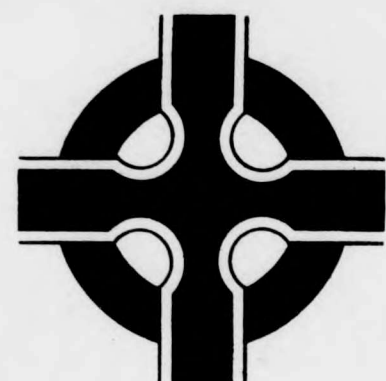


feature



white power

THE POLITICS OF HATE

The Western Guard Party, a radical right-wing group with roots in the North American fascist movement, has recently been in the news concerning their distribution of "hate literature."

John Ross Taylor, leader of the Western Guard Party, was imprisoned during World War II as a "security risk." He has not received mail since 1965.

Taylor, in an interview with *Excalibur's* Paul Pivato, outlined the philosophy of a party which many consider dangerous. Kevin Connolly follows with a background article on the party and its members.

He's a balding, soft-spoken pensioner living in downtown Toronto. He's also the leader of the Western Guard Party, a neo-fascist group committed to racist philosophies and world domination. He's been called the "High Priest of Hate." Taylor himself claims he's just "giving the truth."

Very little is known about the Western Guard Party. They are a clandestine organization having an unknown number of members with secret meetings and secret international contacts.

Taylor only agreed to an interview as long as *Excalibur* met him secretly at a downtown park, insisting that if the interviewer did not

come alone, he wouldn't show. The interview took place in a bus shelter.

Taylor has been a high profile member of the Canadian fascist movement most of his life. In 1974, he ran for alderman on a ticket with former Western Guard leader Don Andrews, who spoke in the York Beapit as a mayoral candidate. Under Andrews, Taylor was chief of a propaganda committee bearing the Orwellian title: "Department of Truth."

Taylor brought along a briefcase to the interview containing banned party literature, neo-Nazi publications, and books of questionable academic origin. The most infamous of these was *The Hoax of the 20th Century* by a

professor Butz, which denies that the Holocaust ever happened. Taylor also touted an obscure work named *Which Way Western Man?*, a racist manifesto which he claimed is "comparable to Shakespeare."

"You have to understand: from the Jews has come communism," warned Taylor. "From them has come this monstrous thing that Germany is supposed to have gassed Jews, which she never did. The fact is, there was not one Jew ever gassed by the Hitler government, nor was there a single gas chamber."

This ludicrous claim is one of the main pillars of the Western Guard philosophy—a claim which has gained prominence in the last few years, as evidenced by the Keegstra affair. Not surprisingly, Taylor defended Keegstra, a teacher and mayor of Eckville, Alberta, who had taught for 10 years in his classroom similar ideas concerning the Holocaust.

Taylor couches his views in clever rhetoric and deformed logic. Thus, Taylor justifies the deportation of "40 million North American blacks back to Africa" on the grounds that it would promote "racial amity according to well-defined racial spheres of influence." "Racial amity is a must," advises Taylor. "There's nothing wrong with the other races. We have no problem with them, not even the Jewish people."

But only moments after saying this, Taylor unveiled a systematic program for expelling Jews from Canada.

"...there was not one Jew gassed by Hitler..."

Taylor stopped the interview at this point due to the arrival of a postal worker, who he claimed was probably "a commie agent." Visibly agitated, Taylor waited for the postal worker to leave before warning of a possible communist takeover in Canada.

Taylor, who is "flattered" by physical comparisons to Adolf Hitler, went on to say that the Nazis "saved the world from communism. We should be down on our knees everyday thanking God."

Much of the "evidence" for Taylor's views comes from absurd biblical interpretations. Among other things, Taylor claims that the Nordic people are the true descendants of the 10 lost tribes of Israel, and that "90 percent of Jews in North America don't have a bit of Hebraic blood."

Before leaving, Taylor waxed prophetic, saying that Canada will be the base from which right-wing forces work toward world control.

"We're not talking about a day, or a month, or a year," he said. "Now, what I'm going to say is going to sound almost like it came out of a mentally unstable place. But if you spell it out in years, our control would last 500,000 years. We're talking about something very, very permanent."

Taylor concluded by mentioning that he will once again face court action this month concerning his "White Power" telephone messages. "They have to put men like myself in jail," he said. "They cannot stand the truth..."

In recent months, a parliamentary committee has been attempting to redefine the federal laws that deal with the printing and distribution of what is commonly referred to as "hate literature": pamphlets or broadcasts designed to incite hatred or distrust of a particular race or ethnic group. Undoubtedly, John Ross Taylor's Western Guard Party (WGP) is one of the primary sources of concern in Canada. The WGP is a radical white supremacy group with ties to the National Socialist Party in the United States and other ultra-right groups worldwide.

John McQuirter, former head of the Ku Klux Klan's Toronto chapter started out in the Western Guard as did many involved with Canada's well-hidden ultra right fringe. The party labors in what most would argue is well-deserved obscurity, although an apparent denial of the WGP's democratic right to free speech seems to have been initiated by the government.

The primary difficulty facing the WGP is undoubtedly the issue of hate literature. Party members, including Taylor, have been in court on several occasions for distributing questionable party literature and for playing messages over the phone that were seen to be racist and likely to expose the callers to hatred and contempt.

In 1979, Taylor found himself in front of a tribunal at the request of several Toronto Jewish groups who objected to the WGP's "White Power" telephone messages. The messages consisted of a series of 15 pre-recorded tapes which could be heard by phoning party headquarters. The "White Power" phone lines were listed in the metro phone book from 1973 onwards.

The Toronto chapter of the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association, the Toronto Zionist Association, and other Jewish groups demanded the messages be stopped, citing section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act which states "it is a discriminatory practice to communicate, or cause to be communicated telephonically any matter which is likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt."

...it was hard to believe that a "rational individual... would take these incoherent meanderings seriously..."

Taylor and the WGP defended their position, claiming section 13 was in direct violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which guarantees "freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression thereof." Taylor said any abridgement of these rights must be demonstrated as reasonable and justified, and in that context must be specific. He said the words "hated" and "contempt" were so vague as to open citizens to all sorts of abuses in terms of prosecution, with basically no defences



John Ross Taylor, leader of the Western Guard Party

available to the defendant. "No citizen should be subject to... fines and imprisonment on the subjective opinion of members of the tribunal," said Taylor.

Taylor is quick to point out literature was only handed out to those who shared the party's political beliefs and that only individuals who called party headquarters, voluntarily, were played the phone messages. The messages were in the same vein as the party literature; anti semitic and xenophobic, they warned of a "Jewish conspiracy" to take over the world, and among other things proposed the repatriation of 40-million North American blacks back to Africa. The messages called "the six million business," and other Nazi atrocities "mere fabrications," and warned unsuspecting youths of widespread brainwashing by the "Zionist-controlled" media.

The tribunal ended with a court order prohibiting further telephone messages, and, perhaps not surprisingly, the Western Guard carried on.

Authorities were quick to realize the messages persisted, unchanged except for the substitution of the word "non-Aryan" for "Jew" on all the "White Power" tapes. Within a year Taylor found himself in court again, this time under charges of contempt of court. He was convicted and issued a suspended sentence—his choice of a \$5,000 fine or one year in prison. But Taylor continued to broadcast his messages, in varying forms, until he was again threatened with imprisonment in May of this year. Since then the tapes have consisted solely of an appeal for party funds.



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