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# NDY president defends Watkins against SDU's shallow criticisms

Upon reading the article by Students for a Democratic University in Tuesday's Gateway my first reaction was to write off the SDU as being totally irrelevant to the struggle for Canadian socialism. After reconsidering, however, I came to the conclusion that I should not have expected the article to have anything worthwhile to say about the teach-in on American imperialism considering the fact that it was written before the event was actually held. Had the authors first attended the sessions, particularly those involving Melville Watkins, I am sure they would have been sufficiently challenged by his ideas that they would have felt compelled to go beyond the superficial generalizations contained in the article.

To begin with, we in the NDP left have no intention of "reforming capitalism" or of replacing American capitalists with Canadian capitalists. To quote the Watkins Manifesto, "Capitalism must be replaced by socialism, by national planning of investment and by the public ownership of the means of production in the interests of the Canadian people as a whole."

As for the assertion that the teach-in hid the nature of imperialism by calling it American domination I need only point out that Watkins referred consistently to the problem as being one of imperialism.

Much of the SDU article concerns itself with attempting to show that the struggles of the common working people are central to the struggle against imperialism. This has always been the position of the NDP left (including Watkins) and indeed for a socialist to think otherwise would be incredible. In a small meeting after the teach-in, Watkins expressed his fears of socialist movements which are dominated by intellectuals. It is a fundamental aim of the Watkins group to make the

NDP relevant to the masses of Canadian working people through extra-parliamentary and parliamentary action.

Considering the fact that the organized left in the NDP is relatively young, it has had considerable success in attracting trade unionists and in becoming relevant to working people in general. One would be hard pressed to find a socialist organization more thoroughly dominated by intellectuals than SDU. This is not to say that I don't think SDU can become politically relevant to workers. It is merely that SDU has not yet shown that degree of success that would entitle it to disparage the efforts of other leftists.

What it eventually comes down to is that as a Watkins supporter I must defend his participation in the teach-in as socialist strategy. SDU incredibly seems to maintain the view that such discussions are merely "pious words" which have no effect on the general level of socialist consciousness. The fact is that many students are looking for meaningful explanations of our society, and judging from audience

reaction, Watkins' analysis is credible to a great many people.

If I really thought that SDU rejected the usefulness of open discussions and debates I would indeed be worried. The fact that they wrote the article for The Gateway reassures me that they realize the necessity of communicating with the people. What is it that is substantially different between Watkins appearing before the students encouraging them to help build a socialist movement and SDU doing the same thing through The Gateway? According to SDU one involves "pious words" and the other action doesn't.

I am sure that the people in SDU have some very valid criticisms of Watkins' approach to socialism, and we in the NDY would be interested in discussing them, provided that they abandon the type of superficial criticism displayed in the recent article and show a willingness to engage in a rational dialogue.

Alberta Young New Democrats  
Rick Daniel  
President

## An emotional article for emotional issue

For P. Swanson and others who might take the time to read this.

I wrote my article Tuesday, Nov. 18 for two reasons: (1) to make a very important point; and (2) to convey some information on the nature of the war in Vietnam.

If you had read my article carefully, Mr. or Miss or Mrs. Swanson, a number of things would have become clear to you.

The article was written in a dual style; rather emotional in the first half which was what the moratorium business was, and you cannot deny this, and I was employing emotionalism to demonstrate the tactics which are employed in debate by Vietniks and most leftist activists in general.

This consists of building up a case with a **factual structure** based on **false assumptions**. By heatedly, in debate or discussion, asserting that these assumptions are indeed facts, the entire debate is led down a blind alley.

Mass rallies leave very little possibility, because of their emotional atmosphere and the way they are structured, for these underlying assumptions to be effectively challenged or questioned.

However, in letters, papers, and in books this is possible. This was the point I was trying (alas, perhaps too subtly) to make.

Now, to more specific things.

Ho Chi Minh was indeed influenced by the American Constitution when he wrote his own.

Unfortunately, this gesture, which certainly appears noble, did not reflect his plans for Vietnam. The Viet Minh was from beginning to end led by the Lao Dong (Vietnamese Workers') Party.

From 1953 to 1956 Ho and his compatriots submitted North Vietnam to a systematic land reform campaign which reliable observers such as Bernard Fall, P. J. Honey, and Henri Tongas (a French communist teacher who stayed in Vietnam until 1961) put the number of deaths in this cam-

paign at 50,000 **minimum**.

This was accompanied by various Thought Reform campaigns. This Land Reform campaign was ostensibly aimed at eliminating the exploiting landlords. This was ridiculous because various studies have established that the vast majority of the available land suitable for crops **belonged to peasants owning two acres or less**.

So much for Ho Chi Minh's 'constitutionality'.

Vietnam, both North and South, Laos and Cambodia indeed want to be free of outside domination. However, despite your assertions to the contrary, Communist China remains, for these countries, one of the overwhelming facts of political life.

Ask the governments of India, Burma, and Laos about Communist China's encroachment on their territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

Read their public statements. It will do wonders about any person's attitude towards Asia and their attitude towards American influence in Asia.

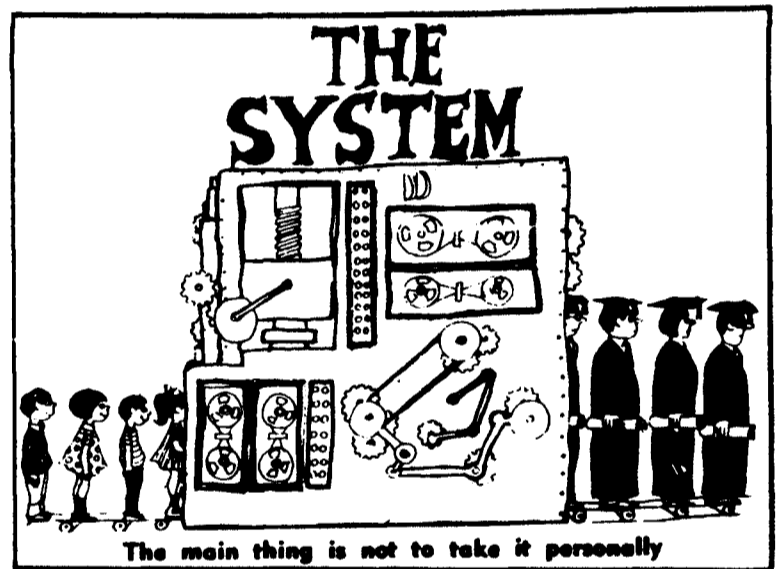
About the question of what has the United States done for underdeveloped nations?

I would advise you look at the economic and social progress in South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand and now Indonesia. All these countries have in the past and/or in the present have received or are receiving U.S. aid.

Ask these countries and the others in the area about what will happen to these countries if the U.S. withdraws from Asia.

This is not to say that I approve of the U.S. policy in all these countries; on the contrary, I feel that the U.S. has made many blunders in many countries to say the least. But I believe that these blunders have largely been made through ignorance, not with sinister purposes in mind.

Dennis Zomerschoe  
arts 3



## Infantile scum rudely awakened from nap

Edmonton police today busted the city's dope and diaper syndicate.

In a daring nap-time raid on the Joyball Kindergarten the Edmonton narcotics squad destroyed a drug ring that had preyed upon Edmonton's younger set.

Leader of the raid, narcotics officer L. S. Donnelly commented "these unscrupulous habitual criminals should be severely punished. The infantile courts have been catering to this sort of scum for far too long!"

The raid was initiated on information received from Irving Finkley, a six-year-old graduate of Tinall-Tyme playschool. Irving infiltrated as a dropout from Safe-Fun Underschool in Burnaby, B.C.

He gained the confidence of the group by selling them "eaps of Jon's Stoned baby powder. Hiding under his mother's dress, he was able to direct the police to the "pushers" and their stashes.

He was assisted in his infiltration by Grant Ryeand, four-year-old graduate of Hairy Trom's Bible-belter, who masqueraded as a product of Sir Georgie Porgie Underage in Montreal.

Found during the raid were over 25,000 bubble-gum trading cards worth of drugs. These included Hashy Bars, Elless Goo, THaC, Most Destructive Ascorbic, shilly potty, SToP, Opey.Em, and Klondike Eric's Gold.

Thirty-five pushers and more than 200 hash fiends were ar-

rested. They ranged in age from 18 to 65 (months) and include Maida Dense, daughter of a local politician (criminal).

The police break-in was so sudden that several of those present were unable either to control their bladders or their sphincters and had to be changed before they could be taken to the station for questioning and formal charging.

An unexpected difficulty was

by  
Charles  
Lunch



encountered when the cook resisted arrest on the grounds of his having used pots in the kitchen for food preparation.

Most notorious of those arrested was "Ally" Scarth, lifetime user of printer's ink.

The apparent ringleader of the gang, three-year-old Georgie Hautetet, was charged with 25 counts of trafficking in narcotic drugs and three counts of illegal possession of drugs. At first he made some show of resisting arrest, but he was quickly subdued with a sharp blow to the solar plexus.

Later, when he was being taken to the station, his only comment was "Ga-ga, goo goo goo, ga goo gook?" However, police cautioned reporters to pay no attention to this emotional outburst because it

was an obvious ploy for sympathy.

A problem developed at the station when, as the Hippies were being booked, it was discovered that the suspects could neither read nor write. This problem was quickly overcome by substituting thumbprints for signatures. This, too, ran into a snag when it was found that more than half of those charged had had their thumbs incurably mangled by thumb-screws during questioning.

The initial tip-off pointing to the kindergarten came from a policeman who was moonlighting as a plumber. He began to get suspicious that something illegal was going on when he received repeated calls to the kindergarten to unclog the toilets. On arriving, he invariably found that the cause of the blockage was the almost innumerable roaches that had been thrown down. On counting, he found 3,726,381 roaches. The counting delayed the raid four months.

When arraigned in court today before Justice Lawncorder all those charged reserved plea, and Justice Lawncorder commented after remanding them to trial February 17 that he regretted having to try all of these fine young citizens, but he would have to make an example of them in order to encourage others to avoid the treacherous pathway paved by drugs. Prosecuting attorney Robert White announced that he would ask for the death penalty.