

Host of 'Seven Days' raps Socreds, tenure and doctors

By AL SCARTH

CBC's Laurier LaPierre is a man afraid.

The controversial host on This Hour Has Seven Days says he fears the indoctrination program called Social Credit, the shocking problem of tenure at the University of Alberta, the brutalization of Quebec by religion, and the nauseating picture of the medical profession.

The Director of French-Canada Studies at McGill lashed out at discrimination by Ontario physicians against Asian doctors.

LaPierre claims doctors are discriminatory, close-mouthed, close-shopped. "Darling, I'm sorry, but there is IS discrimination against foreign doctors in Ontario if they are Asiatics," he said.

U of A, he says, is a frightening university. "There is an anxiety here that is unproductive; an atmosphere very close to fear. I would not come to this university even if especially asked to do so. The government does not really believe in higher education; in Alberta it is more important to believe than to know."

Mr. LaPierre was in Edmonton to address students at a Varsity Guest Weekend Teach-in.

GREATEST PROBLEM

He told The Gateway Canada's greatest problem is not of identity but of commitment.

"We are afraid to take risks, to commit ourselves in order to achieve what we want," he said.

"In Canada there seems to be something missing to move people. The great drawback of this country is its moderation. We're dead! We're dead! We're dead!"

"There is a ghettoish bunch from my province who are involved in contemplating their belly-buttons and thinking things are great just because they are French," he said.

Mr. LaPierre said all national parties are plagued by a great Canadian dilemma, "the existence of many millions of people to the south who are more dynamic, more enthusiastic, and richer than we are."

Gimmicks such as Teach-ins, says LaPierre, waste too much time.

"Why not channel our enthusiasm into an immediate environment and act?" he asked. "I understand the Indian problem is fantastic in Alberta."

Green hits apathy of Canadian people

By MARION CONYBEARE

Howard Green is losing faith in the Canadian people.

Upon his arrival at the airport Friday for the teach-in, the former minister of foreign affairs said the greatest danger today is "the willingness to be subservient on the part of Canadians."

"We used to have a stronger national feeling," he said.

Part of the reason for the apathy of Canadians is their involvement with the world. "Take the British and U.S. man on the street," Green said. "They have to be concerned because their sons and relatives are involved in world affairs, but we are not to such an extent."

The best place Canadians can be made aware of their country is at the Universities, he said.

Asked about the chance of a nuclear war, Green said the possibility is slim. "At the moment the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. would suffer too much damage."

He was more concerned with what the lesser powers will do with nuclear weapons. "China is running wild," Green stated.

Green said there is always pressure on the formulation of foreign

policy. "All countries when dealing with you try to convince you that their policies are the right ones."

"Improper pressure is different and we wouldn't put up with it from any country," he said.

On most questions Canada and the U.S. see eye to eye, he added.

Green was concerned with the introduction of nuclear warheads to Canadian soil. He said Canada's position has been lessened by the move.

"I am worried about Canada losing respect for not exercising power and using her own judgment."

When asked if removal of the warheads would help, Green answered, "as far as Canada's reputation with the countries of the world goes, that damage has been done, and the action would be of very little value now."

Green said he was anxious to meet George Grant, author of "Lament for a Nation."

"Dr. Grant is the only author who has ever backed me up, and therefore I am right behind him," he said.

Teach-in

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LaPierre defined a country as "the total willingness of the people."

Commitment of the people to their country and to each other," he said is the factor necessary for a positive Canadian identity.

He later blasted Mr. Grant and Mr. Horowitz for their alleged failure to see this point.

Mr. Horowitz agreed with the point made earlier about the affluent society and stated: "there are things we need to do in Canada today that can't be done within the framework of an American society."

He added that although Canada's society is in a chaotic state, we have an advantage in that we can build a better society than the rigidly established one of the United States.

"If we do not recognize the problem of American domination, one day we may well be singing the Star Spangled Banner," he said.

INTERNATIONAL ROLE

John Matheson's talk stressed Canada's strengthening her international role as a means of developing her own identity.

He cited the formation of an Atlantic Community and membership in the European Free Trade Association as two things Canada could strive for.

He mentioned the background Canada has had in international affairs, particularly in the UN and the Commonwealth.

There was some attempt on his part to defend the policies of the Canadian Government as they came under fire.

Mr. LaPierre was asked about the problem of two Canadas in the question period. He replied that the French and English spheres provide an enrichment for Canada.

The problems posed by having two groups, he felt, could be solved by a consensus and commitment on the part of all Canadians.



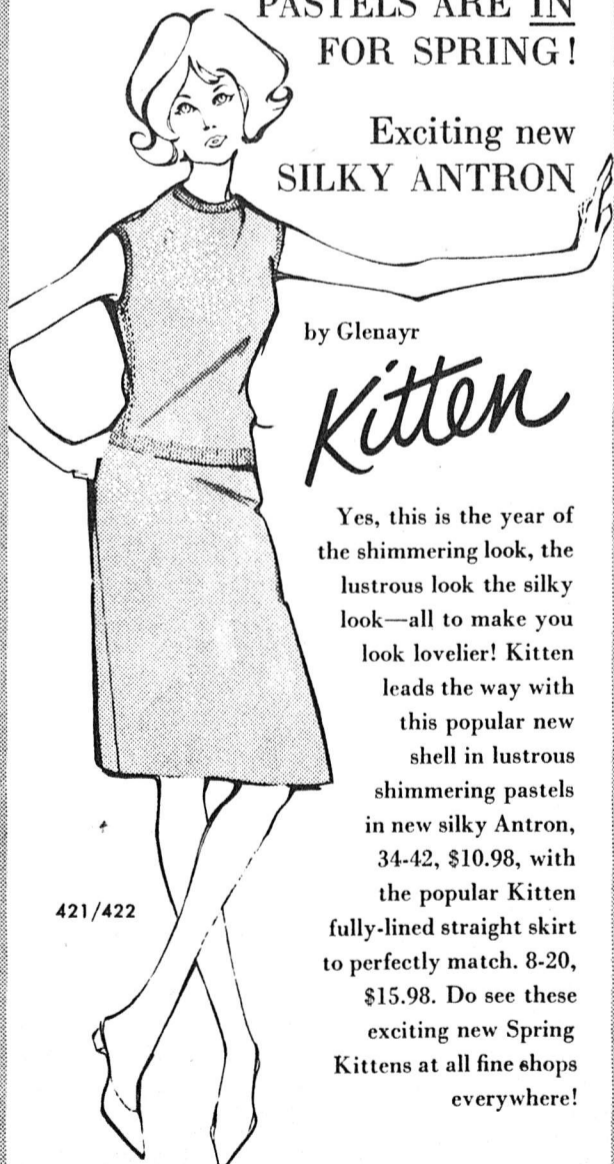
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