

Canada 1st - Capital Question

by Ron Norman

Between 1960 and 1970 long-term foreign investment in Canada more than tripled - from a staggering \$11.7 billion to a colossal \$44 billion. American investors seem to have bitten off the major portion of this delectable pie - 80%. It does not seem strange, then, that a group has formed to slow down American ownership and, in its place, try to establish a "Canada first" theme. Bob Page, the new national chairman of the Committee for an Independent Canada, is due to speak here at Dal at 8:00 p.m. on Nov. 13 in Rm. 2840 of the new Life Sciences Centre. Presumably he will speak on how the CIC intends to retard the Americanization of Canada and what has to be done in order to establish Canadian interests - it will be a tough task. The road which the CIC has decided to take is littered with past national movements whose bandwagons have been overturned by certain political circles, inside and outside Canada. Examples of nationalist movements which have been hijacked can be seen throughout Canada's recent political history.

"It seems to me that Canadian sensibility has been profoundly disturbed, not so much by our famous problem of identity, important as that is, as by a series of paradoxes in what confronts the identity. It is less perplexed by the question "Who am I?" than by some such riddle as "Where is here?"

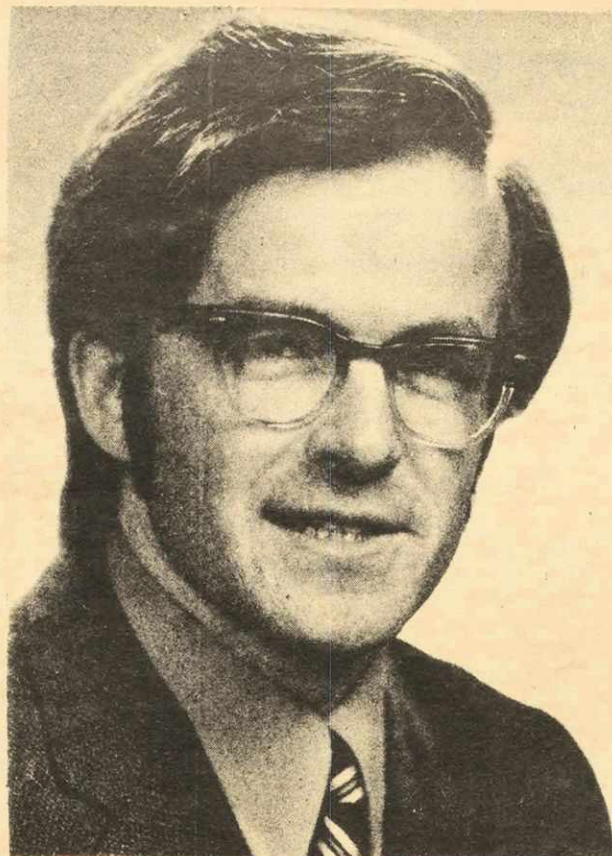
- Northrup Frye,
The Bush Garden

John Diefenbaker tried to establish "Where is here?" and at the same time provide Canada with some kind of identity: the time - 1963; the event - the Cuban missile crisis which the Kennedy administration was playing up to be the advent of World War III. Diefenbaker delayed the placing of Canadian forces on the alert, not because of a diametrically different view (Ottawa did agree with the U.S. in the position taken) but on the principle that Canada's defence movements should not be dictated by Washington! Ruling circles in Canadian politics deemed Diefenbaker a dangerous liability, and so with the outside assistance of the Pentagon they succeeded in bringing down the Diefenbaker regime, and thus the nationalist movement within the Tory party.

Two years later the nationalist movement with Canada surfaced again in the person of Walter Gordon. As Finance Minister for the ruling Liberal government, Gordon introduced his first budget. In it were various policies which, if implemented, would have slowed down the American takeover of Canadian firms. Under the reasoning that takeovers were economically unhealthy (they provided no new competition, but instead procured the elimination of Canadian ownership) Gordon proposed a takeover tax which drew violent opposition from the business sectors of Canada. Gordon was forced to withdraw his tax from the budget and he subsequently resigned.

In 1968, the nationalist

movement made yet another comeback with a report conducted by economist Mel Watkins. This report was somewhat more than the Liberals had wanted (the Liberals have a history of continentalist learnings) and so this report on the foreign control of Canada was never really utilized. However, with the formation of the CIC in 1970 and a general wave of nationalism sweeping across the country the Liberals were badgered into forming still another committee to investigate foreign investment in Canada, and to provide viable measures to counteract the growing domination of our country (remember that by this time foreign investment has more than tripled to \$44 billion). Herb Gray headed the committee to determine whether Canada was still alive (Herb you may remember was the Consumer Affairs Minister in the '72-'74 Trudeau regime - the producer of Beryl Plumptre and other gems). Gray's report was completed and submitted to the Liberal government who, for some strange reason, refused to make it public. A glance at past Liberal actions might make one suspect that the Gray Report was somewhat nationalistic, not continentalistic, and - surprise, surprise - when the Gray Report did finally leak out in Canadian Forum Magazine it proved to be nationalistic, but only mildly. (In consigning this commission to Herb Gray the Liberals most likely expected a whitewashing, thinking the investigation would be a simple means of appeasing those rowdy na-



Bob Page

CIC National Chairman

tionalists) To what extent was the information from the Gray Report used? You guessed it - stuffed in the rear of the Liberal policy-making machine (please, no letters on any racy allusions). "He doesn't want to talk about Canada.... There you have the Canadian dilemma in a sentence. Nobody wants to talk about Canada, not even us Canadians. You're right, Paddy. Canada is a bore." - Brian Moore, The Luck of Ginger Coffey

With all three political parties thinking foreign investment is a bore (the N.D.P. you might remember purged themselves of the Waffle segment because the American unions were very unhappy with the Waffle's plans to establish autonomous Canadian unions) and with skyrocketing foreign investment looking like it might bludgeon Canada into economic, and thus, political union with the U.S., a few well-known Canadians gathered together and formed the CIC.

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Referendum Meeting Monday

by Peter Clarke

The most important thing about last Sunday's (Nov. 3) council meeting was that everything important was tabled until next week. Twenty-two of the twenty-five councillors showed up setting an attendance record that has not been matched for the past three years. The big turnout was due to the fee referendum. The vote provided no clear indication on how to proceed thus it is left to council to interpret the results.

Council however, didn't get a chance to even discuss it. After a motion to approve a still further extension of the Radio Committee's term was passed. President Dan O'Connor moved that a special Council meeting be held on Monday, November 11 to discuss Radio, The Fee Referendum, and the timing for the change in Government in 1975 (rumour has it that O'Connor will propose a small extension of the present government's term).

Martin Ware (graduate studies) complained that the fee referendum should be dealt with immediately particularly in light of the type of press coverage the results had received. Peter Costwell (Arts) and Valerie Dyer (Sheriff Hall) agreed proposed an amendment to delete the Referendum discussion from the special meeting. The move found little support though, and the amendment was defeated. The motion was carried as proposed.

The only substantial debate of the evening came over a motion to increase next year's Grants budget by \$6,000.00. It is not the responsibility of

this year's council to worry about next year's budget. But council has a strong feeling about the need for larger grants. The motion is an effort to bind next year's people to that cause. President O'Connor seemed to be the only one holding major objection to it. Vice-president Richardson waffled, while Crossman, Russel, Hicks and Ware all spoke in favour. O'Connor claimed the money could be best spent on a re-organization of the internal affairs department. He thought this would do more for clubs and societies than an extra \$6,000 in grants. The surprise of the evening came when Treasurer Barry Ward supported the bid.

Ward agreed that a re-organized Internal Affairs Department was a good idea but he saw no reason why the Grants could not be raised as well. Support to organizations Ward claimed was the backbone of the Student Union. "They would be dollars well spent he said. The motion was carried.

With the Grants question resolved and most of the other business was tabled until Monday. Council wrapped up the evening with some quick appointments including, Brian Watts as member at large. Pat Dingle was appointed to the film committee, Anthony Okeke to the Scholarship Committee, Bob Clements and Steve Abramovitch to the Committee on Studies, Mike Captien and Jim Creighton to the Library Committee (bet you didn't know there was a library comm. - get those cards and letters rolling), John D'Orsay and

Susan Harding to the Curriculum Committee and Avard Bishop to the Dean of Arts and Science search Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

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