

## THORNS FROM THE ROSE

To ban the bomb would be to take away not only the fact but the symbol of the 20th century, which is inordinately proud of its technical and scientific achievements, achievements that have made it possible for us to witness greater acts of barbarity than we could in any other period of history. Nothing out of the past can equal the performance staged by modern men in Nazi Germany and at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, men who have behind them twenty centuries of Christian civilization.

## INTELLECTUALS' FEET

by Jennifer

"The intellectuals in this country aren't willing to get their feet dirty to publicize and expand the peace movement." Thus T. Pocklington, professor of political science, sums up the effect, or lack of it, which the Combined Universities Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and related peace groups have had on the Canadian political and social scene.

Achieving a mass organization, which necessitates a broad popular base, is the immediate objective of CUCND. In fact, in a statement on unity issued by the secretariat of the national organization, CUCND claims that "with a unified campaign for peace based on wide support drawn from all strata and elements of Canadian society, victory for peace is a realizable goal."

CUCND hopes to wield political influence through its increasing ability to command a majority of votes in national elections. It attempts to answer the frustrating question—"but what can I, as an individual, do for peace?" by pointing out, "you can cast a vote for it." More specifically it says, "you

### NEGLECTIBLE INTEREST

can vote for the man or party who favours disarmament and no nuclear weapons for Canada." In spite of these admirable goals, CUCND finds active support only on

university campuses, and even there interest is often negligible. The group's aims are vaguely adhered to by the New Democratic Party, the

### GENERAL DISTASTE

Liberals, and the Social Credit Party, yet this political backing and interest has also failed to involve many people in direct action for peace at a grass-roots level.

Why the lack of "broad popular support" for an organization patterned after the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, a movement which has involved hundreds of thousands of British citizens over the last few years, from philosophers to street laborers?

Part of the trouble is well explained by Professor Pocklington, as quoted in the opening paragraph. Another important factor is a general distaste for direct political action (rallies, marches and vigils) on the part of many Canadians.

**There is no tradition of public**

witness and protestation in a country whose citizens have rarely had to fight for their rights. As a result, popular demonstrations, a principle to which CUCND is committed, are often regarded as undignified, perhaps even subversive, and at the very least, unnecessary.

Also, Canadians and Americans tend to be skeptical about the urgency of disarmament. A continent which has never experienced war

### RESPECTABLE ELITE

on home soil finds it hard to comprehend nuclear disaster.

CUCND's sister organizations such as the National Committee for the Control of Radiation hazards have the more moderate purpose of investigating and publicizing the dangers of radiation and possible safeguards against it. Perhaps such organizations of experts and well-informed laymen are more acceptable

politically and socially than peace marchers, but again the group is comprised of a respectable elite which would probably express intelligent concern over any significant issue. NCCRH and groups like it simply are not the basis for a popular peace movement.

Is there potentially such a basis? Conceivably yes, in labour unions or

### PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

religious and civic organizations, where people could be reached at their own level of interest and in terms familiar to them. But it probably isn't necessary.

Democracy is a "big business" these days. Elections are won or lost by the popular vote, to be sure, but votes are won or lost not on actual issues but by a wise or poor psychological approach to the voters. Also, once in office, a government and legislators can do what they wish, within fairly broad pre-defined limits.

Although the coming election will probably be held on the issue of nuclear arms for Canada, it is unlikely that the Canadian people will have a significant choice to make, since the leaders of the major parties seem to agree that Canada should not have nuclear weapons

### IF ALL ELSE FAILS

unless "all else fails" (whatever that may mean).

Peace is now in the hands of specialists—the statesmen and scientists. Agitation for disarmament at the popular level may serve to inform the politicians of the tenor of a certain segment of the country. It is not likely, now, or if the peace groups grow as rapidly as they hope to in the future, to change the course of history or even an important vote of Parliament.



JENNIFER'S CONFERENCE . . .

Baker, deVlieger, Hyndman, Chapman

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