

# Federal anti-farmer policy obvious, yet minister claims agriculture booming

Bud Olson, Federal Minister of Agriculture, told a meeting of the Edmonton Junior Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night, "I see some people from the meat packing business here, I am sure packers are interested in the well-being of farmers." (They should be. Since 1948 the price consumers pay 58 per cent more for food. In the same period, the farmers share of the consumer dollar dropped from 60 to 40 per cent.)

"Canadians should take justifiable pride in their own accomplishments. I am not nationalistic, but..." (Bud certainly is not nationalistic. While his Department of Agriculture was foreclosing on Canadian farmers' property last year, his colleagues were giving 80 per cent grants to foreign corporations. One American got a gift of 80 per cent of the price of a \$1.2 million sawmill at Slave Lake, Alberta.)

There are many things here in Canada we can take pride in, the Canadian rate of expansion was 6 per cent last year. We ought to realize what we have done. Our success was due to the way the Canadian Government handled the inflation problem. We are in a more superior position now than before austerity." ("Canada in 1970 imported more food than it exported sinking to a new low. The imports were mainly things Canada could produce commercially—poultry, vegetables and meat. If wheat, the big export item, is excluded the per capita production of food in Canada has at best remained stable over the past 15 years. The result is that food imports have steadily increased at a rate of 10 per cent per year." said the Agricultural Institute of Canada Review, Vol. 26/2)

"The Prices and Incomes Commission helped a great deal, getting through to commerce and labor. If it had gone the other way and we had priced ourselves out of world markets the slowdown in the economy and unemployment would have been regretful." ("Farm costs, the cost of almost every item which the farmer uses in his production, have gone up. According to the Farm Credit Corp, a branch of the Federal Government, the increase in farm prices was less than 20 per

cent—we could get up to a 200 per cent increase in the 1970 income of farmers and still be within the 6 per cent guidelines of the Economic Council using 1967 as a base. The farm income problem is real," according to Mr. Forbes, president of the Agriculture Institute of Canada, A.I.C. Review Vol. 26/5)

"For the past several years now the problem has been one of marketing, not of the income ladder—not that farmers have a right to a much larger share of the national income." (The income of the average Alberta farmer in 1970, net cash income from farm sources, classing everyone who produced Agricultural products as a farmer was \$3491 according to the Ottawa Department of Agriculture.)

"Marketing techniques are such that all the benefits have gone to the consumers, who should have some of it not all." (Fifty per cent of Alberta farmers have an income below the poverty level according to the government's definition of poverty. Alberta's farmers contribute about \$69 million to the provinces income each year, 69,000 farmers and 69 million dollars.)

"Farmers should do the things that labor unions or that the professionals do to raise their income; set a schedule of fees." (Perhaps Mr. Olson is unaware that the price of wheat is set by the Canadian Wheat Board at 1/2 to 1/3 of what non-Canadian farmers receive.)

"Productivity of farmers has gone up 6 per cent per year for a long time, we are going through a painful exercise trying to work these things out." (On many farms in Northern Alberta, one member of the family has a job and sends money home to the family to try and keep the farm. Some women have moved to towns taking jobs to support the children while their husbands stay on the farm, which represents the family's life savings.)

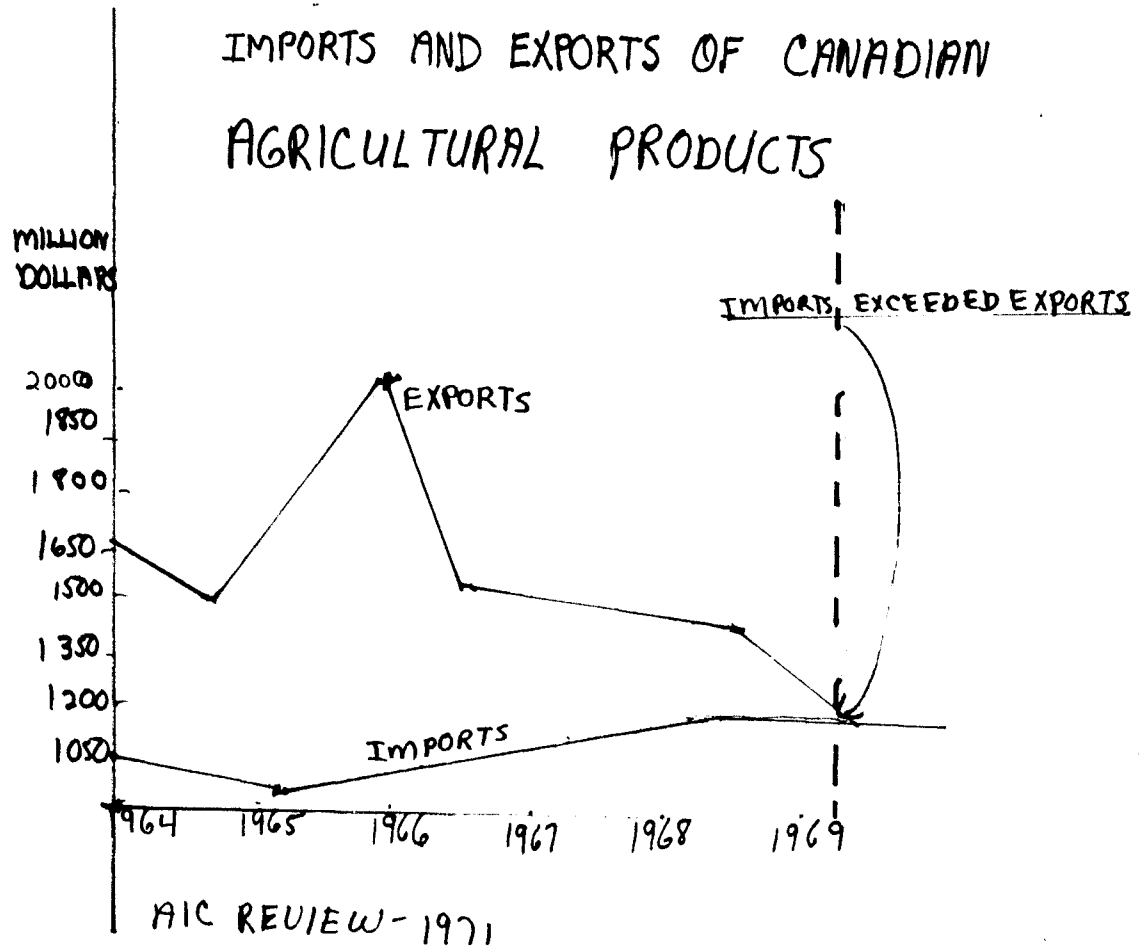
"Farmers like to make all the management decisions; this also gives farmers the freedom to go broke—a lot of farmers have the last few years." (In 1965 the government encouraged hog production by lending money to many farmers to install expensive hog barns. Hog production jumped, prices fell, much cheap pork flowed to the cities of Eastern Canada while the government foreclosed the farms of a lot of hog farmers.)

"We are going to see farmers get a reasonable share of the benefits they provided to the nation." (He did not say what he meant by "reasonable" however.)

Bud Olson then left for Westlock to visit Dr. Horner, the Alberta Minister of Agriculture.

When Dr. Horner and the Ministers of Agriculture of Manitoba and Saskatchewan confronted the federal government on what has been described as "our anti-farm policy" the federal government backed down. It apparently repudiated the Task Force report which advocated "removing" about two thirds of Canadian farmers from their land by 1990.

by Harold Moore



# VOW to enter candidates in all elections

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Voice of Women, a Canadian women's organization, is considering entering independent candidates or supporting peace candidates in upcoming municipal, provincial and federal elections, according to the national president, Kay MacPherson.

The organization, formed in 1961, has stayed out of the parliamentary process until now, concentrating their efforts on petitioning, demonstrating and confronting members of parliament and corporations concerned with the war industry.

They have also recently taken stands on women's issues such as abortion, day care and family planning, although their chief aim is 'peace and justice'.

MacPherson said the 'non partisan' organization has to do more to make their views known by participating in the parliamentary system, "at least for the next few years". She feels it is an important move now, when half the population is represented by one woman in the House of Commons, and political parties show little or no interest in peace or women's issues.

Some VOW members may run for a specific party, she continued, but she felt it was "wasteful to have energy dispelled in the mechanics of political parties". Allying the VOW with a specific party would also destroy their image, she said.

The independent candidates would run to demonstrate their right to do so, not necessarily in the hope of being elected. Their role would then be one of confronting other candidates on women's issues such as day care, MacPherson said, and bringing up such issues as the Canadian arms industry, Canadian support of the Americans in Vietnam, Canadian involvement in NATO (whose members are demonstrating 'expansionist ideas' in Africa) and Canadian support for white racist regimes like that in South Africa.

The candidates would be concerned with both peace and women's issues because "You can't have one without the other and maybe they can't be

separated," she said. "To liberate women you have to liberate manking," she added.

MacPherson said she thought Canadians were not aware of the Canadian contribution to war and defence research. However, she felt there was a growing "awareness" about our relations with the United States. "Canada is becoming more and more a colony as far as the U.S. and the big corporations are concerned,"

she said. VOW candidates will try to make Canadians more aware of this during the election campaigns.

Those VOW women interested in running in upcoming elections may affiliate themselves with the NDP or the Waffle, another VOW member commented. She also confirmed reports that many VOW women already work for the NDP and/or its Waffle group.

The forum with David Lewis this afternoon is in strong uncertainty and will probably be cancelled due to the air technician's strike.

The National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada is now conducting a campaign against a Lake Louise Lifts and Imperial Oil proposal to develop Lake Louise as a tourist resort. Concerned persons are urged to send briefs to the following persons;

Briefs for the hearings on the proposed development of Lake Louise can be sent to:  
The Secretary of Public Hearings Office  
National and Historic Parks Branch  
400 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa 4, Ontario

Credit cards can be returned to the President of Imperial Oil  
Mr. John A. Armstrong  
Imperial Oil Ltd.  
111 St. Clair Ave. West  
Toronto 195, Ontario

Jean Chretien  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
Ottawa, Ontario

TO: ALL STUDENT COUNCIL NOMINEES  
FROM: LISTER HALL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

As a result of the impingement of privacy on resident students each year at S.U. Election time I have been requested to notify all of the candidates of the following:

- 1) That no campaigning be carried out in the residence halls i.e. Mackenzie, Henday and Kelsey other than the time period allotted for such campaigning (Wednesday, Feb. 16 — 7:00 to 12:00 p.m.)
- 2) An open invitation of all incumbents is hereby made to attend a forum to take place in the Lister Hall cafeteria Thursday Feb. 17 (7:15 - 9:00 p.m.). All candidates will be given an equal time to speak to be followed by a question period.

Lister Complex Co-ordinate  
R. Michael Chisholm

# Gateway apology

The Gateway wishes to apologize to Gary Draper who wrote the analysis of the Students' Union executive in Tuesday's paper. Due to technical problems his name was omitted from the article. Mr. Draper also feels that his ending should have been retained. It stated in part: "While the executive haven't lived up to their campaign promises, this council and executive haven't done a really bad job. You got pretty much what you voted for—a fairly solid if unspectacular administration."