

# Attendance Of 75 Surpasses Clark's "Fondest Hopes For Gathering"

By Bentley Le Baron

"Today's response and enthusiasm have surpassed my fondest hopes for this gathering," campus Conservative President Joe Clark told his audience at the concluding session of the Conservative sponsored political seminar in the Jubilee Auditorium, Saturday.

The seminar was an experiment in bringing students from all parties together to increase interest in public affairs and to

encourage and examine new approaches to political problems. Emphasis was placed on informal critical group discussion. Over 75 persons attended.

Keynote speaker Walter Dinsdale, newly appointed Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, was introduced to the opening assembly by chairman Dave Jenkins. He spoke on the history of Conservative thought and the activities of the Canadian government in the last three years.

"The Conservatives' return to power," said Mr. Dinsdale, "is

not so much a reaction against liberalism as it is a resurgence of faith in the principle of change based on the wisdom and experience of the past.

Canada is one of the leading democracies of the world with a reputation second to none. We are regarded without suspicion by the neutral nations."

#### RUSSIA TRYING

He spoke of the role government should play in the development of our northern resources, urging haste in surveys and increased production. "Russia is trying to take the initia-

We cannot do both because the U.S. has lost world respect and we are suspected if we follow her to close."

"Canada should break her ties with NORAD and NATO," Francis stated, "and work with the uncommitted nations to prevent war between east and west." He argued that Canada has not sufficient military strength to influence the outcome of a war, but should use all her energy for preventing war.

#### TEACHER INTERNS

Lorraine Smallwood, Education 4, led a discussion centered around teacher training programs. She proposed a general background of 2 or 3 years of arts and science as a prerequisite to entering the faculty of education, which would concentrate on specialized fields and teaching techniques.

"Teacher training should include a one year internship," said Miss Smallwood. "The present student-teaching setup does not give sufficient experience in planning out a program and facing the problems of a full year's schedule."

Doug Lampard and Dale Merchant, both third year arts and science, presented papers on the roles of the air force and army, respectively, in our defence program. Lampard advocated an emphasis on nuclear oriented research and development, and closer co-operation with our allies.

Merchant stated that Canadian servicemen are highly respected in European countries and proposed greater emphasis on our role in NATO and the UN police force. He criticized the apathy which allows the Canadian army to be poorly equipped.

#### ADELL ON DIVORCE

Bernie Adell, Law 3, in his paper on justice considered the questions of changing our divorce laws and of transferring the final authority for constitutional amendments from London to Ottawa. "Our laws should be broadened," he said, "to allow more grounds for divorce, namely, physical cruelty, incurable insanity and desertion."

The problem with the constitution is not so much in bringing it to Ottawa as in reaching agreement with the provinces on an amendment formula. Adell supported the stand taken by B.C. that such a formula should be worked out and approved before action is taken to move the constitution.

After a coffee break the same papers were presented again and students had the opportunity to participate in a different section. A banquet followed the second set of discussions.

#### WATKINS SPEAKS

Banquet speaker Ernest Watkins, MLA, stressed the importance of political interest in determining the future of our society. "It is imperative that current issues be discussed," he said, "so that the government will be able to consider public opinion in making decisions." He said students should be continually asking different levels of government the question "Why?"

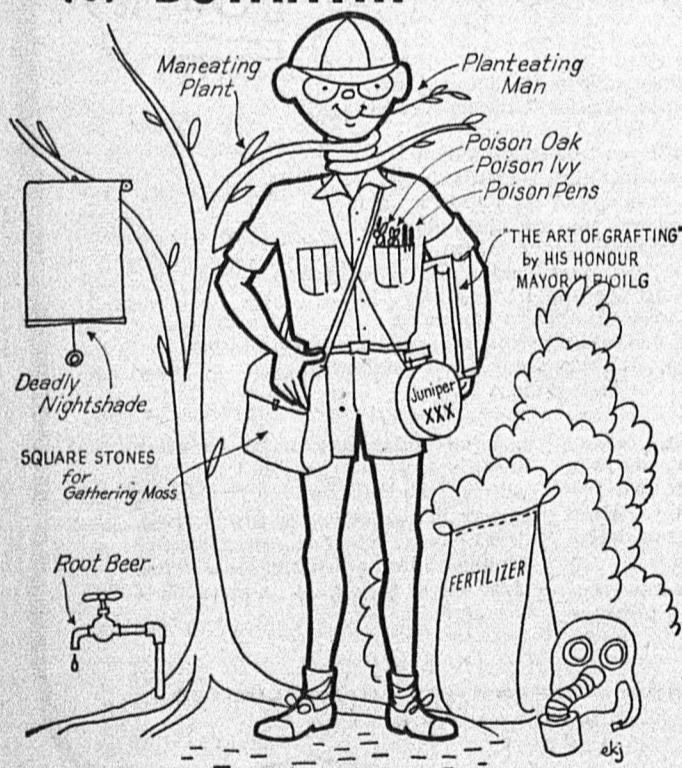
"We must be prepared for change," he said, "by noticing trends and thinking ahead. Let's not have our children saying of us 'Why didn't they see how things were going and avoid creating this mess for us to clean up?'"

Dave Surplis, president of the Calgary campus Conservatives, made a short speech thanking Mr. Watkins for his advice.

When the meeting was opened to general discussion following the banquet, opinions were lively and controversial on subjects ranging from pipeline debate, to South Africa, to education standards. After cake and coffee, the concluding feature was an evaluation session with suggestions for improvement of future seminars.

Representatives from Edmonton high schools and the University at Calgary attended the seminar. Guests included Alberta YPC President Lou Hyndman, Ernest Simpson, representing the Provincial Conservative Association, and MP's Marcel Lambert, Dr. Lawrence Kindt, Cliff Smallwood, Frank Fane, and Terry Nugent.

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