

# Camera on.. A Thoughtful Activist

by Jo-Anne Skinner

"The Way It Is" flashed alternately on each of the six segments of the multi-image screen. A man was sitting in a swivel chair watching the screen. He pivoted and addressed the audience, "Good evening, I'm John Saywell."

The next day John Saywell was back behind his desk at York, pondering his personal philosophy. "My view of life is essentially hedonistic. Life is too short not to be enjoyed. Life is too short to be bored."

John Saywell is too busy - too involved - to be bored. At 38, he is not only the Dean of the Faculties of Arts and Science at York and Professor of History but also an author of numerous books, articles and reviews, the writer of several hundred radio and TV broadcasts, the host of a new public affairs program for the CBC entitled "The Way It Is", an avid collector of Canadian modern abstract paintings, and a father of three children.

Dr. Saywell describes the position of Dean as a hotseat between the faculty and administration. He is the medium through which faculty and administration communicate. As Dean, he is responsible for the growth, development, budgets and functioning of the faculty and thus for the education of the student in general.

Dean Saywell became an educator because he believed a job must satisfy two conditions: It must be stimulating and it must be beneficial to society.

In 1950, Dean Saywell received his B.A. in history and political science at the University of British Columbia. In 1951, he received his M.A. in history and international relations from U.B.C. From 1951 until 1953 he studied at Harvard. In 1956 he gained his Ph.D. Before coming to York in 1963, Dr. Saywell was an associate professor at U of T.

As consultant and general editor for Clarke, Irwin Co. Ltd., he and Winters College Master John C. Rickerd have written a number of history texts for high schools - among which are The Modern Era, and The British Epic. In 1965, Dean Saywell wrote a research report for the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism entitled "Bicultural Influences on Cabinet Formation."

## MACPHERSON REPORT

Dean Saywell has always been a critical analyst of university issues.

## nostra culpa

Last week's interview with Tim Reid was by Jim Stoyan. The article on the candidates for Yorkview riding was by Gary Gayda.

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Commenting on the Macpherson Report, a year-long study conducted by a ten man Presidential Advisory Committee on education at U of T, Dean Saywell said that he was glad to see that U of T was adopting many measures that York has had in existence since its founding. For example, the Macpherson Report recommends that term work should count for 50 percent of the final grade, thereby lessening the emphasis on final examinations. This has always been a principle at York.

The Macpherson Report also recommended that students should sit on many policy making bodies including the Faculty Council. This matter has been the focus for lively debate at York (especially during election campaigns). Dean Saywell is in favor of students sitting on the Faculty Council. Concerning students' being appointed to the Board of Governors and the Senate, Dean Saywell says he is not opposed to this but feels students would be wasting their time on these committees as their decisions relate to student education only indirectly. In short, the Senate and Board of Governor meetings are not where the action is.

## FREE TUITION

Everyone who has the ability and desire should be at university, Dean Saywell believes, and adds that in this context free tuition would be valuable but could be instituted only if it were economically feasible in Canada. However, he would not wish to see university turned into a right that demands nothing of the individual. He would not like to see the university atmosphere changed to a high school atmosphere.



Any complaints about York? Any praise? Send in your comments to 'The Whole Man', Excalibur, 019A Founders, and tip the Whole Man's Scales.



## John T. Saywell

'Students would be wasting their time on the Board of Governors'

In high school there is a one-way transmission of facts and ideas from teacher to student. The purpose of the university is to motivate the student to think and experience by himself. There must be a change in motivation in the student as he moves from high school to university. A dialogue between teacher and student and between students themselves is evidence of this, says Dean Saywell.

## 'THE WAY IT IS'

John Saywell describes "The Way It Is" as a serious public affairs program, designed both to enlighten and entertain, like any good news magazine, the program will make its editorial comments. He stressed that it is not a psychedelic show for the under twenty-one crowd.

How was he chosen to be host of the show? "I have no idea," answers Dean Saywell. One good reason for Ross McLean asking him to brave the Sunday suicide slot is previous broadcasting experience. Saywell is not a stranger to the mass media. He has written numerous plays and doc-

umentaries for both radio and television. His "Crisis of Canada", a five-part radio documentary, was the winner of an Ohio award in 1962. In 1966, he prepared a historical documentary and conducted an interview with Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson.

## POLITICS IN MIND

Dean Saywell does not want to enter politics. "Politicians," he emphasizes, "lose their right to freedom of speech. They must subject their interests and ideas to those of the party. They are always aware that their comments may be construed as having a particular political meaning."

He charges that most politicians are ineffectual because for them the 'game of politics' becomes the end, not the means. He would rather be a critic outside the political process, where he can freely propose social issues.

John Tupper Saywell is a thoughtful activist. He knows where he is going and how to get there. With John Saywell that's the only way it can be.

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