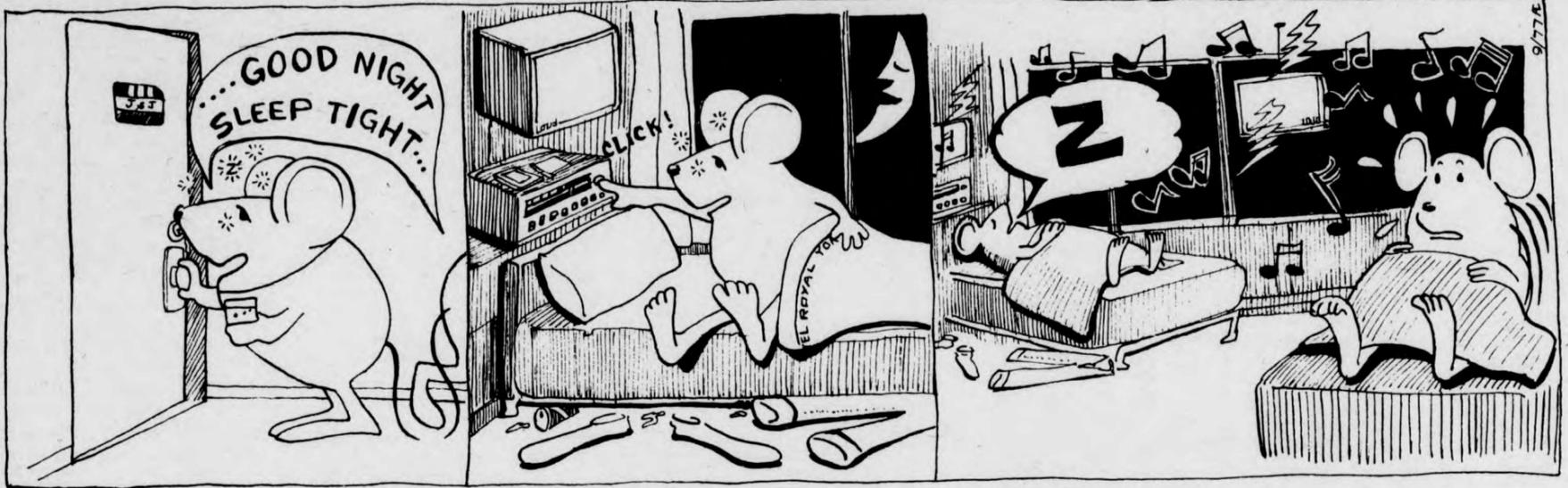


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The last twenty years as seen by Walter Gordon

By Tony Carty

Former Chancellor of York, Walter Gordon, last Wednesday delivered the first of this year's Edgar McInnis lectures, to a packed Moot Courtroom at Osgoode Hall Law School. Gordon's essential

Catch-up try by YUSA

• continued from page one

Moreover, said Avens, the association will not accept an across-the-board salary increase because too many of its members have a proportionately low income and need to catch up.

"Over 55% of YUSA members are (in job classifications) 3 and 4 and earn \$8,450 and \$9,100 respectively," Avens said. This is about \$1,000 less than in other large unionized clerical groups such as Ontario Hydro and the provincial civil service, she added.

In an interview Farr said his statement in *York Reports* that YUSA salary rates "relative to community levels" have improved was based on a board of trade job classification survey plus updated salary increases. He said average salaries between YUSA job classifications have narrowed sufficiently.

"They (the university) still think of women as second wage earners who only work to earn pin money," said Avens. "They're obviously not taking YUSA seriously because so many (85%) of its members are women," she added.

While the university has offered salary increases of 6.5% plus benefits to YUSA, it has offered 9% salary increases to members of the faculty association (YUFA). While "not attacking YUFA," because York professors are among the lowest paid in Ontario, Avens said, "The university has to redefine its priorities. We (YUSA) are very low on their list."

"The lowest paid get offered 6.5% and the highest paid get offered 9% and do not accept it," YUSA *Reports* states. Both unions requested a 13.5% increase at the beginning of the 1977-78 negotiations.

Bill Farr said YUFA was offered a 9% salary increase because of similar offers at other universities, while increases offered YUSA were also comparable to groups similar to it.

Many non-salary items are still outstanding, said YUSA president Avens. Among them are retraining or relocation for YUSA members in case technological advances displace them with a three-month notice, as well as sick leaves in case of illness in the family, important for many single-parents in the bargaining unit. The university had "made no moves" on these, Avens said.

theme for the last twenty years: the ills plaguing his country, evidently is still uppermost in his mind.

He was founder of The Committee for an Independent Canada and a liberal finance minister in Lester Pearson's cabinet.

In the mid nineteen-fifties, as chairman of the Royal Commission of Canada's Economic Prospects, he was asked to carry out a broad inquiry into the Canadian economy, to:

"Make forecasts on future trends and to suggest changes in policy that would enhance the great opportunities that seemed to lie ahead."

For a while Canada was basking in unprecedented prosperity. With his accountant's penchant for statistics, the former management consultant noted the gross national product has increased by more than two hundred and fifty per cent.

There has been an appreciable rise in the average income per capita, and by nineteen seventy-five the average person was better off than two decades ago.

All this, "despite the fact that the cost of living had more than doubled."

Gordon thinks the good fortune was due partly to a prolonged period of prosperity in the United States, the market for most of Canada's exports, "but also to our own competence and effort."

Up until 1970 things seemed to be going our way.

"We were told, for instance, that we had enough oil to last nine hundred years and enough natural gas to last four hundred years."

After 1970 a distinct change set in. There was some concern about the threat of inflation in the late nineteen sixties.

"The cost of living index rose by four and a half per cent in 1969, after which it was reduced to about three per cent two years later."

The Trudeau government introduced an austerity programme which slowed the economy down, claimed Mr. Gordon. This restrictive policy cost the government its majority in the 1972 federal election.

Lately, the government has been incurring extremely high budgetary deficits, more than six billion dollars last year, and an estimated eight billion for the current fiscal year.

The Bank of Canada's policy of high interest rates, consequently brought on a higher exchange rate for the Canadian dollar than was either desirable or appropriate.

Gordon feels all this has led to a, "sluggish economy, wretched unemployment and soaring inflation."

He thinks the theories of free trade, (*laissez faire*) economic policies do not apply to Canada.

It is unacceptable that Canada's oil and automobile industries are still dominated by foreigners, he says. One hundred and eighteen of Canada's top two hundred industrial companies in order of sales, are controlled from abroad.

Referring to the October crisis in 1970, Gordon said the government was responding to a request from the Premier of Quebec and the Mayor of Montreal. It imposed the War Measures Act, thereby suspending civil liberties.

As he sees it, there was insufficient time to carry out an independent check to justify such an act.

Moreover, if the Premier of Quebec had turned out to be right and the federal government had not acceded to his request, "their position would have been untenable".

"The affair tended to create a sense of irritation in the rest of Canada, no matter how unfairly, about everything related to Quebec."

Then on November 15, last year, Rene Levesque came to power in Quebec.

Walter Gordon disagrees with the Committee for a New Constitution. He does not believe that Canada without Quebec can stand on its own indefinitely.



With two very unequal parts, and quite possibly an unfriendly country in between, the weaker half would almost be forced to "negotiate

arrangements" with their neighbour to the south.

Gordon sees anything but a rosy future ahead for Canada.

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