

# Big Powers Walking A Nuclear Tightrope

by Bentley Le Baron

"There are a few nations today in the position of tight-rope walkers carrying high explosives. It is true that we who stand below should do nothing to upset the balance, but we certainly should protest when other nations show intentions of climbing to the tight-rope with explosives of their own."

Professor A. M. Mardiros, head of the philosophy department, spoke Thursday in Waukegan Lounge to a group of about sixty, students and faculty, on the dangers of nuclear weapons. He was guest speaker at the organizational meeting of the Combined Universities campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Alberta chapter. The meeting was sponsored by the Student Christian Movement and chaired by SCM president, Shirley McMillen.

Following up the tight-rope metaphor, Prof. Mardiros said that we ought to refuse to carry explosives ourselves and try to induce the nations already on the tight-rope to come down, or at least give up their explosives.

"This problem," he said, "should transcend all political loyalties and local affiliations." He reminded his audience that if the world were stricken with the plague all nations would cooperate to fight a common

danger. And nuclear armament is such a danger because it threatens all nations, "good or bad".

## WAR OUTMODED

"For thousands of years," Prof. Mardiros stated, "war has been used to settle differences, but it is now outmoded because it can no longer achieve its objectives—now it can only end in general destruction."

He said that although some of us are becoming bored with repetition of this theme we must keep talking about it because many people, even in our own country, go on thinking and acting as if war could accomplish something. Some may realize that they can no longer use war but insist on using threat of war to gain their ends. But it is foolish to build strategy on threat of war because such strategy will crumble if the bluff is called.

Prof. Mardiros pointed out that we are now at a crucial point because there are strong pressures on Canada, China, and smaller countries, both communist and western, to develop or accept nuclear weapons.

"The more nations that have them, the greater the danger and the harder to retreat from our position," he said. "It is important that we retreat now."

## UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

He mentioned active pressures in some European countries to give up or refuse nuclear weapons and expressed surprise that in Canada, especially Western Canada, we are apathetic to the problem. This is especially surprising, Prof. Mardiros said, since we are in the direct path

of the missiles which the two opposing giants will hurl at each other.

"Here at an institution of higher learning," he said, "we should be especially anxious to study these problems, formulate decisions, and make ourselves heard. University people should take the responsibility of leadership in thought."

Nuclear weapons are not the only threat that should be considered, Prof. Mardiros added. The problem is now broadened to include biological and chemical warfare, which may soon be as dangerous, or more so.

He made the following proposals: 1. A ban on the testing of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; 2. A ban on these weapons; 3. A ban on conventional armament; 4. Total disarmament, including dismantling of military establishments; 5. Co-operation in combatting common problems such as hunger and disease.

Al Baker reported on a CUCND conference held last spring in London, to which he was a delegate.

Cary Vernon, returned Rhodes Scholar, outlined some of the methods used in Britain for disseminating information on nuclear disarmament.

Peter Paris, SCM general secretary, explained the organization of CUCND and the method of affiliating as an Alberta chapter.

A provisional committee including Professor Mardiros, Al Baker, Gary Vernon, Manfred Rupp and Raman Patel was appointed to arrange for another meeting at which an executive is to be appointed.

# Capitalists Abusive

Reverend Dr. David F. Summers, executive secretary of the Religion-Labor Council of Canada addressed the weekly CCF study group Monday noon, Oct. 31. In his talk, he traced the history of labor and its role in society today.

Dr. Summers criticized the many abusive practices that have become a part of many capitalistic organizations, pointing out that the labor cost of a \$2,000 car was only \$78. This, he said, is something that we should all be concerned about, for the welfare of society depends upon the welfare of her working people.

It is the Christian's duty, he said, to take an interest in his government and to participate actively in public affairs. In reply to a later question, Rev. Summers went on to state that the affiliated Catholic and Protestant organizations of the Religion-Labor Council encouraged their members to become actively interested in government, and to join and support the political party of their choice.

The Religion-Labor Council of Canada, a voluntary membership organization, is made up of men of every faith who co-operate in the promotion of social and economic justice.

Founded in the early forties under the leadership of Rev. E. Harold Toye as a means of promoting understanding between church and labor, the Religion-Labor Foundation, as it was then called, grew quickly, until in 1958 it became necessary to employ a full time Executive Secretary.

# Simpson ESS President

Mike Simpson was elected president of the Engineering Students' Society Friday. The other candidate was Teb Webb.

According to ESS Vice-President Roberta L. Hemmings, 288 ballots were cast. This amounts to 22 per cent of the electorate.

Friday's election was preceded by a meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Agricultural Building. The two presidential candidates were introduced there to the members that attended.

Vice-President Hemmings commented on the pathetic turnout for the meeting. Sixty members were present.

Honorary ESS President Prof. R. W. Ansley, of the Civil Engineering Department, spoke on the engineers' role in the Canadian economy. After the meeting, the members were shown a film on the construction of the Trans Canada Pipeline.

Webb Memorial Competition papers were discussed at Thursday's meeting. All interested persons are asked to get their papers ready before the end of January.

The Webb Memorial Competition enables ESS members to express themselves in literary and vocal manner. The papers are of a technical nature.

Prizes for the top three Webb papers are awarded at the annual Engineers' banquet in March. The prizes are \$50, \$30 and \$20 in that order.

An advertising committee for the Nurses-Engineers Dance early in December will "go into action soon."

## TRAIN FOR TOMORROW

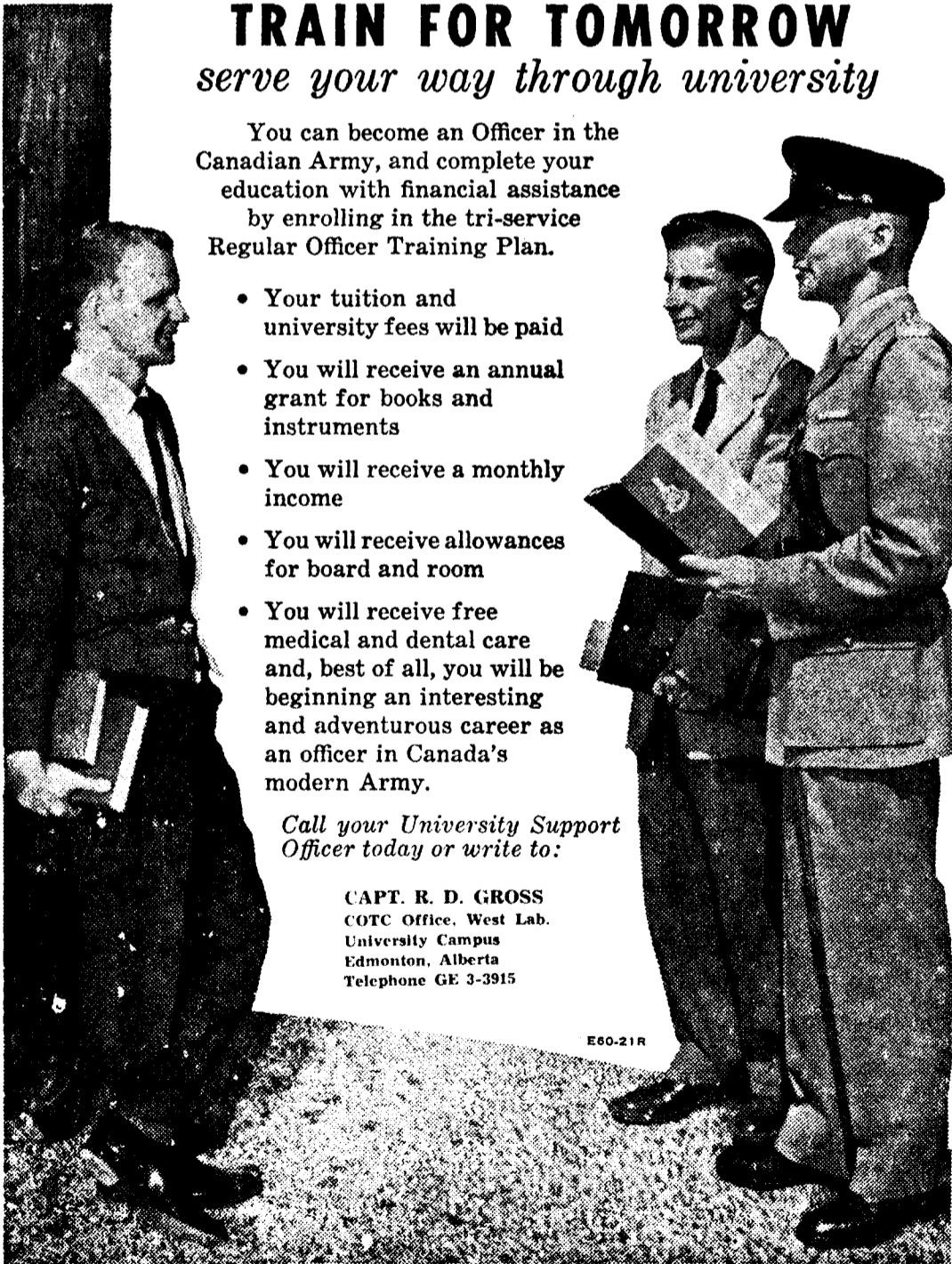
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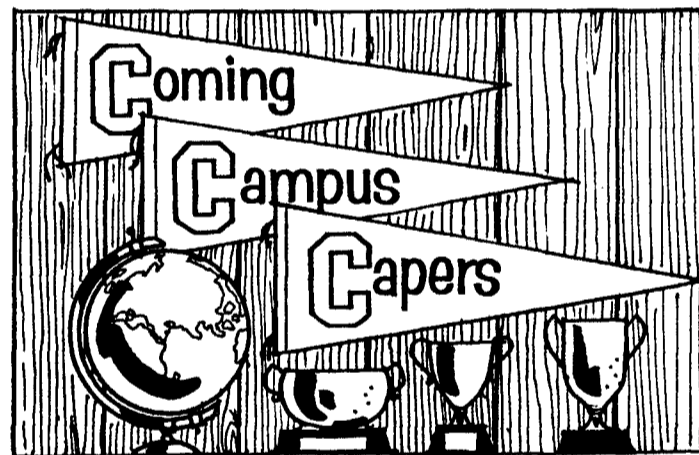
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### EVENTS

November—

- 10-11—Basketball, Harlem Stars at U of A
- 11—Memorial Service, Con Hall
- 12—Club '61 Mardi Gras Ball
- 16-19—Auntie Mame, Jub. Aud.
- 19—Bromo Ball
- 20—Musical Club Concert

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