

Enemy Of Red Tape

Chinese aggressiveness?

"Traditional forces, like the ones I mentioned, and the Communist religion," he said. "You won't beat Communism until you learn that it's a religion, for which the Chinese people are willing to die."

"The West has no such religion. People won't die for 'representative government,' or a higher standard of living."

"What about nationalism as an anti-Communist force?" I asked.

Critical Contracts

He shook his head. "It's a force difficult to organize in multi-racial communities like those found in southeast Asia," he answered. "In Malaysia, for instance, you have Chinese and Malaysians, and there's a lot of jealousy between them. The Chinese have the economic power; the Malays are more easy-going agriculturalists. They enjoy organized forms of idleness."

A glint appeared in his eye.

"Somebody once said, you know that an Englishman in the tropics looks forward to retiring home

and spending his declining years fishing, shooting, gardening, and lounging—and the Malay has all this from birth!"

Colonialism Dead?

Is Colonialism a dead issue? I inquired.

"It's dying," he said, "but it soon springs up again in a different form."

"As soon as Britain withdraws from an outpost she either can't afford or defend, people shout, 'Colonialism is dead!' not recognizing it when it comes back in another form, Chinese or Indonesian—or Indian."

Domestic Extremists

Time was wearing on. We switched to domestic issues.

What about the "young conservative" movement in United States universities, where he has taught for the past several years? Does it represent the kind of anti-Statist thinking permeating Parkinson's Law?

"I suppose it's a natural re-

action to a university convention of left-wing politics, beard-growing and sandal-wearing," he said. "If orthodoxy dictated for a long time that one should go Left, it was inevitable that the students' instinct should be to revolt and go Right."

Ideal Tax Rate

In *The Law and The Profits*, his second book, Parkinson attacked excessive taxation. He proposed drawing the line on taxation rates at 20 per cent of the total national product.

"In view of the fact that governments at all levels take about 30 per cent of the national income in Canada right now, do you still stick by your standard?" I asked.

"Well," he mused, "I'm not an economist. There's a limit to taxation—history does show that national decline is associated with excessive taxation. It's difficult to establish the exact level—so I adopted the policy of setting it at such-and-such—leaving the economists to contradict me . . . and I'm still waiting to be contra-

dicted."

One last question begged to be asked.

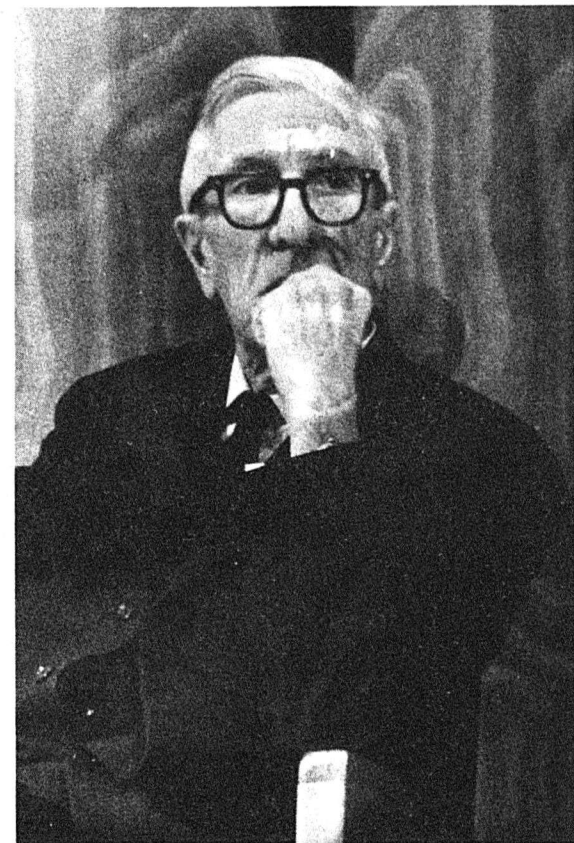
"The Welfare State—is it inevitable?"

The renowned critic of bureauc-

racy and stagnancy and individual irresponsibility settled back, and seemed a little weary.

"Oh yes, I suppose so," he answered.

I was afraid he would say that.



UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR CAIRNS
... pondering Parkinson's Laws?

Taxation:

"And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. This decree seems to have been enforced ever since."

From *The Law and the Profits*, page 22.

On Athenian Democracy:

"Athens became an example of democratic government at some period in the middle of the nineteenth century when that form of rule was becoming fashionable in Britain and the United States."

From *The Law and the Profits*, page 26.

On Nineveh's Traffic Problem:

"Nineveh, capital of the Assyrian empire, is among the earliest cities to have encountered the traffic problem. The place contained, according to the prophet Jonah, 'more than six score thousand persons, that cannot discern between their right hand and their left.'"

From *The Law and the Profits*, page 25.



ENEMY OF BUREAUCRACY
... at root of problem

Parkinson Entertains Audience

Parkinson unsheathed his famous wit at the Jubilee Auditorium Monday night, and the audience loved it.

He had his fans in stitches, with asides like this:

"When I left London, the great mail-train robbery had just taken place. It was said to have been masterminded by somebody called 'the weasel'."

Everyone was singing a little ditty. It went:

"Two and a half million pounds,
Stolen from a diesel;
That's the way the money goes—
Stop! Where's the weasel?"

* * * *

"The subject tomorrow night is 'Parkinson's Law.' This is a subject upon which I can speak with some degree of authority . . . I hope you won't think me boastful, but I predict this talk will be the finest one delivered on this subject . . . in Edmonton . . . tonight!"

* * * *

"I found, on my tour of the campus, a towering edifice dedicated to something called 'education' . . . whatever that is."

"It included a unique staircase that descends, winding, to end at a blank wall—is this symbolic of something?"

* * * *

He told a story of how he met an American tourist who was travelling around the world.

"What have you learned from your travels?" Parkinson asked. "Waal, er . . . um . . . just that people are people, I guess!"

Parkinson chuckled. "It seemed a rather expensive way to find it out!" . . . "it also seemed to be a not-particularly-useful piece of information!"