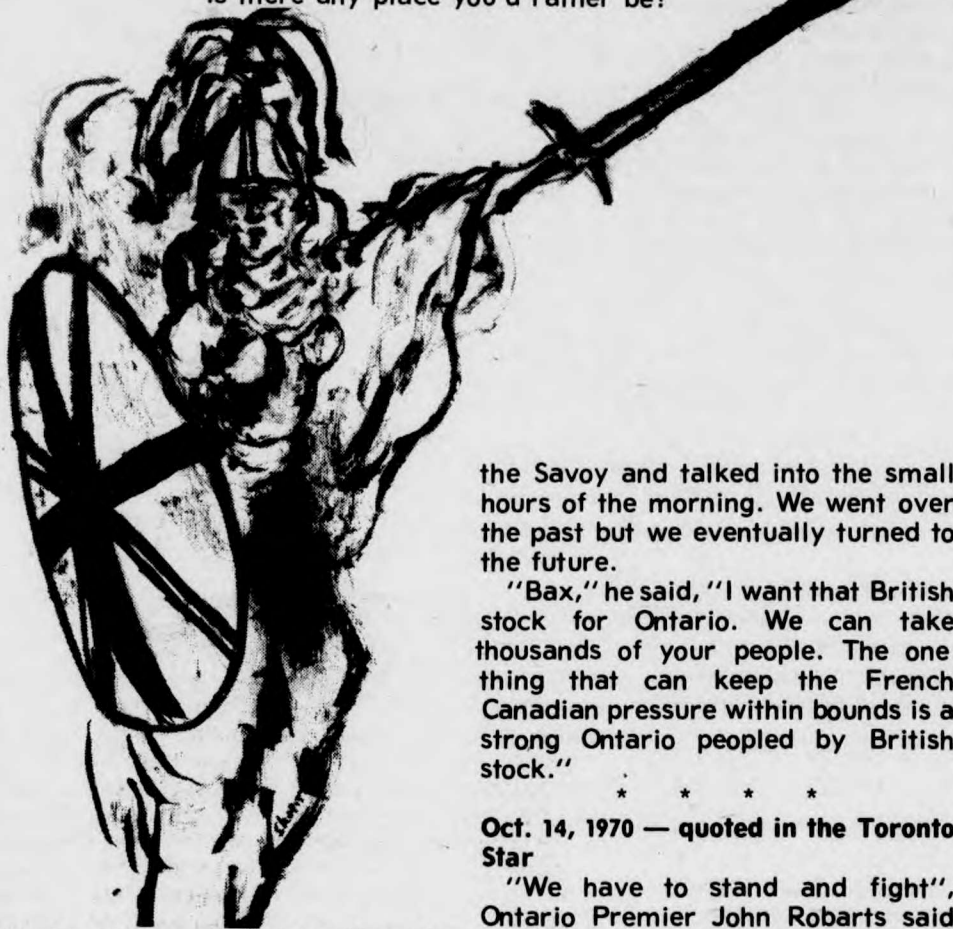


Letters to the Editor

Address letters to the Editor, EXCALIBUR, York University. Letters must be signed for legal reasons. A pseudonym will be used if you have a good reason. Those typed will be given preference.

Ontari-ari-ari-o

Is there any place you'd rather be?



Sept. 30, 1944 — quoted by Beverly Baxter (Conservative member, British Parliament)

One of the pleasantest things in life is to see the success of a friend that one has known since boyhood. Colonel George Drew, the Prime Minister of Ontario, who is now in London, was born in Guelph, a town situated a hundred miles or so from Toronto.

I could not tell you when we first met, it is so long ago, but it was obvious to anyone in those days that Drew would never be a success. He was too good looking!

The other night we sat in his suite at

the Savoy and talked into the small hours of the morning. We went over the past but we eventually turned to the future.

"Bax," he said, "I want that British stock for Ontario. We can take thousands of your people. The one thing that can keep the French Canadian pressure within bounds is a strong Ontario peopled by British stock."

Oct. 14, 1970 — quoted in the Toronto Star

"We have to stand and fight", Ontario Premier John Robarts said today in an interview. "It's war, total war."

Robarts, 53, served with the navy in World War II with the rank of lieutenant.

"By Jove, this has to be a law abiding country where you can bring up your family without fear," he said.

"The (FLQ) demands are wrong — morally wrong and socially wrong — so we have to stand and fight."

He said that in the past few years in efforts to protect the rights of minorities, "we have overlooked the fact that the large group has rights as well as the majority rules."

That library heatwave . . . again

(Ed. note: Since our readers are probably tiring of this debate I hesitate to respond to your latest arguments. However let's once again look at the facts:

Despite the fact the library was unbearably hot the morning of September 21, the workers were not sent home.

Despite the fact they held a protest rally that morning, they were not sent home.

Despite the fact they specifically asked to go home at that rally, they were not sent home.

Despite the fact the heat increased as the afternoon approached, they were not sent home.

Despite the fact they were scheduling another protest rally for the afternoon, they were not sent home.

Despite the fact you left the library in the early afternoon, you did not let the workers leave.

Then you expect us to believe you intended to let them out all along.

I am very sorry that you did not check with me before you wrote your editorial of October 15.

On the morning of the day in question, September 21, I was in the library and I recognized that, if the temperature remained as high as it was, then working conditions for the staff would become unsuitable.

I had, however, to leave the library and the city about noon.

I, therefore, asked one of our Assistant Directors, Mrs. Furuya, to watch the situation and if it did not improve to release staff early.

In the afternoon Mrs. Furuya authorized department heads to release staff early. The library was not closed and service to our community was maintained mostly by part-time workers.

Thomas F. O'Connell
Director of Libraries

American Empire Ltd. (or Inc.) develops human material

I realize that it is unusual to write to an editor concerning the advertising in his newspaper, but American Empire's ad in your October 29 issue has provoked me to do so anyway.

First let me point out that the name of the corporation is not American Empire Ltd., as it is repeatedly printed in your paper, but American Empire Inc.; there is no such thing as a Ltd. company in the United States.

The ad I refer to makes some rather exaggerated claims about a process by which the people at A.E. "bring in a few natives from the colony to one of our processing plants, fill them with our wonder ingredients, and then send them back home fully equipped to combat the symptoms of nationalism, patriotism, and other related diseases."

Several of these processing plants are specifically named in the ad, namely Harvard, Yale, and MIT.

In order to demonstrate that the process does not always work as claimed, I need only point to the example of Mel Watkins,

who holds a graduate degree in economics from the MIT plant, and who could hardly be called an A.E. agent.

I would admit that Mel Watkins has resisted the pressures of a process, but a process very different from that described in the ad.

What plants such as MIT attempt to do, is to develop raw materials, some of them imported, into productive units of human capital. A.E. does not want to lose such people, and those who win in the A.E. draft lottery are enticed to stay in the United States and take high-paying jobs.

Some may be equipped to go abroad and combat "nationalism, patriotism, and other related diseases" (and a few of these may wind up at York University), but many are trained to fight more serious diseases such as urban decay and environmental deterioration.

Realizing this, some of A.E.'s foreign competitors try to lure back their raw materials after they have been processed in the United States. Such efforts as Canada's "Operation Retrieval" meet with limited

The Americanization myth

This letter is in reply to some of the more extreme absurdities you have perpetrated regarding the issue of Canadian-American relations.

In order to achieve some sense of perspective, allow me to introduce myself. I have lived in the United States for roughly half my life and in Canada for the remaining half. I consider myself an internationalist.

First, the issue of the number of American faculty members at York. On the basis of your concern with the senate's reluctance to release the citizenship statistics, one might safely conclude that you wish York to become more Canadian.

Indeed, in an editorial of October 8, you specifically mention "the need to deal with Canadian content in classes and the need for Canadian professors to teach them." I would earnestly suggest that the question of Canadian content is irrelevant to the vast majority of courses.

If, for example, one were studying the anatomy of the earthworm, it would seem quite strange if one were to demand learning about a Canadian earthworm. Questions of nationality have little bearing on most areas of study. By present hiring practices, a Canadian is given an advantage over an "otherwise equally qualified" foreigner.

I submit that it would not be expedient to increase this advantage; to do so would inevitably result in an inferior faculty.

The ultimate fear of those opposed to U.S. domination is that Canada will eventually become the 51st state. I cannot believe that this fear is realistic.

First, for Canada to become a state, she would first have to apply for statehood; that is, Canada must initiate the necessary legal proceedings. This is difficult to imagine. However, if it were to happen, there would be two possible cases:

1. A majority of Canadians were opposed to joining the United States.

2. A majority of Canadians were in favour of joining the United States.

In the first case, the Canadian government would obviously be acting against the will of the people. Obviously, this is possible only if Ottawa were to sell out on Canada; and as long as Canada is functionally democratic, this could not happen.

In the second case, where a majority of Canadians were in favour of joining the United States, one cannot help wondering precisely who would be betrayed.

To say that the majority will should not be followed is at least undemocratic, and while I do not hold democracy sacred, I do feel that the question of national determination should be settled by the people.

Therefore, if Canada were to join the United States, this would be either a reflection of the will of a majority of Canadians or a case of Canada's being betrayed by her own government.

Office of the Prime Minister
Students, Faculty and Staff,
York University.

I have been directed to acknowledge your recent petition requesting the government to lift the enforcement of the War Measures Act.

It is appreciated that you should have expressed your opinion in this way. You may be assured that your views have been noted.

T.W. Trousdell
Assistant Correspondence Secretary.

On the question of precisely who is Americanizing Canada, I think it absurd to place all the blame on Americans.

Canadian subsidiaries of American corporations flourish only because Canadians are willing to buy American products. Municipal governments compete for industries in an effort to increase local wealth, and they are as receptive to American dollars as to Canadian ones: tax reductions are frequently offered to encourage American investment.

When Washington takes steps to reduce foreign investment, Canadian officials fly south and beg to have these measures changed. Even the noble Excalibur is filled with American advertisements.

American economic domination of Canada cannot possibly be reduced while Canadians are begging for American dollars. Canada is like a prostitute who curses her patrons for violating her virginity.

Joe Miller

Disinterested study

Since you reprinted Robin Mathews' attack on my essay, "The Revolt against Americanism," directly from Canadian Dimension, perhaps I may return the compliment and lift two paragraphs from the reply already sent to Canadian Dimension.

Professor Mathews has managed to convert a scholarly article into a covert attack on Canada by reading into it various innuendos which I did not intend.

In particular, the statement that for "Americanization (you are intended to read Canadianization)" into a discussion of American theories of acculturation if he wishes, but he should not put words in other peoples' mouths.

The reference to "confident reconstruction of cultures" was intended both as description of a vital shift of opinion and as ironic comment.

More generally, Professor Mathews seems to assume that a historian endorses the opinions which he describes and analyzes. This suggests that we are working within frames of reference so different as to make discussion almost impossible.

The essay which aroused his defensive instincts was not intended to take sides in some current crisis, but to explore the debate over American identity during the first half of this century.

Perhaps Excalibur, as well as Canadian Dimension, should take up the question whether the Brave New Canada they wish to build will have any room for the kind of intellectual activity which used to be known as 'disinterested.'

Fred H. Mathews
Assistant Professor
History and Humanities

Excalibur

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Fred Camping
MIT Class of 1970
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