

'Nice guys finish last' is bad philosophy-Lipsett

By JEFF DAVIES

The American emphasis on winning regardless of the tactics used; the philosophy that "nice guys finish last"; has produced the high rates of crime and political violence in the United States, Seymour Martin Lipsett told a UNB audience Wednesday.

Lipsett, a professor of Government and Sociology at Harvard University, contrasted this with the less violent Canadian scene, where there is mere emphasis on proper behaviour, a greater tendency to "play by the rules of the game", and a "legitimate tradition" of conservatism.

The U.S., said Lipsett, is a revolutionary country, whereas Canada was formed in reaction to revolution, and the result is a "legitimate tradition" of liberalism, populism and egalitarianism in the U.S.

"Egalitarianism in the United States means not equality of station but equality of opportunity. This puts a tremendous stress on people to succeed. In such a system one would anticipate higher rates of crime, of innovation, and of original ways of getting ahead."

The U.S. has a history of social movements, while discontent in Canada has tended to be channelled into the political system through the formation of new parties.

He said the differing political systems in the two countries, rather than the underlying social structures, were largely responsible for this. "In the United States different groups are inherently pressed together in two coalitions since only one man can be president and he can't be a coalition president." The two parties "stand for roughly the same things."

On the other hand, the Canadian system with its parliamentary government and single member constituencies, "permits various groups which have different ideologies...to exercise pressure without being in formal coalitions."

"Basically the mechanism for social change in America has been through social movements which are then incorporated by one or both of the major parties. In a sense the very stability of the American party system has been related to the presence of social movements. In Canada, social movements tend to be pushed into

the formal party structure, and I think as a result they tend to lose some of their pressure on the political system." He said rebellions have tended to succeed in the U.S. and to fail in Canada.

Social movements in the U.S. have included the anti-Masonic, anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, Ku Klux Klan, agrarian, and moralistic movements.

"Every war the U.S. has been involved in, with the exception of World War Two, has seen large anti-war movements. If it can be said that violence is as American as apple pie, I think it can also be said that anti-war movements are as American as cherry pie."

Lipsett said the differing religious traditions of the two countries also contributed to the differing political behaviour. Although both countries are predominately Protestant, Americans "are adherents of the protestant sects. They have adhered to Christian denominations that were never state churches," unlike the Catholic or Anglican denominations.

"The state church has an obligation to uphold the politics of the state. The Anglican and Catholic churches believe in birth-right membership, while the protestant sects believe in membership by choice." The protestant sects stress individual moral responsibility and following one's conscience. "There have been a lot more conscientious objectors in the United States because more people belong to these sects."

"The emphasis on conscience politics...has affected American secular behaviour," said Lipsett. Americans see foreign affairs in moral terms. "If evil people control a country, one doesn't talk to them."

Moralistic Protestants, said Lipsett, are much more likely to see politics in absolutist terms. "There is a need to believe you're fighting on the side of God."

Asked if he could see any chance of a third party arising in American politics, Lipsett said, "we would need some crisis or social change which created desires among one group which couldn't be filled by one of the major parties. That was the case with the race question in 1968." However, he cannot see any chance of a left wing third party at the present, as there are no demands of the underprivileged which can't be met by one or both of the established parties, particu-

larly the Democratic party.

Lipsett said he did not think the Watergate affair would lead to "a new conservatism" in the USA as a member of the audience suggested. "The conservatives have been de-legitimated. They have been annihilated by their leaders."

Questioned on the recent Quebec election, Lipsett said he didn't think the discrepancy between the seats and votes captured by the Party Quebecois would necessarily lead to violence. "My understanding is that the separatists are the young people. The big line of cleavage is

between young and old, not rich and poor."

"The rules of biology are on the side of the separatist. They don't need violence; they just need to wait. If they just keep going Quebec will have its state in 10 years."

Watergate tapes would be "snap to alter"

WASHINGTON (CU+CPS) — The president of Syntonic Research Inc. of New York recently performed a unique experiment to find out if the so-called Nixon tapes could be altered. And, after putting a special tape of Nixon's together by cutting, editing and splicing, I. S. Tiebel concluded that the tapes would "probably be a snap to alter."

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) came to same conclusion after gathering together some of North America's top electronic specialists. Their unanimous conclusion was that a skilled editing of the tapes would be almost impossible to detect.

Meanwhile, over two hundred

political scientists from major universities throughout the US have announced the formation of the Political Scientists for Impeachment.

Citing Nixon's initial refusal and belated compliance with the order of the US Court of Appeals to release the tapes, the group accused the president of a "contempt for law and the administration of justice unknown since the founding of our republic."

If they and other groups in the US are successful, further attention will see who is in line for the presidency as defined by the US constitution.

First in line is the vice president but the US does not have one of

these. Second in line is the speaker of the house, but Carl Albert said he does not want the job.

Third down the line is president pro tem of the senate, the little-known senator from Mississippi, James Eastland.

Fourth in line is the secretary of state, but, because Henry Kissinger is foreign-born, he is constitutionally prohibited from accepting the job.

Fifth in line is the secretary of the treasury, George Schulz.

Sixth in line is the attorney general but again the US does not have one of these.

And so, seventh in line, is the secretary of agriculture who is, of course, Earl Butz.

Voluntary enlistment is a colossal failure

WASHINGTON (CUP) — In the midst of the deepening outrage over the Watergate scandals, Nixon's Justice Department has proposed a new "solution" to the troublesome demand for amnesty for war resisters.

It offers only the choice of army enlistment or jail. This proposal is even worse than Senator Taft's conditional amnesty bill which would force draft resisters to spend three years in "alternative service" duty as the price for amnesty.

The Army, however, seems to have some reservations about the new scheme. According to a recent editorial (August 29th) in the semi-official Army Times, "resisters are causing a sticky problem for the Government. Public sentiment is against sending them to jail." Therefore, it concludes, other punitive measures must be

found. The editorial cautions, however, that war resisters in uniform may be more trouble than they're worth.

There is some question about the sincerity of the Army's opposition, however, when one considers Defense Secretary Schlesinger's recent warning that falling enlistments may require resumption of the draft.

Also consider Army Secretary Bo Calloway's statement that he's "unconcerned" about the record Black enlistment (35 per cent) is opposed to any quota for Blacks. His attempt to sow fears of an all-Black army (if he's unconcerned, why mention it at all?) may be part of a well-orchestrated Army campaign to restore the Draft. The military's attempt to recruit sufficient men voluntarily into the service has been a colossal failure.

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