

Leftist Cannon fires parting shot

Almost 70 years of active political life on the left, ended with the death of James P. Cannon on August 21, 1974.

Born in the mid-western United States, he began his political life at the age of 16 defending political prisoners. Two years later he joined with Eugene Debs and the Socialist Party and a couple of years later he signed up with the "Wobblies" (International Workers of the World).

Cannon became a founding member of the Communist Party of the U.S. and upon its degeneration; a founding member of its successor, the Socialist Workers Party, a party he helped build until his death.

He was the recipient of a tribute September 20th at a Vanguard Forum, "Edmonton's only weekly forum for discussion of the Left".

Cannon was a key figure in the beginnings of the U.S. Communist Movement, having received his political education with Debs' followers and the Wobblies.

The American Communist Party founded in 1920, with Cannon as a main leader, was quite different from the party of today. It was a revolutionary party with the best militants of the time in its membership.

After the 6th Congress of the Communist International in 1928, Cannon and a Canadian, Maurice Spector, decided to begin an international fight within the Communist parties to halt that they saw as the slide into bureaucratized conservatism.

With this action, his career in the party was destroyed and

shortly thereafter he and a few followers were expelled.

During WW II, he again made headlines when he and 27 other radicals were jailed for over a year for defying the Smith Act and speaking out against the war.

Through the fifties, Cannon remained a key part of a leadership team that laid the ground work for the largest and most influential party of the American Left.

In the mid-fifties he semi-retired from politics, but he remained active as a writer, theoretician and advisor to new left members.

Cannon maintained the ideas of his youth throughout his life. In his last few years, still equipped with a quick intelligent mind, he stated that world socialism was very close, that the days of the free-enterprise system are numbered.

In his last interview, about one month before his death, at the age of 84, Cannon stated:

"If I can convey any suggestion to you, its this - the longer you live in this fight, the more determined you are to try to win it and the more confident you are that the human race will survive."

Forums -here's how

How many students on campus know what forums are; No - it doesn't have anything to do with the Broadway winning play. A funny thing happened on the way to the forum. Forums, are however a meeting of people.

Forums (in the University of Alberta context) refer to any number of speakers - either lecturing or discussing a particular topic. These may range from the very formalized atmosphere in SUB Theatre to a relaxed atmosphere conducive to participation to a jam session of ideas. The topics are tailored to the demands of a varied clientele - the university student and interested community persons. Forums are devoted to continuing education outside of

regular classes in attempting to meet the learning needs of the varied and wide range of interests of students.

Topics of forums will range from politics to religion to art, science and recreation. Forums planned for the 1974-75 year will include poet readings and a speaker on China.

The purpose of university forums is to strive to participate in contemporary issues; issues that are important and relevant to the people in his community. These are designed to help meet community needs for information.

Lastly....forums are comprised of people. People who are interested. So come join in and see what they are all about - it won't cost you anything, but your time.

U of M drama professor to direct new play

The University of Alberta Department of Drama recently announced the appointment of Howard Dallin as Visiting Assistant Professor. Professor Dallin taught at the University of Minnesota and the University of Manitoba last year, and while in Winnipeg he directed *Esker Mike And His Wife Agiluk* at Manitoba Theatre Centre Warehouse Theatre.

As assistant manager at the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Howard Dallin worked under John Hirsch and Michael Langham. In 1970 he was awarded a Bush-McKnight Fellowship at the University of

Minnesota. Canadian-born, he has acted in over 20 productions for university theatre, summer stock, community theatre, CBC radio, and regional repertory, and had directed in Oregon and Minnesota in such plays as *The Homecoming*, *Feiffer's People*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Philoctetes*, *Ubu Roi*, *The Dance of Death* and *Play Strindberg for Me*. Last summer, he taught at the Banff School of Fine Arts.

Howard Dallin will direct the world premiere of the Clifford Lee National Playwriting Contest prizewinner, *The Injured*, to be presented at Studio Theatre, January 9 - 18.

The University of Alberta

cordially invites you to a lecture

"Quiet diplomacy and other forms of diplomacy"

by

His Excellency Gunnar Jarring

Swedish Diplomat

Thursday, October 3, at 8:00 p.m.

Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

Free advance tickets may be obtained at the Students' Union Building ticket office and at the Auditorium box office on the evening of the lecture.

ARTS & SCIENCE BY - ELECTIONS

Nominations will be accepted between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the SU General Office (256 SUB) on Friday, Oct. 4, 1974 for the following positions:

ARTS -

1 S.U. REP

2 G.F.C.

SCIENCE -

1 S.U. REP

4 G.F.C.

Forms and more information may be obtained in the SU General Office.

Elections, if necessary, will be held:

FRIDAY OCT. 11, 1974

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