

gateway features

INTERVIEWS WITH

After his Con Hall appearance Monday evening Mr. Pearson was whisked off to a downtown coffee party with the Edmonton Young Liberals, where Gateway Features interviewed him.

Your Feature writers are Dave Winfield and Dave Parsons—both second year political science students.

By Dave Winfield

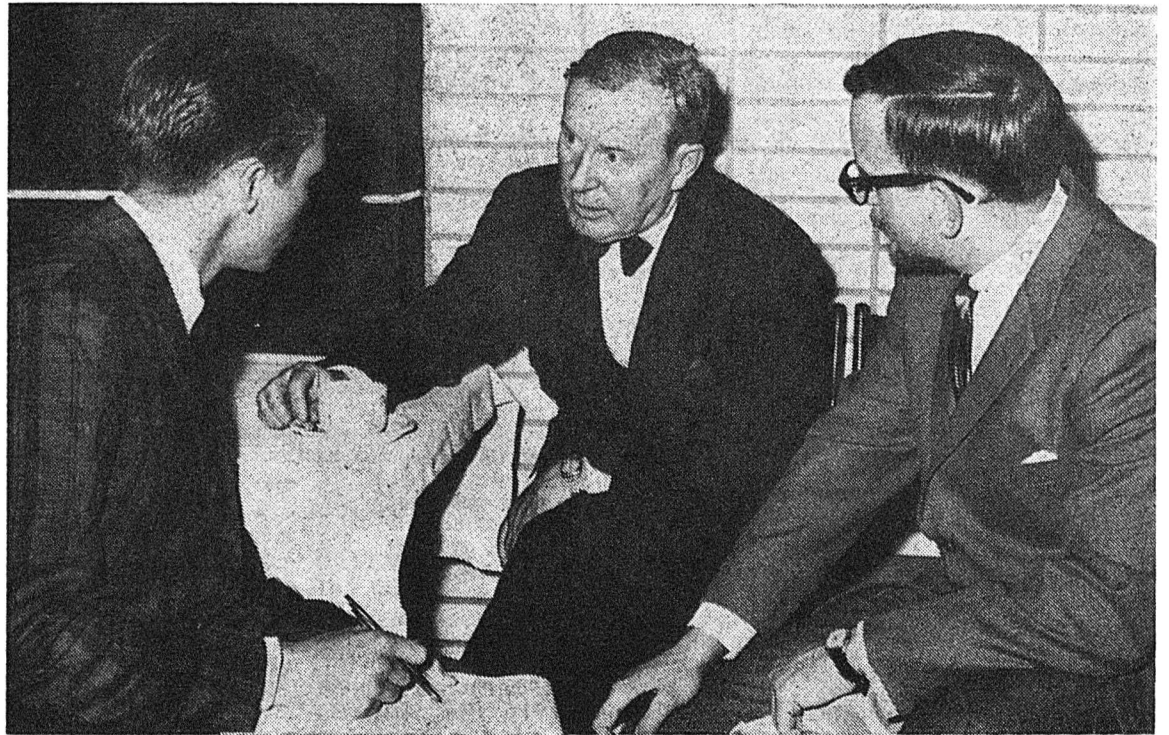
Lester Pearson slumped into a chair, sighed, and accepted a cup of coffee.

He was tired! He had just finished delivering an address in Convocation Hall—his third speech of the day—and was unwinding at a small informal gathering sponsored by Edmonton Young Liberals.

But we didn't give him much chance to rest. "John Diefenbaker says Canada can have nuclear weapons by next summer, should the disarmament talks collapse. Now in light of Mr. Kennedy's speech, what is your opinion of Mr. Diefenbaker's statement?" He grinned.

Mr. Kennedy's six disarmament proposals were excellent, he said, especially the one relating to the size of the "nuclear club".

"We must keep the club small!" Therefore, Canada should take the lead and renounce the use of nuclear weapons on Canadian soil. Instead, Canada should build up her conventional weapons and her armed forces. However, Pearson feels that Canadian forces outside Canada should have nuclear weapons if the heads of NATO want them.



No war psychosis

Mr. Pearson's arguments are sound in that we should strive for nuclear disarmament and world peace. But if NATO were to assume the responsibility of nuclear power surely this is not consistent with the Kennedy proposal for a small "nuclear club". We should confine the weight of responsibility to as few people as possible, thus minimizing any chance of an error or mistake attack.

Pearson doesn't agree with Tass News Agency's accusation that the West is stirring up a "war psychosis".

He feels that, in the West, unlike in Iron Curtain countries, we are free to speak or to write as we like. In some cases a reporter or paper might get carried away. The tendency, he said, is for the crises-makers themselves to over-emphasize a critical situation. The Russians caused the Berlin crisis and resumed nuclear testing. They seem to be trying to cause some trouble themselves with these crises.

I don't know if Mr. Pearson was expressing his own feelings or if they reflect political bias, but I can hardly agree that there is no "war psychosis" when I read headlines to the effect that "Berlin Children are Being Brainwashed," "US Ready With Nuclear Weapons." Surely it would be better to strive for articles showing what is going on to stem the war panic rather than to build it up to a higher pitch.

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