

manages cattle-raising plant

Castro's brother gets standing ovation

by Paul Creelman

Ramon Castro, brother of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, manager of a cattle-raising plant and second-time recipient of the "Hero of Work" award, received a standing ovation for his speech at Saint Mary's University last Friday.

Among his more popular remarks was a call for the developed countries to spend less on arms and other military expenses.

"Of the money spent on building weapons in a year, only 12 per cent of this could solve the debt of all countries including Canada, and the banks won't lose any money," said Castro. While touring Canada, Castro visited Montreal, Ottawa and Halifax. "Can you imagine that you wake up some morning and everything will be destroyed?" Castro asked his audience. "So why are we going to start a Star Wars now? We have an actor to thank for that."

Castro was officially speaking on rural development in Cuba,

tion, have been achieved by workers and farmers who have struggled to apply science and technology, he said. "The old Spanish cattle brought over from Spain just kept the cats alive," said Castro. "Later on, however, we imported some of the best semen from Canada rather than the bulls themselves." This resulted in increases in milk and beef production, said Castro.

There was some amusement regarding the Canadian bulls referred to by Castro, who at one point referred to "toros Canadienos" and patted one of the Canadian participants on the shoulder.

Castro then proceeded to talk about the agricultural cooperatives in the rural areas of Cuba. These state farm cooperatives have 36,200 members, and all of the 77,200 farmers who own the land have joined the cooperatives.

"People in these communities have household appliances and running water. People who live in these communities pay no rent. They live there completely free," said Castro. "There are day-

and he spoke at some length on the improvements in Cuba since the revolution in 1959. "Many Canadians have been able to travel to Cuba, and you have seen these things we have spoken of tonight. All these things can be verified," he said.

"In Canada, you have no children who go to bed without having any food," he added.

Prior to the victory in 1959 (the Cuban revolution), it was impossible to talk about rural development, according to Castro. He spoke about the hunger and misery that existed before the "revolutionary victory". There was a semi-feudal system in Cuba: for instance, in 1946 the large landowners owned 25 times as much land as the farmers themselves. The first agrarian land reform in May 1959 included 40 per cent of the base land and hundreds of thousands of farm workers. Castro also spoke about the diet of farm workers, the literacy rate and the second agrarian reform in Cuba.

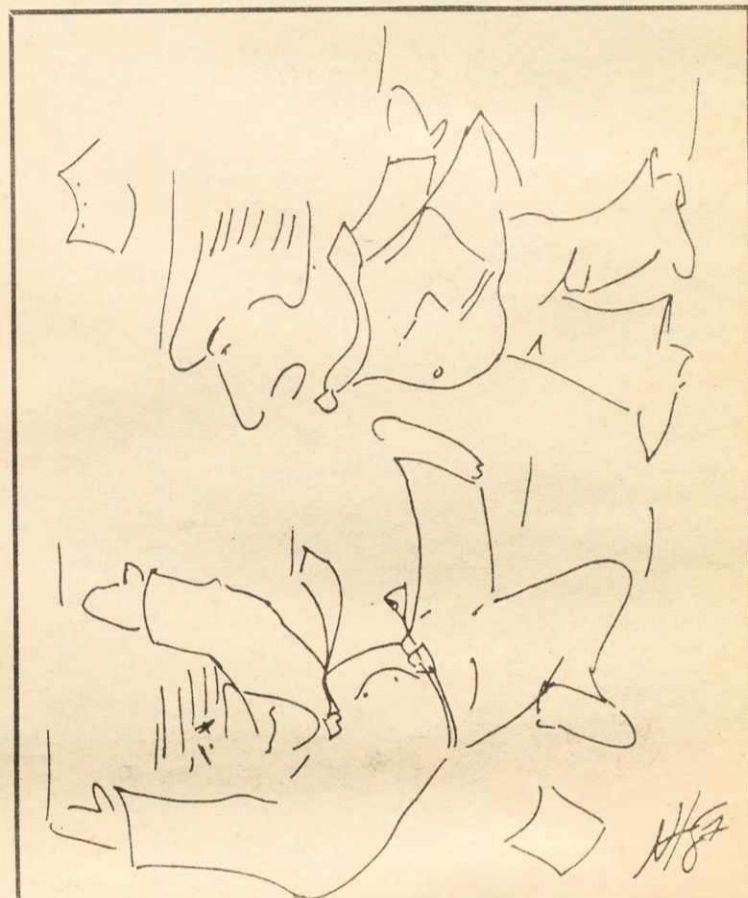
The results, such as the great increase in agricultural produc-

care centres where children have breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack so that mothers can work."

Castro also said the radio and television services have been extended to the most remote rural areas so farmers and fishermen will not all want to go to the cities.

Castro stressed the new

upward mobility of Cuban society, due to the educational institutions such as the university, which give the sons and daughters of farmers entry into the professions. He also emphasized the recent mechanization of the sugar cane industry, in which all sugar cane lifting and 60 per cent of the sugar cane cutting is now done mechanically.



Don't worry — the buildings are twice as high as they were in '29... We can plunge twice as far without getting hurt.

Graphic/The Ubysey

Nova Scotia meeting

Libs condemn free trade

by Andy Willis

Anti-free-trade rhetoric by Liberal leaders drew standing ovations Saturday as the free trade road show came rolling through the Maritimes.

Free trade dominated the agenda of last weekend's meeting of the Nova Scotia Liberal Association in Halifax. Ontario premier David Peterson and Liberal Party president Michel Roy were among the notable figures addressing the proposed agreement in what most felt was a lead-up to a provincial election.

Liberal leader Vince MacLean set the tone for the weekend meetings in his opening address to 500 delegates Friday night. Harkening back to his Cape Breton roots, MacLean recalled lessons his father taught him.

"If the fine print's no good, then the deal's no good," MacLean said. "And it's clear that the fine print of this deal is no good."

MacLean went on to say that it was "silly" for Canada to tie itself to a declining economic power like the U.S., and he promised that loss of Canadian sovereignty under free trade would be the Nova Scotia Liberals' central campaign issue in the next election.

At Saturday morning's breakfast meeting, Liberals talked free trade before coffee hit the tables. Even the intense politick-

ing for committee positions that dominates any convention took a back seat to the issue.

Breakfast saw Ontario's Peterson make a spirited and well-received attack on the federal free-trade deal.



Peterson placed the debate in a national context, saying every Canadian should participate in the debate over the future of the country. He renewed his call for a federal election on the issue.

As a premier of Ontario, Peterson's involvement with free trade goes back to the early stages of the negotiations. He said although he agrees with the principles of free trade, he felt the deal reached last month did

not meet the goals of changing protectionist U.S. trade laws, a goal which the Mulroney government had set as the reason for beginning talks.

Maritime concerns with free trade were treated by Guy Brown, MLA for Cumberland County, in an afternoon seminar.

Brown raised the spectre of the Trenton rail car works, Cape Breton heavy water plant, and FIRA as examples of what results from outside investment in Nova Scotia.

"What we have here is a deal for the sake of a deal," Brown said.

"I can't put my name, and the future of my children and grandchildren, to such a deal."

Liberal Party president Michel Roy, who was part of the royal commissions that originally recommended free trade, stated his misgivings on the deal in the same seminar.

"We proposed a \$4 billion fund to help in retraining in the MacDonald Commission report. This proposed deal makes no mention of this type of program."

Members of Roy's seminar group said the "fast track" approach to free trade was flawed to start with. They suggested tearing up this deal and reopening free trade negotiations with the Americans.

Dal stocks ok

by Geoff Stone

According to Dalhousie Financial services, Dalhousie's \$100 million in stocks are safe from the recent stock market nosedive.

Mike Wright, director of financial services, said that because of the diversity of the university's endowment fund, which has a portfolio of around 50 per cent stocks, Dalhousie's finances won't be affected.

Wright said Dalhousie's investment advisors assured the administration that keeping its stocks would be the best position. "The worst possible time to sell is when the market is falling," he said.

Wright said other universities are in the same position as Dalhousie with their stocks. "No one is overreacting," he said. Wright said that while there have been some major falls in stocks recently, the assessment

of Dalhousie's stocks from January to October 1987 fell only by eight per cent.

He said that while the stocks were overpriced during the recent highs in the stock market, these stocks are now reasonably priced. "The best rate of return over the past 30 years has been in stocks," he said.

Considering the possibility of a major market crash, Wright said there would be more pressing issues such as a collapse in federal funding rather than stocks. "If we felt we were in danger, we would have been selling in May and June," he said.

Wright said the university plans its stocks over a number of years, so brief losses are not a problem. "As long as the corporations (that Dal invests in) are making a profit," he said.

Wright said many of Dalhousie's stocks are currently invested in the banks, such as the Bank of Nova Scotia.