

McGovern Speaks Out

by Mike Donovan

The current Presidential election in the United States is an important matter for Canadians since it is obvious that the American Government has more control over the welfare of the Canadian people than the Canadian Government has

An indication of the direction of American politics can be discovered by a study of the philosophical and moral questions which form the foundations of McGovern's stance on the war and welfare.

Briefly, McGovern's stand on these issues is that there should be less of one and more of the other. He has quoted President Eisenhower as saying in 1953:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

McGovern argues for a drastic cut in defense spending, a 90-day, complete withdrawl from South-east Asia, a 56% decrease in NATO support, and an end to the military armament of Dictatorships (such as the one in Greece). McGovern believes that the United States can no longer afford the myth that it is her destiny and duty to save the world from Communism. Also, in answer to the dubious catchphrase "an honorable peace,"

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McGovern points to the fact that France quickly regained her international prestige after total and immediate withdrawal from Vietnam in 1954.

The basic premise of McGovernomics dates back to the time of Robin Hood — that is, 'take from the rich, and give to the poor.' McGovern plans to achieve this humanitarian ideal through a guaranteed annual income, as well as a type of family allowance plan.

Many observers, while applauding McGovern's idealism, claim it would be impossible to finance all of McGovern's welfare programs without heavily taxing the middle class. However, a careful study of the 1971 Statistical Abstracts for the United States will show that a small decrease in the income shared by the rich can result in

McGovernomics

a substantial increase in the income of the poor without affecting the income received by the middle class.

INCOME LEVELS
Percentage

of National Income Shared

 Lowest fifth
 5.6%

 2nd fifth
 12.3%

 3rd fifth
 17.6%

 4th fifth
 23.4%

 highest fifth
 41.0%

In 1971 the lowest fifth of income earners received 5.6% of the National Income (Table 1), while the highest fifth (approximately those who earn more than \$16,000) received 41% of the National Income.

Leaving the middle threefifths untouched, it is possible to increase the amount of income the lowest fifth earns by 40% (Table 2) while decreasing the amount the highest fifth earns by only 5%.

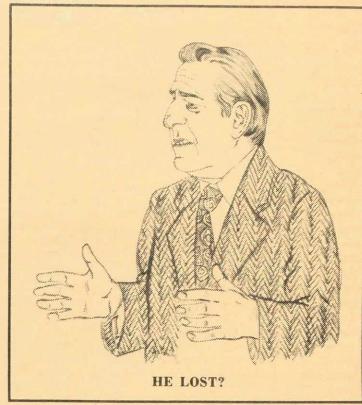
> INCOME LEVELS Percentage

of National Income Shared

This proves clearly that it is

possible to ease the difference between rich and poor (as proposed by McGovern) without hurting the middleclass

majority. It also is an indication that the basic theoretical ideas of McGovern's economic platform are sound.



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Teach-In On Indochina

The Indochinaction Committee met on October 22 and projected plans for a teach-in on the Indochina war on November 18 at Dalhousie. The history of the war its cases and especially recent developments of the war will be the main topics.

The IAC is composed of

students and community members who concerned about the war. The committee meets weekly, Sundays at 3:30 p.m. A lot of organizational work still needs to be done for the teachin. All interested persons are urged to help by attending our meetings.

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