

"Canada and Quebec can't Last 5 Years"

Laurier Lapierre Speaks out on Separatism

The Parti Quebecois have provided the only alternative to those Quebecers who are beginning to question the confederate system, states McGill associate professor of History Dr. Laurier Lapierre.

In an address to students in McConnell Hall at the University of New Brunswick last Wednesday, he stated, "Young people had great faith in the Parti Quebecois, but, it failed in the last provincial election; so they are now in search of their own means of liberation."

The controversial professor predicted that Canada could not last five more years, and frankly he wasn't disappointed.

He felt the people of Quebec would be liberated as would the English people of the rest of Canada. In this way Canada would be better off, to solve other more pressing problems.

"If we cannot live together, then it is better that we part," he stated.

Dr. Lapierre emphasized the fact that the fight is not against "Les Anglais" but against American Imperialism.



Dr. Laurier Lapierre

In his emotion packed address to three hundred students, he placed the blame for the frustration of Quebecois, on the facts that one out of twelve men in Quebec is out of work. One out of three people live below the poverty line, and ten per cent of Montrealers are on welfare.

He shocked the audience time and again with his comments on the FLQ, and the last Provincial election.

Rumors that capital would leave Quebec, if she ever separated, were labeled "Massive Blackmail" by Dr. Lapierre.

"It is absurd nonsense that foreign capital would leave. Do you think that Montreal, a great cosmopolitan city, will disappear, that the consumer demands of six million people will totally vanish?"

He referred to the events of the last provincial election.

The affair of the Royal Trust and the Brinks trucks, was a "capitalist inspired plot to manipulate the vote of the province." Dr. Lapierre stated that he was sure that each of the trucks was totally empty.

The people of Quebec are questioning the entire democratic process of this country. "How can a political party receive twenty-four per cent of the popular vote and yet gain only seven seats in the one hundred and eight seat legislature? Yet the liberals gain sixty-five per cent of the seats and receive less than fifty per cent of the popular vote," he queried.

Dr. Lapierre shocked the audience by his cold reference to the late Quebec Minister of Labor, Premier Laporte. "It's not important that Laporte died. People die every day. On the same day twelve men died in an industrial accident, yet no one has helped their families."

He referred to the murderers of Laporte as crackpots, but chastised the government for not paying the price for Laporte's life. "Of the twenty-one prisoners that the FLQ wanted set free, eleven refused to go, five were due for parole in May, which left only five to be set

free with \$500,000. It took more money to bring the Queen and her family to Manitoba last summer on a visit."

The McGill Professor said that in the days of October terrorism "took its roots, and the people became carried away."

He criticized the government for their implementation of the War Measures act, because of an insurrection caused by a mere ten people. Yet the army was called in and five hundred people were arrested because of the actions of ten men.

The people of Quebec are now questioning the seriousness of the so called insurrection.

The victims of the War Measures act were all arrested without warning. They were charged with crimes which they had no idea were crimes. All the people arrested were suspected by the police, merely because they were outspoken activists.

Lapierre singled out the case of lawyer Robert Lemieux. It was Lemieux who saved Crossin life and prevented panic in Quebec but he was arrested and refused bail. Lemieux is the only person truly trusted by the members of the FLQ yet the court will not allow him to defend the accused kidnapers.

He then launched into a criticism of the Canadian judicial system and the over-used change of contempt of court.

Dr. Lapierre referred to the judges as "Sacred cows and Political hacks. I am sure that eighty-five per cent of judges with the exception of the Supreme court were members of the party which nominated them to the court."

"If the people are denied every available outlet, then their frustration inevitably turns to violence."

Dr. Lapierre stated a number of changes that he would implement in order to improve the judicial system. He felt that a charge of Contempt of Court should never be used unless the entire court-room is so disgusted that it would be impossible to continue the case.

A charge of contempt should be laid by the provincial ombudsman.

His third point was that bail should be automatic for all prisoners.

Dr. Lapierre attacked the media, claiming that the way they handled the case it would be impossible for any of the kidnapers to receive a fair trial with an impartial jury.

He said, unemployment, poverty, education and alienation were the main causes for political unrest, in the Province Of Quebec.

He left a hushed audience with the now controversial "De Gaulle" phrase, "VIVRE LE QUEBEC LIBRE!"



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