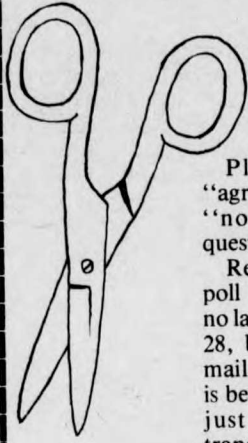


Excalibur poll . . .

. . . your 2¢ worth



What lies ahead for Canada?

Please circle one of "agree", "disagree", or "not sure" for each question.

Return your completed poll to Excalibur's office, no later than Friday October 28, by York's free internal mail or in person. Our office is behind the orange drapes, just inside the south entrance to Central Square.

1) The Parti Quebecois goal of an independent French state in Quebec, united economically with Canada, is the best answer to the question of Quebec independence.

agree disagree not sure

2) The best hope for all Canadians is a united, bilingual Confederation, including Quebec.

agree disagree not sure

3) A restructured Canadian constitution, which would maintain political unity and award special status to Quebec, is the best solution for all Canadians.

agree disagree not sure

4) If the Quebec people vote for independence in a free and democratic referendum, they should not be prevented from carrying out their decision.

agree disagree not sure

5) Force should be used to keep Quebec in Confederation.

agree disagree not sure

6) The Liberal government of Pierre Trudeau is handling the Quebec situation well.

agree disagree not sure

7) The Trudeau government is exploiting the Quebec situation, to cover up its inability to deal with unemployment and other social issues.

agree disagree not sure

8) Of the leaders of the three national parties, the man best qualified to lead Canada at this crucial time is: (circle one).

- Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau
- Opposition Leader Joe Clark
- NDP Leader Ed Broadbent

9) None of the three national party leaders is capable of handling the Quebec situation well.

agree disagree not sure

10) The Quebec government's language program, designed to make French the province's working language, is just and workable.

agree disagree not sure

11) The Parti Quebecois is discriminating against the English-speaking minority in Quebec.

agree disagree not sure

12) Since the battle of the Plains of Abraham, the French have been oppressed and exploited by the English in Canada.

agree disagree not sure

13) If Quebec separates it will degenerate into a totalitarian state.

agree disagree not sure

14) Quebec will be better off as an independent country, than as a province within Canada.

agree disagree not sure

15) If Quebec separates, part or all of the rest of Canada will become part of the United States.

agree disagree not sure

16) English Canada should stop worrying about Quebec independence and concern

itself with its own lack of independence from the US economy and culture.

agree disagree not sure

17) The media is providing unfair, and

inadequate and biased coverage of the Quebec situation.

agree disagree not sure

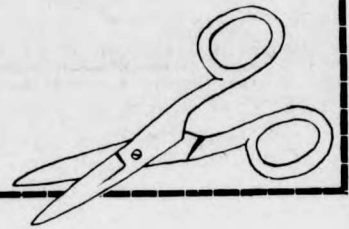
18) Comments and suggestions:



Fold me

No postage necessary when mailed at York

Excalibur
Room III, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele St.
Downsview



Fold me

Independentist, federalist and Marxist students

U of T symposium discusses Canada's future

By A. Nikiforuk

Last summer a group of political science students at the University of Toronto decided university students "have a vital role to play" in the national debate on Confederation.

The result was "Alternatives Canada", a student symposium on Canada's problems.

Last weekend one hundred and twenty-six students representing forty-six Canadian universities played their vital role in the Medical Science building at the University of Toronto.

The delegates were selected by various professors who had been informed of the upcoming conference by its organizers. Despite the undemocratic nature of their selection, the students represented a variety of regions and ideologies.

Independentists, federalists and marxists all openly participated in the conference. The symposium was financed by federal and provincial agencies at an estimated cost of fifty thousand dollars.

Topics for discussion at the symposium ranged from regionalism to the economics of separatism and unity.

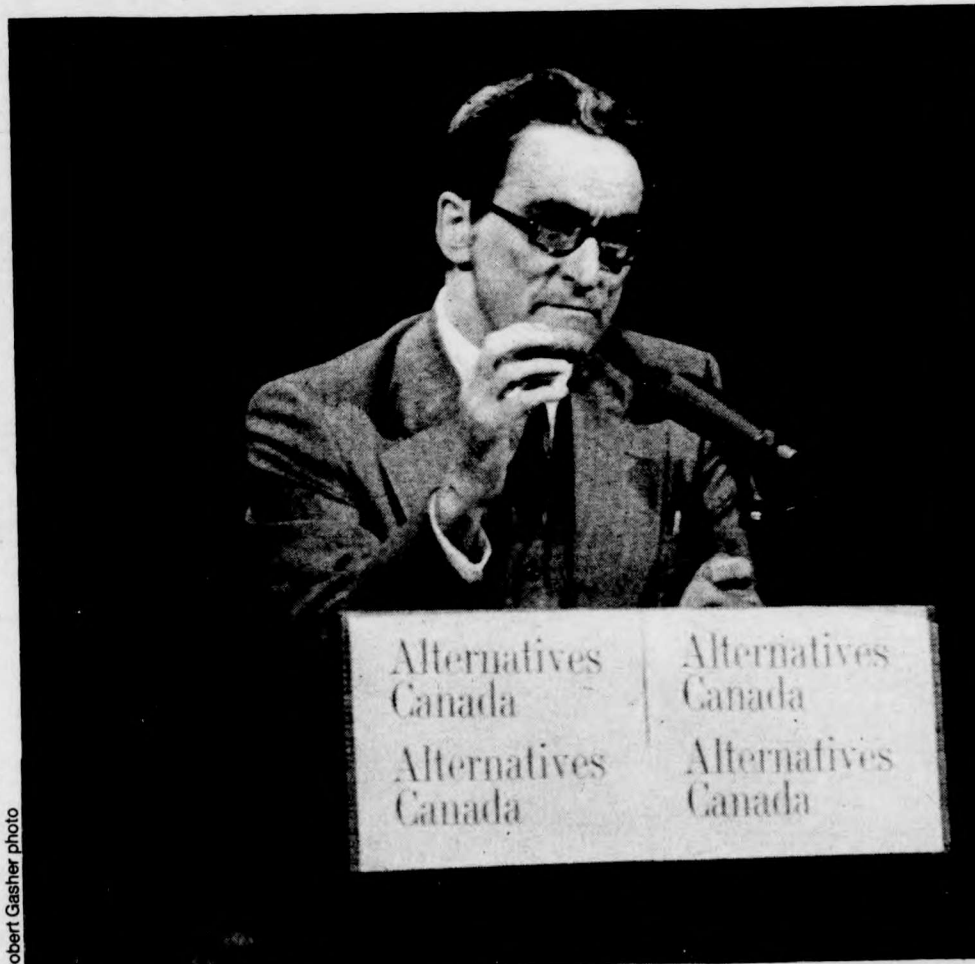
Such prominent federalists, or unitarians, as David Lewis, former national leader of the NDP; editor of *Le Devoir*, Claude Ryan; former member of Bourassa's government Claude Castonguay, and Canadian literary critic Northrop Frye, addressed the students.

Student papers presented at the symposium dealt mostly with problems created by regional disparity in Canada.

The most articulate and vocal students at the symposium were either from Quebec or one of the Maritime provinces.

These students were the most critical of Confederation and believed that "unity was an Ontario fantasy".

They recognised the need for redefining Canada's economic and political institutions.



Claude Ryan, editor of *Le Devoir* speaking at "Alternatives Canada" conference last weekend.

They regarded the Parti Quebecois as a manifestation of abhorrence for a federal system which made Ontario an "imperialist metropolis" and the provinces "colonial hinterlands."

Many Ontario students believed that Canada's problems were essentially cultural and linguistic ones. They felt uneasy about such concepts as Quebec independence, monetary unions and the reallocation of

power and wealth in Canada. Many feared that they would lose their identity as Canadians if Quebec became a sovereign state.

Western students also expressed an interest in "redefining Canada". Albertans were conscious of their prosperity and British Columbians of their geographical and psychological isolation from the rest of Canada. They neither perceived Quebec as a threat nor language as an issue.

During the symposium the following issues and facts came to dominate student discussions:

- English Canada has failed to identify itself as a meaningful entity and therefore regards Quebec as its essential shadow.
- The effect of Confederation was to build a centrally structured Canada based on capitalist business interests.
- Canada's problems are not related to language but to economic issues.
- Regional disparity is abetted by federal tariffs, federal expenditures and Canada's monolithic banking system.
- Ontario is the metropolis which dominates and exploits peripheral regions in Canada. Ontario and the federal government promote underdevelopment in the Maritime provinces, northern Ontario, eastern Quebec and Manitoba.
- The present economic structure supports and sustains regional disparity. Therefore alternate economies and political institutions are needed.
- The potential for violent class struggle in Canada is growing.

All students agreed that the symposium was a success and all were somewhat awed by the multitude of problems that face Canada. The exchanges between the students were polite but restrained. Only among the Maritimers did one detect a quiet desperation and rage.