

# Editorial

## Senate Committee a Farce

The Canadian Senate's Committee on Poverty held its Halifax hearings in the McInnes Room of the SUB this week, and as a result poor Nova Scotians from all walks of life have new hope for a bright future. They can now struggle on in the realization that Pierre and the Federal government are really 'doing something' about poverty in this country.

We doubt it... and so do the poor people.

At the time of writing, the committee has not yet met. This poses no real problems, however, as the machinations, output, and ultimate value of such touring side shows are by now well known.

The Committee will hear everything from the most academic to the feeblest of presentations.

They will ask patronizing questions -- inane questions... a quota of questions to which answers are irrelevant.

Some who play the game will betray creeping senility. Others, refusing the gamble, will doze placidly. "Yes indeed, tsk tsk tsk" they'll mumble in hushed unions before packing their bags for the flight to the best hotel in the next Canadian poverty centre.

There are four such poverty centres, as the Committee sees the situation, for they will formulate a comprehensive report, complete with sweeping recommendations, from their exercises in four Canadian cities. The senators must be commended for their apparent powers of generalization.

After the round of receptions and din-

ners which break up the dreary business of listening to the poor, after four token hearings, the esteemed Senators will get down to the business of drafting a report, for consideration sometime in 1975.

It will describe in superficialities the desperate character and extent of poverty in Canada. Any thoroughness will come from sources other than the deaf hearings.

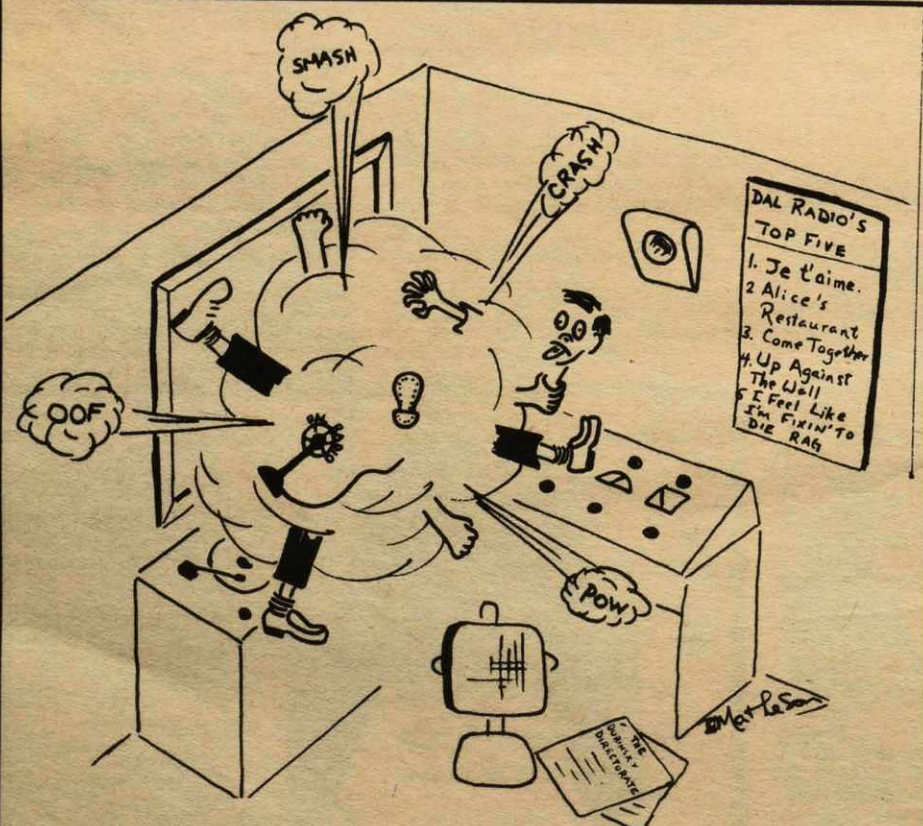
The recommendations in the report will be wishy-washy and ineffectual. The senators will not see the real causes of poverty and suffering, rather they will hide behind the traditional explanations and 'cures' which have never explained anything or eradicated any social ills.

The report will then be received, tagged, indexed and filed along with countless others in the climate controlled dust room on Parliament hill.

**It is glaringly obvious by now that Senate Committees, Royal Commissions and the like are in no way designed to attack the problems they name themselves after.**

**They are nothing more than deceptions that travel about the land pacifying the people (when they fall for it) and glossing over the facts. The people pay through the nostrils to be poor-mouthed and ignored.**

**The Senate Committee on Poverty is a farce. It is nothing more than an apologist for a rich man's government. And governments like Pierre's are nothing more than apologists for the economic system which perpetrates poverty and misery in the first place.**



"No doubt some of you will be unhappy with the present situation." -Dubinsky

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