

Mitchell Sharp:

Canadians must change political attitudes



Sharp - "This is not time to give up on Canada." He spoke at UNB last Wednesday on invitation from the UNB economics department.

By DERWIN GOWAN
Managing Editor

Former cabinet minister Mitchell Sharp made an appeal to English Canadians to stand up for Canadian unity against separatist attacks in a lecture at MacLaggan Hall last Wednesday night.

"A national consensus as to where we go from here can no longer be taken for granted," he said "the tide is running in favor of the principle on which our nationhood is founded—diversity without division."

Debaters take note

Mackay Shield competition coming

The annual inter-residence debating competition for the Mackay Shield will be held on the weekend of March 26 and 27. The competition will follow the same lines as in recent years, with the subject for debate this year being:

"Resolved that this House support the construction and export of nuclear reactors subject to

adequate controls". Any house in the men's or women's residence system may enter up to two teams in the competition. House presidents are in possession of information about rules of procedure and know how to enter a team. Any resident students wishing to take part in the competition should contact their house presidents.

CHSC meeting Mar. 21

By TOM EVANS

The College Hill Social Club will have its annual general meeting on Monday, March 21 at 7:pm in the Ballroom.

The agenda includes election of new officers, president report and consideration by the members of a

possible new move. The most important item on the agenda will be the report on the recent financial statement by the local Chartered Accountant who proposed it.

This should be a very informative meeting for all club members. Maybe more light will be shed on the \$12,000 loss.

Be where the action is—

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and most Canadians were in agreement as to what policies the government should follow.

Modern Canadian government was built during World War Two, said Sharp - and following the war, it followed four main aims: First to prevent a repetition of the Great Depression. Second, to minimize the privations that had resulted in pre-war years from unemployment, sickness, old age, poor crops and low farm prices. Third, to promote greater equality of opportunity. Fourth to enable the

poorer provinces to discharge their constitutional responsibilities by underpinning their revenues and assisting them financially to raise the standards of their services, in other words, to make Confederation work as was intended.

Photo by Robert Blue

He said the government followed an expansionary program and introduced such programs as old age pensions, welfare, the

Wheat Board, aid to provincial health programs, and tax sharing agreements with the province. Sharp said these policies were successful. There was no repetition of the depression, the real income of the average Canadian rose 300 per cent and social security protects Canadians from privations resulting from old age, sickness, or unemployment, and "higher education is no longer the preserve of the privileged."

However, said Sharp Canada now faces new challenges, some brought about by the very success of the post world war two policies.

He said the federal government should act as a "leader" in bringing other levels of government and the decision-makers in the private

sectors together to make and implement major economic policies.

"Canadians", he said, "will have to modify their customary adversary attitudes, learn to work together and be prepared, to accept more readily leadership from those who have the ultimate responsibility for the health of the economy."

Canadians will have to abandon the motto, "When in doubt, attack the federal government."

Sharp described Canada as "a land to be preserved and nurtured for its unique values of freedom, variety and true democracy, unsurpassed on the face of this globe."

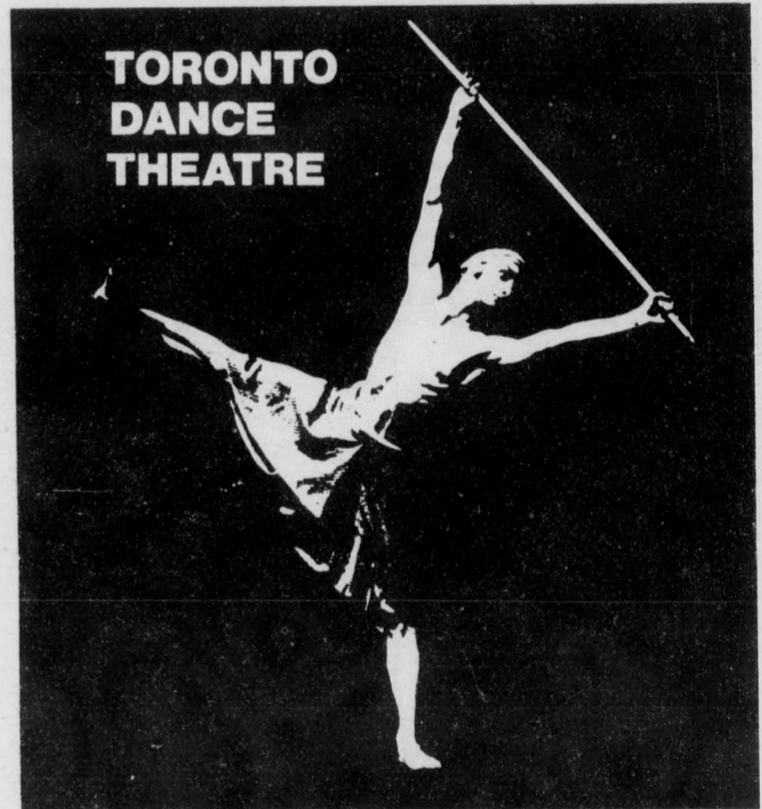
Sharp said the people not the politicians, would decide Canada's fate. He said English Canadians should disassociate themselves from any discrimination against

French Canadians and ensure the press covers opposition to discrimination. Further, he said that Canadians should not act as though Quebec were going to separate and appealed particularly to businesspersons not to "create the impression that they are running for cover because separation is inevitable."

The roots of separation lie deep said Sharp "They are embedded in a conviction on the part of the separatists that this country does not provide an opportunity for French Canadians to attain their legitimate aspirations."

However, he also said, "There are without doubt, two societies in Canada but there need not be two solitudes."

Describing federalism as the better cause, Sharpe concluded, "This is no time to give up on Canada."



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