, provided he had evidence for them.

Maritime C.U.P. No Problems

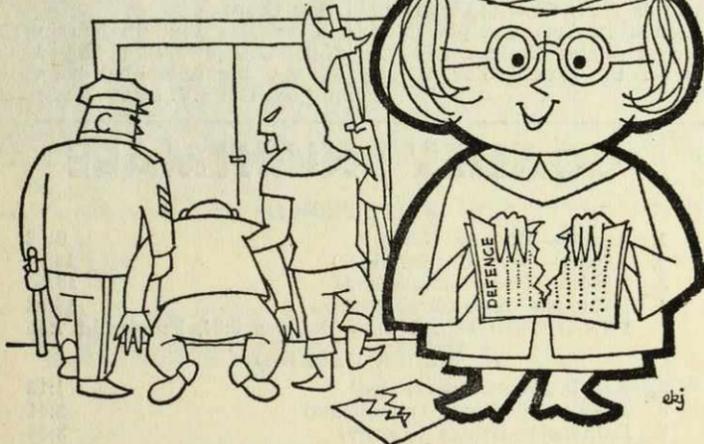
The so-called "united front" of Maritime college journalism — the five - member Atlantic Regional CUP—met in annual conference Friday at Mount Allison University. Attending were the UNB Brunswickan, Mt. A. Argosy, Dal Gazette, and St. F.X. Xaverian. The 3-girl and 3-boy team from Acadia somehow developed "engine trouble" and didn't reach the conference.

With the breezy informality attributed to newspaper men in general, the members discussed the considerable concurrence of questioning of certain national student organizations across the country; discussed management problems and administrative interference in their newspaper, as well as entry into politics, the improvement of CUP press services, and the establishment of a national ham radio university news service. There were, strangely, no pressing problems.

The two-day meet ended Saturday afternoon amid preparations for December's National conference at Laval.

Sue Yurselph

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