

Hinton Impressive on China

On Thursday, November 21st, over 300 people gathered in the McInnis Room to hear William Hinton speak on the "Continuing Revolution in China." Hinton is one of the foremost authorities in the Western world on Peoples' Republic of China. His best known book, *Fanshen*, is based on his experiences as an observer of the reform program in a particular village in China between 1947-49. His other major works include *Iron Oxen*, *Hundred Day War* and *Turning Point in China*.

His first brief encounter with China was in 1937 during a trip from Japan to Europe. He returned to China in 1945 as a analyst for the U.S. government, and again in 1947 as a tractor mechanic with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation (UNRRA). When UNRRA was dismantled, soon after his arrival, he stayed on in China to teach English at Northern University. Here he became an observer with a land reform work team and gathered material on Long Bow Villiage, the setting for his classic *Fanshen*.

Hinton remained in China until 1953 gathering material on agricultural development which is documented in *Iron Oxen*. On his return to the U.S., his notes on *Fanshen* were seized by the F.B.I. though he had committed no crime. This was done under the auspices of the notorious House Committee on Un-American Activities. As a result *Fanshen* was not published until 1966. Hinton revisited China in 1971 to study the effects of the Cultural Revolution of 1966-69. This trip resulted in the publication of two more books: *Hundred Day War* and *Turning Point in China*.

In describing the continuing revolution in China, Hinton talked about where China was in 1949, where it has come since then, and where it would like to go in the future and how the people are striving to achieve

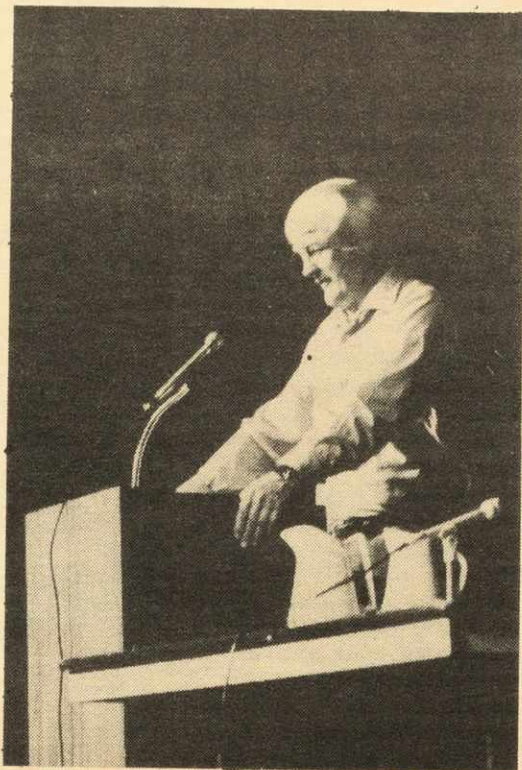


Photo by: Tom Mooney

this.

Hinton stressed the extraordinary achievements of the Chinese People in the past 25 years. He told of the old China, the "sick man of Asia" as it was called, where the majority of the people were actually starving, where 90% of the people were illiterate, where the daily struggle of the individual was for survival, that has been transformed by its people into a nation where there has been a rapid growth in production of goods and services and where the average person is well fed, clothed, sheltered and educated.

This pattern of solution and new difficulties has given rise to what Hinton called "the dynamic transformation of Chinese society." Hinton said that the Chinese feel that they must continue to develop their society because the conservative tradition of over 3,000 years would return the society to pre-revolutionary times when only a few selfish interests were satisfied. The Chinese believe that they must eliminate the "class

concepts" of the peasants. To them, according to Hinton, this is essential if they want to continue and consolidate the gains they have already made toward egalitarianism.

Hinton presented Chinese society not as a utopia, but a society struggling for the good of all the people. A society which has had its successes as well as its failures. Nonetheless, the dynamic transformation of the cooperative path has improved considerably the people's health, education, and standard of living.

He portrayed a society where the inhuman conditions of life prior to the revolution have been eliminated in just a quarter century. Hinton remains conscious of the shortcomings of the Chinese way of life and he said that they are the first to acknowledge their limitations.

Hinton's presentation was impressive, interesting, and lucid. He spoke with an informative, warm, personal style that was objective and perceptive. It was also obvious that he conveyed his

the public interest.

He said that any such action would now be ineffective and act only as a punitive measure against the few remaining non-chain newspapers.

Davey says that if big conglomerates like International Business Machines (IBM) can be broken up, so can newspaper chains.

The Davey report said that 77 of Canada's 116 daily newspapers were owned in 1970 by groups including F.P. Publications with eight dailies, the Southam Group with 11, Thomson newspapers with 30, the Desmarais-Parisien-Francoeur group in Quebec with four and New Brunswick industrialist K.C. Irving with five.

"This is not exactly conducive to press freedom," the report said.

Except for its recommendation that tax exemptions be ended for Time magazine and Reader's Digest, says Senator Davey, he is not optimistic about government action on the media committee's proposals.

Newspaper chain breakup

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Senator Keith Davey, chairman of the 1970 study on the mass media in Canada, says the government should consider breaking up the country's big newspaper chains.

In an interview last week he said its too late to establish a press ownership review board because newspaper chains have grown substantially since his Senate committee recommended such a board four years ago.

When the Davey report was issued in December 1970, chains controlled 60 per cent of Canada's daily newspapers and Davey says now chain ownership has reached 80 per cent.

The Davey report recommended the trend be stopped by establishing a review board to screen chain takeovers of independently-owned newspapers, and block those that were not considered in

IntroDal '75 needs your help

by Sandy Walsh

Once every two years Dalhousie University opens its doors to the public. This event is known as IntroDal. In the past years IntroDal has been a great success and with the help of the students and faculty we can make it a great event again this year. For those of you who may not have heard of IntroDal before, it is a two day exposition of displays representing the Academic departments and Societies at Dalhousie. During these two days high school students and the public in general are given the opportunity to view the facilities on campus, and also to experience a portion of our academic and social life at the university. In an attempt to accomplish this goal, the faculties and societies create exhibits and functions to demonstrate

analysis and knowledge of the continuing revolution in China to a very appreciative audience. The Canada-China Friendship Association and the Dalhousie Student Union should be congratulated for providing us with such a fine lecture.

According to Hinton, one of the most impressive facts about China concerns the kind of people who are in power and those who guide the decision making process in the towns, communes, factories and all other institutions. Decisions are made by the people who work in the factories, universities or fields. It is often the case that ex-beggars, ex-drifters, and once down and out people now take leadership positions with confidence and enthusiasm.

These people have made China into a self-supporting country, inspite of obstacles such as hostile imperialist nations and the deposed ruling class of China, which includes landlords and various capitalist elements now resident and mainly based on Taiwan.

As to the difficulties faced by socialist countries such as China Hinton noted, "The crises of socialism are quite different, they are crises of development, of change due to moving forward, of solving one set of problems, only to unleash a whole new set."

Hinton cited the land reform program as an example. He said that land reform was not the be all and end all. From the original solving the land reform difficulties other problems arose, such as how people's labor could be shared equally in addition to how farm implements and work animals could be used for common benefit. These problems required a new solution which was the communal ownership of land, draught animals and the communal sharing of labor. But similarly, new and more complex problems arose from this social arrangement.

Letters

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To the GAZETTE:

There are generally few things which interest me about the Dal Student Union, the functions they sponsor, and the activities they finance like the Gazette. You might say that I was a member of the apathetic party who couldn't care less about the rah-rah or anything connected with the Union. I'm here to receive a degree which will make money for me and to watch T.V.. You obviously can't do anything about the degree but you sure fucked up the T.V.. As far as I'm concerned the only return I get on my \$40 Student Union fee (or whatever it is) is the T.V. Guide. So if you must cut something out of the Gazette, just simply do away with "professional" editorials; the sports column; "letters to the editor"; the dumb Student Union History, that nobody reads; the rehashed Rolling Stones album reviews; and the disgustingly lousy literary section, and just put out the T.V. guide. You can print the letter in the next week's Gazette along with the T.V. guide since its probably the worst intelligent comment you've had this year.

Sincerely,
Marcus Welby, M.D.

P.S. Needless to say I can't print my name because with a talent like mine you'd be sending all kinds of offers and wierd artsey type GAZETTE freaks to my house in an effort to obtain my services.

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mainly in groups of your peers? Or in one-to-one conversations with attractive people of the opposite sex? Or with "authority figures"? Identifying the troublesome situations can be helpful in that you can then anticipate when you are likely to become anxious and can take preventive measures.

Once the unproductive self-talk is recognized, you must challenge it by substituting more productive thoughts. This is no easy task, since the self-defeating thinking has probably become a habitual pattern. At first it will take a great deal of effort and will power to challenge the old patterns; however, in time the more productive focus can become habitual. One possibility for a more productive, anxiety reducing line of thought is to instruct oneself to pay attention to the task at hand. Another possibility which may be helpful, is to question your perspective. These self-defeating thoughts are usually irrational and involve overgeneralization, exaggeration, etc. Self questioning can prevent you from working yourself into a near panic state even before you enter the situation.

With all of these anxiety management strategies, the goal is simply to take the edge off your discomfort so you can enter into social activities more freely.

To be continued -
next week