

150 listen at Burton

Can't forget the rest of Canada: Marchand

By DEBIE PEKILIS

Canada's unity is being threatened by sectional differences and our preoccupation with the potential separation of Quebec is causing us to ignore the alienation that is felt and being heard in other provinces, said Senator and former cabinet minister Jean Marchand to an audience of York students and faculty last week in Burton Auditorium.

"This country has never been integrated and has always had problems in different regions," he said. "We will not solve all the problems just by worrying about Quebec and ignoring the rest of the country. We must look at the problems in the Maritimes, out West, in BC, all over if we are going to solve them."

He said that the western farmers are convinced that they have been fooled by central Canada.

"They are convinced that they are paying more for their equipment to pay for the industry of central Canada. They see the discrimination in prices when they

know they are paying twice as much as the farmers in Montana."

ALIENATION

He said that since 1942, the federal government has grown weaker in relation to the provinces, and their governments have grown much stronger. "Don't forget about the Quebec problem, but keep in mind that the rest of Canada is feeling a similar kind of alienation."

"Right now, politicians are saying in public, 'Let's be all united and be Canadian.' I say we will be Canadian when we have integration in the provinces and in the various levels of the government," he said.

Concerning the situation in Quebec, Marchand said he does not doubt that the results of the November election will have "serious, long-lasting consequences."

He said the people of Quebec were tired of the corruption and debts of Robert Bourassa's government. Although the majority of Quebecers didn't favour the PQ before the election, many of them do now. "They intended to create a

paradise, lick inflation and improve social welfare. Now the people of Quebec really believe the PQ will create the paradise." This promise, and their budget of \$11 million, had an impact on the people, Marchand said.

He added that the number of hardcore separatists has risen from 5 per cent before the election to 22 per cent. "It is useless to discuss separation with them. You will never convince them it is better for them to stay in Canada. No matter how much you tell them they will lose, they still think you want them to stay in Confederation so you can keep them in an inferior situation."

However, he mentioned that the majority of Quebecers are still frightened by the idea of separation. "That's why the PQ is implementing these social security and economic measures, to win the people over. When they think they are strong enough, they will hold the referendum and ask for the mandate to separate."

Marchand talked about Quebec Premier Rene Levesque's latest proposal to separate but maintain an association with the rest of Canada. "They must know first if Canada is ready to form this association and under what conditions. They don't know this yet. It is like saying, I want to marry this lady, but she doesn't know about it yet. I had better tell her so she will know what is going on."

US GIANT

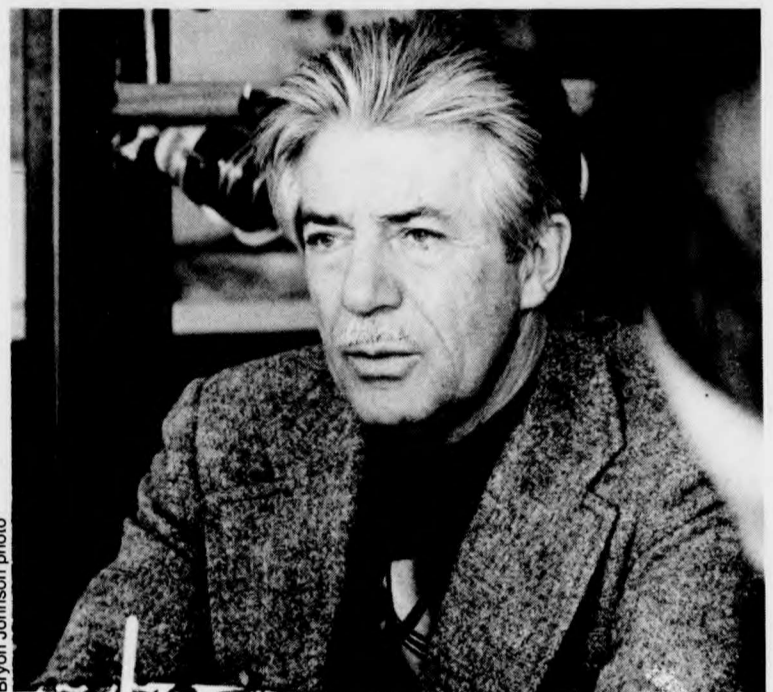
He emphasized that if Confederation breaks up it will be difficult to overcome the gigantic influence of the United States. "Our whole life revolves around this giant."

Marchand was asked by a member of the audience why so many young people in Quebec support the PQ.

"We always had a group of young people who were unwilling to be a minority in their country," he said. "And not only among the young people. I am 58 years old and I have been in public life for 35 years and I still feel I am in a minority position. In the West, they think French-Canadians are a minority like the others, but we are not."

He proceeded to give several examples, some from his own life, of discrimination against French-Canadians.

"Ottawa was never bilingual. We always felt we were in a foreign country there. Now it is better, with bilingualism in the civil services.



Bryon Johnson photo

Canada's newest Senator, Jean Marchand is caught relaxing in Calumet's Ainger coffee shop following a speech on the future of Canada, given in Burton auditorium. Marchand was appointed a Senator after he failed in a bid to be elected as a Liberal to the Quebec National Assembly last November.

But when it was first brought in, in 1972, they had that backlash."

Another questioner asked whether Western alienation with the federal government was due to their insensitivity and preoccupation with Quebec and Ontario.

Marchand answered that the West is not represented in the federal cabinet. MP's in Manitoba and a few in Saskatchewan, but none in Alberta. He also pointed out the distance between Ottawa and the

West. "Ottawa is far from everything except Ontario and Quebec."

Marchand said when the provinces are prosperous they give themselves credit, but when something goes wrong they blame it on Ottawa. "Everybody wants to quit the damn country, but they are proud to be Canadians. They don't want to be Americans." Marchand said it is up to the federal government to become nearer to the people.

Youth unemployment could be "explosive"

OTTAWA (CUP) — A national non-governmental social development organization has attacked the "haphazard manner in which federal, provincial and local levels of government intervene" with the problem of youth employment opportunities.

In a statement issued March 15, the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) said that if the youth employment issue, described as severe and chronic, is left unattended, the long term effects "make it economically, politically and socially explosive."

The council, which does research and formulates and promotes social policies, said in its statement that the 1976 unemployment rate for the 15-24 age group averaged 12.8 per cent, compared with 5.1 per cent for those 25 years of age and over. In 1977, the unemployment rate began with a rate of 13.3 per cent on a seasonally-adjusted basis. According to the report, "The ratio between the unemployment rate for young people and that for the remainder of the population has been deteriorating steadily over time. In 1953, it was 1.8 times; in 1964 2.1 times; in 1975, 2.5 times."

The "hidden unemployed" was also a major concern of the council. In 1971, the census reported 187,000 persons aged 15-19 and 356,000 persons aged 20-24 who were not registered in the official labor force nor in school full time or part-time.

The report examined a number of popular myths surrounding youth unemployment. On the question of young people using unemployment insurance benefits for "paid leisure" the report says "young people are actually under-represented among unemployment insurance recipients when compared with their share of total unemployment. There is a simple reason for this. Many of the young unemployed are first-time job seekers with no insurance credits."

"A fifth myth is that the problem of youth and unemployment cannot have become more serious in the 70's because young people have become less volatile and demonstrative than in the 60's. But we must question how representative of young people our images of the 1960's are. Visible forms of protest such as campus revolt were concentrated among young people from upper-income families. For the silent majority of youth — from

middle and lower income families— behavior has not changed, although economic prospects and the job market have deteriorated."

Many of the points discussed in the report were brought up at a conference organized by the council and held in Ottawa January 24-26. That meeting, entitled "Youth and Employment: the Need for Integrated Policies," was an attempt to bring various groups and organizations together for some discussion and possible solutions. As was stated at that meeting, the problem of youth unemployment is not simply one of current numbers. From their report: "Even in a strictly numerical sense, this is an oversimplification (that as the population ages there will be fewer young people). While the 14-19 age group is declining in numbers, the 20-24 age group will continue to grow well into the 1980's."

The council predicts that "the unemployed young people today may simply be the working poor of tomorrow." The assurance of jobs tomorrow, in the 1980's may never be met.



MIGDAL

The Jewish Student Newspaper in Toronto is looking for Editors, Writers, Graphics, Layout, Distribution, etc. INTERESTED???

CALL DEENA 661-0251

YIN COURT

FAMOUS CHINESE FOOD

10% DISCOUNT ON PICK-UP FOOD ORDERS OF \$4.50 OR MORE OR FREE DELIVERY AFTER 5 P.M.

OPEN Monday to Saturday 4 p.m. till 1 a.m. Sunday 4 p.m. till 11 p.m.

TELEPHONE: 667-8282

1033 STEELES AVENUE WEST

(1 block west of Bathurst; Willowdale)

York University Theatre Department

presents

Theatre Parade

Act Without Words and Come and Go by Samuel Beckett

Monologue by Harold Pinter

Calling for help by Peter Handke

A monologue for Every man by Doubie Greenberg

directed by Doubie Greenberg, Soozie Schlanger and Patricia Tuck

March 24, 25 & 26 8:30 p.m.

Admission and parking are free

Harbourfront

235 Queen's Quay West, 1/2 mile west of the ferry docks. For details call 369-4951