

## Ex-premier goes to Western

# University — rest home for aging politicians

LONDON, ONT. (CUP) — What can you do with a slightly used politician?

In the Soviet Union, they don't have the problem of what to do with old officials. For that matter, they don't have any old politicians.

In France, no government remains in power long enough to accumulate them. South American rulers retire with the country's treasury to the Riviera after a decent period in office.

But here in Canada, it seems, we send them off to pasture in the nearest college or university, offering our long suffering heroes choice administrative plans for which they return money and business savvy.

The latest in a series of personnel transfers from government to university management is the recent appointment of Ontario's ex-premier John Robarts as chancellor of University of Western Ontario.

How can Robarts help Western in his new unsalaried position? The usual ploy historically in Canadian universities was to appoint a wealthy businessman to the chancellorship in an attempt to morally obligate the businessman into granting money for the creation of

new departments or the construction of new buildings.

This concept, while still an operable one, is gradually giving way to a different scheme: that of appointing men to chancellorships, presidencies, and directorships on the basis of business and political influence, rather than on the basis of personal wealth and experience.

UWO, like most other Canadian universities, looks for new members for their board of governors who can establish (or approve) policies and objectives for the university, and who can evaluate the university's performance against those objectives. They look for board members who can be responsible for ensuring effective continuing management of their university.

Management capabilities, however, while desirable to universities who view themselves as businesses, is no longer quite enough. What the universities are looking for are men with strong financial and political connections and affiliations.

John Robarts fits the bill perfectly.

Since retiring from political office (and he still maintains considerable influence within the Progressive Conservative Party which has ruled Ontario for more than two decades)



Former prime minister Lester Pearson (left) chats with former York president Murray Ross at Glendon's opening five years ago. Pearson never made it to York but got a cushy job at Carleton when he retired from politics.

he has become an active businessman. Since March 1971, he has joined the boards of directors of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, of Midland-Osler Securities Ltd., and of Metropolitan Life of New York.

His political pull, at a time when Ontario's universities are about to come under a greater degree of state control, will be an invaluable asset to Western in the years ahead.

university administrations who are moving closer and closer to the concept of university-as-big-business, and who are looking to old political leaders to supply the necessary connections to establish the universities financially.

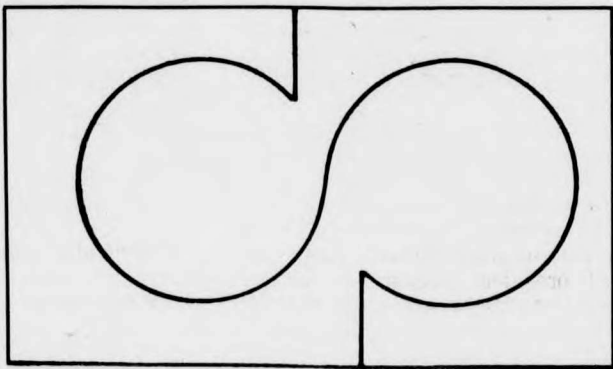
For example, Lester Pearson accepted the chancellorship of Carleton University in 1969, shortly after retiring from active partisan political life. Walter Pitman, former Ontario deputy leader and leadership contestant for the NDP, recently accepted the position of dean of arts and science at Trent University.

Alan Frecker, longtime senior cabinet minister for the Newfoundland Liberals, was appointed chancellor at Memorial University of Newfoundland last spring. And Robert Thompson, former leader of the Social Credit Party, will become administrative vice-president of a religious liberal arts college in British Columbia after the next election.

And so on and on until the former ivory towers are crammed with aging statesmen, and the university as a place of value-free education is forsaken to an ever-tightening politico-economic system.

How does he envisage his job at Western? "The chancellor makes himself as necessary to the university as the things he chooses to take on," he said, adding that there were things he would learn as time went on and he attended university board meetings.

Robarts is not an isolated example — he is part of a trend among



### Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario ANNOUNCEMENT

The Draft Report of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario has been published and is now available. In its Report the Commission explains its proposals for the development of post-secondary education in this province during the next 20 years and the reasoning behind these proposals.

Copies of the Draft Report in English and French are available free from the Ontario Government Bookstore, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, and from the Commission.

Before formally submitting a report to the Government of Ontario, the Commission is asking for public comments once more. Public meetings are being arranged in selected centres to provide full opportunity for all interested individuals and organizations to express opinions and offer discussion on the Commission's draft report.

The following public meetings have been scheduled:

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>February 28</b> | Ontario Room, Macdonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto.                   |
| <b>March 1</b>     | Government Conference Centre, 2 Rideau Street, Ottawa.                  |
| <b>March 6</b>     | City Hall, S. H. Blake Memorial Auditorium, Donald Street, Thunder Bay. |
| <b>March 8</b>     | Sudbury Public Library, 74 MacKenzie Street, Sudbury.                   |
| <b>March 20</b>    | Centennial Hall, Wellington Street, London.                             |
| <b>March 22</b>    | Ontario Room, Macdonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto.                   |

Details of the procedure for making written submissions may be obtained from the **Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario, Suite 203, 505 University Avenue, Toronto 101, Ontario.**

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- [5] Participation of candidates in administration and planning of the Faculty of Education;
- [6] Unexcelled facilities in the new academic-residential complex, Duncan McArthur Hall.

Applicants must already hold an undergraduate degree or be eligible for graduation by September 1972. Elements emphasized in the selection of teacher candidates include professional motivation, academic competence, and communication skills.