

# TIME OUT

# Equal Time For CYC

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You want to shout right out loud, so we can all hear you. But you can not do that. If it was after the football game, if you wife just had a baby, people would understand. But it isn't that. Maybe you could sing, sing at the top of your lungs. It would feel great. But you are not drunk, so you have no excuse. Funny, that it is permissible for you to sing loudly when you are drunk, but not when you're just plain glad to be alive. Maybe if you just hum a bit to yourself . . .

Funny, that the same thing happens because you're a Christian. You must not let it show, or the rest of us will look at you strangely. After all, when you associate yourself with anyone as unpopular as God, you should be properly shame-faced about it. If you are enthusiastic about being a Christian, we decide you must be that despised object, a fanatic. Funny, when you consider that the greatest men who ever lived, the men who left indelible imprints on our world, were mostly fanatics. Strange, that we regard complete dedication to any one purpose outside of ourselves as foolish.

Christians are marked as part of "the establishment", and it happens to be unpopular, too. Curious, since neither the business world nor our governments are run on a "love your enemies" principle.

Curious, that we consider the churches as conservative institutions, when they are often society's harshest critics. A Protestant minister, Martin Luther King fought against racial inequality. One of his opponents thought he was so effective he had to be shot. Churches are thought of as behind the times, though they have been feeding, healing, and educating native populations around the world since long before governments ever cared.

If you are a Christian, you must also know that many people think you do not belong in a modern technological, scientific age. They regard dependence on an all-powerful God as unnecessary in the light of man's skills and achievements. Yet John Glenn and several of his fellow astronauts are self-acknowledged Christians who find no incongruity in trusting both God and men to fly them toward the moon.

Once you have learned what the world thinks of you, Christian, how do you react? Do you avoid all unnecessary contact with it, protecting yourself in a shell? Perhaps you try to reason with the people who have such prejudices about you. Or perhaps you just sit and drink coffee, and wonder if "rational man" is just a myth.

One of the government organizations under increasing attack from worried politicians is the Company of Young Canadians. They have been accused of subversive political activity in such instances as the recent Montreal riot.

"The Company of Young Canadians is only a government agency in so far as they get money from the government to maintain their head office, executive and research," states assistant professor Sidney I. Pobihushchy of the UNB political science department. He was in on the original discussions about CYC and feels that their side has not been adequately expressed in the present controversy. Many CYC members volunteer their services, the salaries of others come directly from government funds.

Nevertheless, the government has not given CYC a distinct policy that they must adhere to and the prime minister does not have the power to dictate policy to the organization.

Presently they are accused of being partisan. The original concept was that CYC should be in no way partisan (meaning influenced by existing parties i.e. Liberal, Conservative). They

are not accused of being Liberal or Conservative, they are accused of being separatist according to Pobihushchy.

The Company of Young Canadians is trying to improve the plight of the poor. This was one of the original purposes of the company. They feel that the social and political structure may have to be changed in order to do this.

Professor Pobihushchy continues to say that Canada is the richest resource nation in the world and there is no reason for poverty here. "For some reason, in our society the government believes in helping the poor without changing standards, because society is so beautiful the way it is. To help the poor may mean to change the structure of society."

He further stated that John Locke's political theory has been accepted in Canada. It follows that the poor have not been considered because they are not part of the system. According to Locke, one must possess property to become part of the political system. CYC has expressed interest in changing this ideology. "CYC wants to make people realize that the government should be as concerned with the poor as they are with E.P. Taylor and K.C. Irving."

"CYC works with the aim of organizing the poor and making them realize that their biggest resource is their ability to ask and to continue to ask until they achieve satisfaction. This was one of the reasons CYC was organized. This summarizes the philosophy and program of CYC."

One of the prime purposes of the CYC is to mobilize the people that are basically apathetic and alienated from the system. According to Prof. Pobihushchy the CYC tries to instill some desire in these people to live a half-decent life, so that they will ask to have their needs fulfilled. "To do this is what people misconstrue as communist."

"I don't think CYC should be telling people to make bombs; I am not sure they are," says the professor about another more recent accusation, "but these people have as much right to make bombs as the police have to kick someone in the teeth."

"Not long ago the mayor of St. John said that the CYC could have done more in St. John. He meant that they could have beautified the slums. CYC is concerned with beautifying minds not buildings."



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