



the campus

former ambassador speaks

The Tragi-comic 1967 Election



the campus

Beaverbrook new chancellor

Lady Beaverbrook, chairman and president of the Sir James Dunn Foundation, has accepted an invitation by the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University to become Chancellor of the university, Dr. Henry D. Hicks, the president, announced recently.

Lady Beaverbrook is only the second Chancellor to be selected by Dalhousie since the creation of the office in 1957. The first was the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, who served from 1957 until his death in 1960.

Dr. Hicks and Donald McInnes, chairman of the board of governors, went last night to Halifax International Airport, where Lady Beaverbrook made a three-hour stopover en route from Saint John to Britain. They discussed with Lady Beaverbrook her new appointment and the installation ceremonies, which will probably take place during the 1968 convocation, in May.

Earlier, Mr. McInnes said of the appointment, "Dalhousie is delighted that Lady Beaverbrook has consented to be the second Chancellor of Dalhousie. She succeeds the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe in this office which, by its nature, is of extreme importance to the university in its many diversified activities."

"Lady Beaverbrook has already shown her keen interest in the university by reason of the gift by the Sir James Dunn Foundation of the Sir James Dunn Science Building which is most essential in the encouragement of science at the university and which has made it a leader in scientific education in Canada."

It was with great pleasure that the degree of Doctor of Laws was bestowed on Lady Beaverbrook on the occasion of the opening of the new law building and the dedication of the Sir James Dunn Law Library in March this year.

"We look forward to this excellent relationship with Lady Beaverbrook and she has expressed tremendous interest in the work and future of the university. I am sure that everyone connected with the university welcomes Lady Beaverbrook to this distinguished office."

Dr. Hicks said that since joining Dalhousie six years ago, he was well aware of the great interest Lady Beaverbrook has taken in the university and of the great benefactions she and the Sir James Dunn Foundation had made with respect to law and science. He looked forward enthusiastically to working in the future with Lady Beaverbrook in her post as chancellor.

ED NOTE: Tran Van Dinh, 44, fought against the French during the Resistance War. He later joined the South Vietnamese foreign service and has served in several Asian and Latin American countries. His last post was Charge d'Affairs and Acting Ambassador of South Vietnam to the United States.

At present he lives in Washington, D.C., where he is a correspondent for the Saigon Post. He says, however, that his dispatches are rarely published, as they are usually censored by the Saigon government.

By TRAN VAN DINH, Collegiate Press Service WASHINGTON (CUP-CPS) — Politics in South Vietnam in the recent years have always had elements of a tragi-comedy.

As the main theme of the play is "democracy", the interested audience "American", the actors have to wear a mask to suit the purpose. The mask is "elections." Balloting would take place, over 80 per cent of the people would vote. Washington would call it a success until the stage collapses leaving dead bodies and broken furniture on the scene.

For the seventh time (two Presidential elections in 1955 and 1961; four legislative elections in 1956, 1959, 1963, 1966) since Vietnam was divided temporarily by the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the tired people of South Vietnam went to the polls. On September 3, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., 83 per cent of 5,853,251 voters proceeded to 8,824 polling places to cast their votes to elect a president, a vice president and 60 senators. The number of registered voters had jumped from 5,553,251 in one month to the present 5,853,251.

"We are prolific in Vietnam, but not that prolific," said Tran Van Huong, a civilian candidate who finished fourth. Replied General Nguyen Van Thieu, the head of state and military candidate; with a touching candor: "Some soldiers have been given two voting cards."

The voter was given first eleven ballots, one for each presidential ticket (two names, president and vice president, one symbol) then 48 other ballots, one for each senatorial state (10 names on each). He had

gone over 502 names (22 presidential, 480 senatorial) scrutinized 59 symbols (eleven for presidential, 48 for senatorial). He hardly could be that fast reader, but he did not care. He looked at the familiar policeman who will be around in his locality long after the election day.

General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, the chief of police, often called The Saigon Himmler, had declared on August 22: "National policemen would be stationed inside and outside booths all over the country. As the national police are the people in closest contact with the lowest echelon, there will be police telling them where to vote, how to vote, and when to vote." (Saigon Post, August 23, 1967.)

The Vietnamese voter is a captive voter: the police stamped his registration card and anyone subsequently searched (a routine in South Vietnam) and found without the election day stamp on his card will be in danger of automatic classification as a Viet Cong and subjected to prison or death.

Even with these precautions, the military junta was not sure. Dictators everywhere and at all times are afraid of their own people or even of their shadow.

On the eve of the election day, two dailies in Saigon, the Than Chung (Sacred Bell) and Sang (Light) were closed. Three weeks earlier, another daily, the Dan Chung (People) was shut down. All these despite the fact that officially censorship was abolished and the Constitution guarantees the freedom of the press.

Several officers, among them Brigadier General Phan Trong Chinh (commander of the 25th division near Saigon), and Colonel Pham Van Lieu, former chief of police, were put under house arrest.

Several students (mostly Buddhists) disappeared from their homes, some imprisoned, some liquidated.

Declared General Thieu when asked about the closure of the newspapers: "Even in a democracy, one has the right to suppress newspapers that aid one's enemies."

Echoed Chief of Police Loan: "Democracy is fine for the politicians, but me, I favor national discipline." (Washington Post, September 3, 1967.)

General Ky much earlier had been more specific on "democ-

racy" and had stated that he "might respond military if a civilian whose policies he disagreed with won the election. "In any democratic country, you have the right to disagree with the views of others" (New York Times, May 14, 1967). And on July 27, 1967, General Ky repeated "If any opposition ticket in South Vietnam's presidential elections should win by trickery, we will overthrow it."

Who else in South Vietnam could use tricks but the junta itself? General Ky's threat came at the time when, at his instigation, a "military committee" was formed to serve as a kitchen cabinet for the new military government if the Thieu-Ky ticket wins. In the most unlikely case of its ticket losing, the committee would serve to overthrow the civilian elected as President.

All these unnecessary precautions and threats were taken and made even when possible competitors were excluded in advance from the race:

General Duong Can Minh (Big Minh) former chief of state and Dr. Au Truong Thanh, former Minister of Economy and Finance who planned to run on a peace platform, were banned from running.

So the stage was all set for the September 3 show. Washington put the final touch by sending a 22-man Presidential mission guided by former Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, who had openly favored military regimes in South Vietnam. The mission members, feted by Saigon government and the U.S. Embassy, escorted by government agents, communicating with people by government interpreters, toured half a dozen polling stations (8,824 in all) has passed its verdict: good show. "Good, orderly, wholesome," Ambassador Lodge declared.

The results of the elections: 83 per cent of the people voted (exactly as predicted by the U.S. Embassy in Saigon). The Thieu-Ky military ticket won by 35 per cent of the votes. Already the seven out of ten civilian candidates lodged protest of fraud with the Constituent Assembly which will have until October 2 to certify the validity of the elections. Dr. Phan Khac Suu, the civilian candidate who finished third and who is also the chairman of the Constituent Assembly complained that in many,

many areas, his workers had estimated the turnout at only 10 per cent. Lots of complaints to come but it is not going to change the situation anyway.

One surprise (to Washington): a Saigon lawyer, Mr. Truong Dinh Dzu who campaigned on the platform of peace and anti-military junta in the clearest terms possible, finished second with 17 per cent of the votes.

Why were Washington and the U.S. mission in Saigon surprised? If there is any indication at all of the mood and desire of the Vietnamese people, it is their obvious concern about war and about the corrupted dictatorship of the military.

Of all the eleven candidates, only one advocated war. Even General Thieu talked about peace and negotiations. But the Vietnamese have no voice in this war. Lamented columnist Joseph Kraft from Saigon: "But as long as Saigon (read the U.S. military establishment in Saigon) thinks victory, it is very hard for Washington to move toward settlement. And thus the present outlook despite the new setting created by the new elections, remains barren."

Washington and Saigon do not think only victory but they expect "representative, democratic government" to emerge even with the old cast, but the September 3 elections is only the first act of the show.

More to come. There will be in the coming weeks a deadly struggle between General Thieu, No. 1, and Vice-Air Marshall Ky, the No. 2 who will try harder. Ky is not going to be a figurehead as a vice president who should give up both the Premiership and the Aid Command with the profits and powers provided by these two functions. But Thieu, cunning and less talkative, may strike first.

There will be organized opposition which logically will join the Buddhists who are preparing for their coming struggle against the illegal, unjust Buddhist Charter imposed on them by the junta on July 18. This important development will be the subject of another article.

In the final act of the show, there will be a lone actor: the U.S. and its suffocating military might against a background of dead bodies and burned villages of a deserted Vietnam.

Nursing teachers required

Canada needs a tremendous number of nursing teachers, and the lack of qualified personnel in several hospitals in Nova Scotia is alarming, Miss E.A. Electa MacLennan, Director of Dalhousie University's School of Nursing, said recently.

Miss MacLennan said that too little effort was being made to overcome the problem to assure an adequate supply. "With the role of the nurse changing as a result of the advances in medicine, action is essential."

Dalhousie, she said, could accommodate many more teaching candidates.

One reason for the shortage of nursing teachers is financing; government funds for scholarships or bursaries, as well as private funds, are limited, and once a student is graduated she faces economic hardship in returning to take the post-graduate courses which would qualify her for teaching roles.

Miss MacLennan said the Hall Royal Commission on Health Services was convinced of the need for more post-graduate courses in nursing and had suggested that governments should give more financial support for graduate students.

Another reason is the lack of post-graduate courses. Of 21 university schools of nursing in Canada, only three offer programs at the master's level — two in English at the University of Western Ontario and McGill, and one in French at the University of Montreal. Even these limit their offerings to two or three clinical specializations.

Tingley on Math Congress

Dr. Arnold J. Tingley, head of the mathematics department at Dalhousie University, has been elected for a two-year term to the Council of the Canadian Mathematical Congress.

The Congress is the national organization of Canadian mathematicians and the council is its governing body.

Dr. Tingley was appointed to the mathematics grant selection committee of the National Research Council of Canada last year.

A native of Upper Pointe de Bute, N.B., Dr. Tingley joined Dalhousie in 1953. He is a member of the Canadian Mathematical Society, the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Canadian Mathematical Congress, and has been active in the improvement of school mathematics teaching. He has been chairman of the provincial high school curriculum committee since 1962.

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