

featurette

# CANADIAN OBSERVES U.S. SCENE

By PETER HYNDMAN

Peter Hyndman, last year's Students' Union President at U of A, was asked by Gateway Features to comment on the Cuban situation as seen from Harvard where he is a graduate student in Political Economy. It is interesting to note how much more widespread and definite the reaction towards Kennedy's decision on Cuba was at Harvard than at the U of A. C.A.

HARVARD, Mass.—The Cuban crisis took Harvard by storm. Awaiting the President's message "of the highest national urgency" last Tuesday, speculation among students here centered on three possibilities: Berlin, the Indian-Red Chinese conflict, or Cuba. Most people guessed correctly.

I waited in the television lounge of a graduate dormitory for an hour and a half, for a chance to see Mr. Kennedy, and at that had to settle for a poor seat. For the eighteen minutes he spoke, matches and heavy breathing were all that punctuated a tension-filled silence.

As he concluded ("God willing") the national anthem emitted from the screen and the lounge slowly filled with conversation. The libraries were almost empty—it was a night for talking and not reading.

Many persons were definitely scared and fully expected nuclear war; Radcliffe College turned into an evening of "what I would do with only one day to live"; a girl at Wellesley was shocked by my roommate's telephone call to ask her out for Saturday; and many fellows dejectedly thought of their studies interrupted, perhaps forever. A fellow economist from the University of Toronto had by midnight noted the steadily increasing flights of jet aircraft south over Boston.

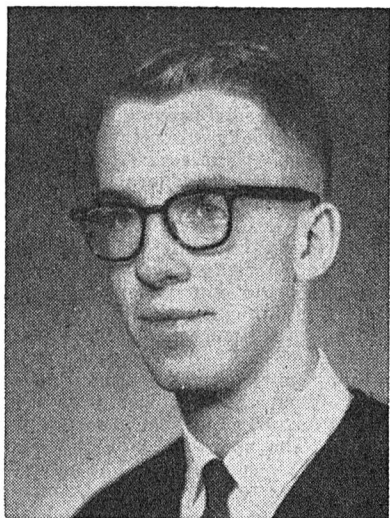
This is not to suggest that the atmosphere was one of panic. But in those hours following the President's address and prior to any public reaction and analysis, everyone felt that the tightrope on which we all have been walking since the cold war started had suddenly tightened, threatening to plunge us

into a nuclear holocaust. People were grim. They were also determined, and right behind the President.

With the flow of reaction and opinion the next morning tension rapidly eased, particularly in view of Mr. Khrushchev's failure to immediately reply with a hard stand threatening direct and unequivocal retaliation, should the United States carry through its plan.

## SMUG SATISFACTION

Politicians throughout the country lined up behind the President. This crisis has, I feel, guaranteed the Democrats a strong showing in the national elections November 6; it will be recalled that the Republicans fared very well in 1956 at the time of the Suez crisis.



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People will likely miss the fact that the President's actions have substantially vindicated the pronouncements of the G.O.P. during the last month; and Senator Goldwater, who eighteen months ago was assailed on all sides for proposing a blockade of Cuba, must have derived smug satisfaction from Mr. Kennedy's dictum.

Here on the Harvard campus H. Stuart Hughes, intellectual historian and would-be Independent Sen-

ator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, produced the first political reaction to the new "crisis policy." Wednesday night nine-hundred persons jammed the Lowell Lecture Hall (some two thousand were turned away) to hear about "alternatives to war over Cuba." The bulletin advertising the meeting carried only one quote from anyone—Prime Minister Dieffenbaker. The net result of this riotous meeting was general agreement that the U.N. should be used as the vehicle for arresting the crisis.

## CUT OFF SUPPLY OF CANNONBALLS

Thursday night, the Director of the Columbia Institute of Communist affairs came to the campus and in effect argued that Premier Castro be castrated militarily.

Tomorrow night, in what will doubtless be the anti-antithesis as opposed to the traditional Hegelian synthesis, a gentleman whose credentials include general involvement with most Communist dominated student organizations in Central and South America will speak.

The Harvard Crimson ran two editorials on the Cuban crisis; the majority opinion of the Board of Editors was that President Kennedy had seriously erred in speaking over the Cubans to the Soviets and not giving Premier Castro the benefit of a forty-eight hour ultimatum to indicate just how much of the situation he controlled; the minority opinion supported almost completely the President's move. The nation's press was complete in its endorsement of the President.

Controversy on the Harvard campus has concerned two aspects of the crisis policy: its timing and its details. Many argue that the move is still too late; many argue that the policy lacks flexibility. And there is feeling that a complete invasion would have produced a potentially safer situation, assuming that the Soviets would not wish to wage an all-out war in the Cuban theatre.

How does a Canadian without the benefit of any of Professors Davy's training feel about the situation?

I feel there was great need for a firm, determined, and forward move by the West in the cold war; for too long we have been only reacting to initial Soviet moves.

On the other hand, I can find absolutely no legal or logical arguments to support the United States move; (1) international law has been cast to the winds, (2) the U.N. has been completely bypassed (at least initially), "unique historical relationships" do not constitute the grounds for aggression, and the United States is trying to accommodate itself to a situation which has been a fact of Russian life for some time. But do these things really matter when one faces an enemy ideologically committed to perfidy, treachery, and deceit as reasonable means to its ends?

And so I find myself substantially supporting the form, but not the exact content, of the United States move. It becomes abundantly clear that, in leading the West, the United States takes a great national risk in such matters and this should produce solid support from her Allies. Prime Minister Macmillan rose to the occasion; to the moment, Mr. Dieffenbaker has failed to explicitly outline Canada's stand vis-a-vis the American position.

## CHARLATAN ORGANIZATION

Needless to say the remarks by Mr. Nugent in the Commons required some explaining here, and there should be concern for both what he said and his motives. This applies as well to a charlatan organization representing Canadian student opinion which, according to reports here, immediately denounced the United States move.

NFCUS, the actual voice of the Canadian students, presently is powerless to produce an opinion so speedily (if at all), and the whole Cuban affair, with its need for Western solidarity, raises the question of whether NFCUS should review its policy with respect to the representation of Canadian student opinion on political matters. (Dave Jenkins, more work!)

Joseph Alsop has presented the most interesting theory to date: he suggests the possibility of a "vicious military trap" for President Kennedy in the form of "free first strike capability" by the Soviets in Cuba, leading to a surrender or destruction ultimatum. If such might have been the case, there are clear grounds for a move by the United States.

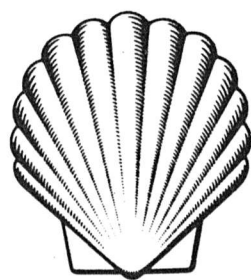
One can argue the Cuban situation endlessly, and by the time you are reading this the situation will have likely again changed. In the final analysis, one's opinion appears to rest with one's position on the political spectrum bounded by war in the defence of freedom on the one hand, and appeasement to preserve life on the other.

## Ram Droppings Coming Home

TORONTO (CUP)—Ram droppings are playing an undisputed part in the homecoming activities at Ryerson Institute of Technology.

"Count the ram droppings" is the word, and the contributions of area rams (names withheld for obvious reasons) sit in unpalatable glory in a jar waiting to be counted.

The correct answer, or if you can stomach a guess, of the number of goodies is a chauffeur-driven limousine escort to the big dance of the weekend.



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