

Some Views On TOCSIN-B THE MAN OF MIXED ORIGIN

by A. St. G. Abbott

Following up the recent mock nuclear attack, a civil defence test referred to as Tocsin-B, the **Dalhousie Gazette** decided to conduct a random survey on campus to determine what was the reaction of Dalhousians to the test. The answers printed below were given to the question, "What was your reaction to Tocsin-B". The answers speak for themselves.

Law Student: I thought that it was most absurd. The premises on which the Canadian civil defence people base their plans are more suited to a "rock - and - catapult" military era than to this Nuclear Age. Tocsin-B and all similar exercises beg the question facing humanity and it is unfair to give people hope where perhaps none exists.

Arts Student: When I heard the sirens, I thought to myself, "Well, the Yanks have started it at last, and went back to my English 15 essay."

M.A. Student: The sound of the sirens ringing spoiled my attitude for studying.

A Professor: The people concerned don't seem to know what is involved. I don't think that the people at large understand civil defense. There hasn't been a public debate or dialogue. If, however, it shows the people what little chance there is for survival in the cities, perhaps it has accomplished something.

Arts Student: As a prerequisite

to commenting on the article, I shall have to read it first.

(Editor: This answer is included because it underlines so clearly the apathy and indifference of many people to such tests.)

Commerce Student: Personally, I thought it was a lot of foolishness. The whole operation was a waste of money. The number of lives saved was based on the assumption that we would have two hours warning, whereas in fact we would only have fifteen minutes. The money should be spent to avoid war, not to prepare for it.

Arts Student (U.N.T.D.): Most people were indifferent, but from a military point of view, it did provide a good exercise for our defense forces.

Science Student: Entertaining the thought of survival in nuclear war only brings the possibility of war closer.

M.A. Student: My main reaction is that an exercise of that kind creates more panic than preparedness in the present situation.

It was not simply the stifling atmosphere in Room 21 that induced in me a feeling of nausea. Twenty minutes of Mr. Diefenbaker's moralistic rubbish, and I was gasping for both air and realism.

At the outset, my attention was divided between the introductory witticisms of Dr. Kerr, and speculation as to the identity of the mysterious lady under the chapeau. My attention was soon riveted, however, on Mr. Diefenbaker as he rose to his feet and to the occasion. Drawing on an impressive arsenal of anecdotes, the Prime Minister at once confirmed and explained the present disquieting course of events. As a boy Sir Wilfred Laurier had confided to him, in so many words, that the twentieth century belonged to him.

Archpriest of Hypocrisy

Referring to himself as a person of mixed origin a biological accomplishment not exclusively his own) the Prime Minister warmed to his subject with the expected insults in the direction of South Africa. By contrast, and in grand defiance of the fact of Africville, we were regaled with an extravagant euphoria of Canadian-style racial harmony. I was surprised to learn that any young Canadian, regardless of his origin, is a potential Prime Minister. Looking at the sons of Africville frolicking with the rats on the city dump, in any sense but the legal one, I doubt it.

With a masterly touch of equivocation, the Archpriest of Hypocrisy went on to announce that he intended no Canadian immigrant to suffer discrimination on the basis of creed or colour. By this he could only mean that once an immigrant has arrived in Canada, he will not be discriminated

against on such a basis. What every West Indian and Asian student knows, what Mr. Diefenbaker and I both know, is that the Government of Canada maintains immigration quotas restricting residence in this country solely and exclusively on the basis of race.

One may speculate as to which form of "apartheid" (keeping apart) is the worst - the South African type, under which the coloured population is well fed and the most prosperous on the continent; or the Canadian type, which through restricting immigration on a racial basis, keeps millions of people desperately in need of food and better living "apart" from the plenty of this land. Geographically the two systems differ. Morally they are the same, except perhaps the Canadian version is more hypocritical.

The White Senate

Had a person from Southern



Alan Abbott, the **Gazette's** commentator on political affairs, has aroused much controversy through his articles in recent weeks. Critics should note that the opinions expressed by Mr. Abbott are not necessarily those of the **Gazette's** editorial board. Students who wish to hang Mr. Abbott in effigy may use this convenient photograph as a model.

Africa (myself for instance) been permitted the right of reply to Mr. Diefenbaker's evangelistic insults, I should have drawn his attention to the fact that there is not a single Canadian born negro registered at this university. Neither is there one negro in the Cabinet, the federal Parliament or in any of the ten provincial legislatures. The Senate is spotlessly white. It is fair to say that, as a group, Canadian negroes live a life of comparative poverty in separate communities. They do not rise to positions of prominence or wealth, but have constituted a permanently impoverished and underprivileged section of the community since Confederation.

How easy and how gaudy for Mr. Diefenbaker to adopt a smug moral pose as the leader of a predominantly white community. How easy to lecture others while ensuring by means of immigration laws that one is not confronted with their problems. Let it be said to Britain's credit that, overcrowded as she is, she admits as immigrants any Commonwealth citizen who cares to come forward, with no racial restrictions whatever. One can listen with some respect to Britain's moral strictures because of it.

Relief at Last

As Mr. Diefenbaker departed, enveloped in a self-appointed aura of sanctity, I sensed a great feeling of relief - the only emotion he had not appealed to. Speaking with a number of my fellow students, I was encouraged to discover that they, too, felt slightly sick at such a shabby play on the emotions.

The crisp November afternoon into which Mr. Diefenbaker departed revived both my lungs and my spirits. Walking around the Arts Building, I happened to notice the attractive and intelligent face of a solitary girl as she came down the steps. It occurred to me that I was looking at one of Mr. Diefenbaker's fellow Canadians who possessed, apart of course from her beauty, what a thousand Diefenbakers would never possess - dignity and inward honesty.

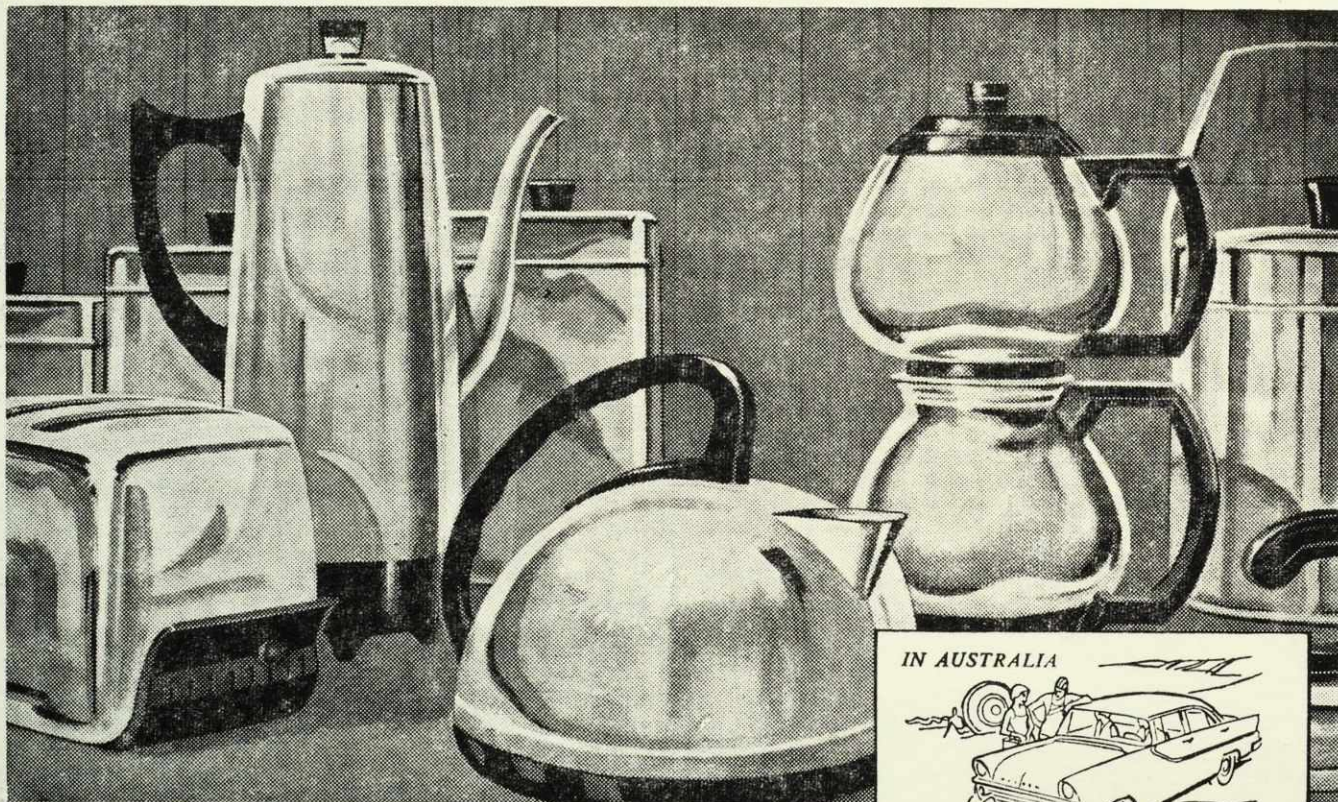
Notes & Quotes

Other people's troubles are never as bad as ours, but their children are always worse.

The man who thinks marriage is for the birds eventually meets up with a girl who is crazy.

Glass blowers will never produce anything as fragile as a human ego.

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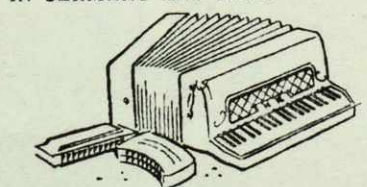
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