

'Quebec not only worry': Marchand

by Patricia Moser

HAMILTON (CUP) -- "The separatist movement in Quebec is not the only such movement in Canada that we have to worry about."

That was the opinion of Senator Jean Marchand speaking to a full house at McMaster University, March 16.

"Let's face it," Marchand continues, "a feeling of alienation exists in the prairies and the maritimes and one of the reasons for this is the physical distance of Ottawa from many parts of the country. Those provinces do not feel as if they are a part of the country."

Marchand, an energetic and humorous speaker, often tried to clarify his political affiliations.

"I don not owe anything to anyone politically. Yet people believe that if someone was a Liberal at one point in their career, they must be suspected. Actually, I'm still a Trade Unionist yet I became a Liberal so that French Canadians would have some representation in the federal government. If I had joined any of the other parties I would never have gone to Ottawa or at least not as quickly as I did," Marchand said.

The Senator commented quite extensively on the recent Quebec election, where he ran as a Liberal but was defeated.

"I had asked Bourassa myself why he had decided to call an election because there were too many things going against the Liberal government at that time. There was high unemployment, inflation, Bill 22 and even the public crime probes. The people were made aware that organized crime existed and it existed during the time that the Bourassa government was in power, and therefore the Liberal party was naturally blamed. In no way was I surprised by the outcome of the election.

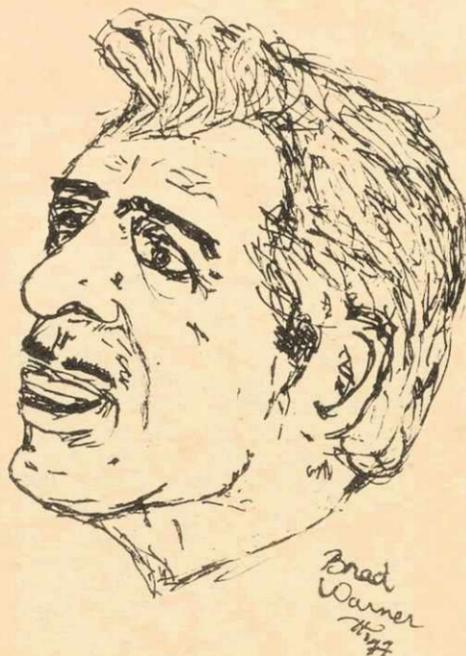
"But the fact that the Parti Quebecois won the election does not mean that the majority of Quebecers are pro separation. On the contrary, only twenty-five percent are in favour of separation. Yet the P.Q. government in power will probably quicken the pace of the separatist movement," Marchand said.

"People must understand that the move towards independence is not just something which develops

overnight. It is a culmination of many frustrating incidents, which have occurred over many years."

"Many believe that the language issue is the major reason for the wish for separation. This is a misconception that came about through political exploitation. The Official Languages Act does not expect everyone in the country to speak two languages. It just wants the federal government to give services in both English and French."

Marchand also spoke out against the political structure in Canada, saying that the structure of Great Britain's government is not necessarily the best one for Canada.



"Canada is now old enough to ask, 'What kind of country should we build with what we know now,'" he said.

Marchand also believes that the Canadian problem cannot be solved by mending the constitution.

"Bringing the constitution to Canada may be psychologically good but will prove little else."

"Many Quebecers are still frightened by separation, and the Quebec problem will only be solved by Quebecers themselves and by no one else. The only thing that must be done is to keep the separatist grip in Quebec from growing," he concluded.



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Rich profit from poor

by Eric Lawson

The Dalhousie Political Science Department recently sponsored two films on Rich-Poor Relations, which was shown on March 15 and 23 at the Killam Library Auditorium.

The films covered two major aspects of rich-poor relations: Rich country/poor country Aid relations, and ruling class/working class relations within a country.

In the area of international aid relations, the film stressed the point that aid often only comes in the form of providing raw materials and/or a market for a small, single-export nation. In this situation, the larger nation can obtain complete control of the smaller country's economy, and thereby set prices, hire slave labour, etc.

The films also brought out another aspect of this control which is connected to the international rich-

poor problem. Usually, in a strangle-hold situation, only the ruling class of the smaller nation benefits. The larger nation, according to the film, sets up a ruling class elite which controls the smaller nation's production.

One final, important "evil" of the international situation was argued in the film. Tourism, often an important industry in small nations, takes for granted the rich-poor rift. The money which the tourist spends in the country goes almost exclusively to the large merchants or the government.

In summary, the films seemed to emphasize one important aspect of the present situation in rich-poor relations: through the abuse of economic power and the elite control of capital, one's prosperity is always at the expense of another's poverty.

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