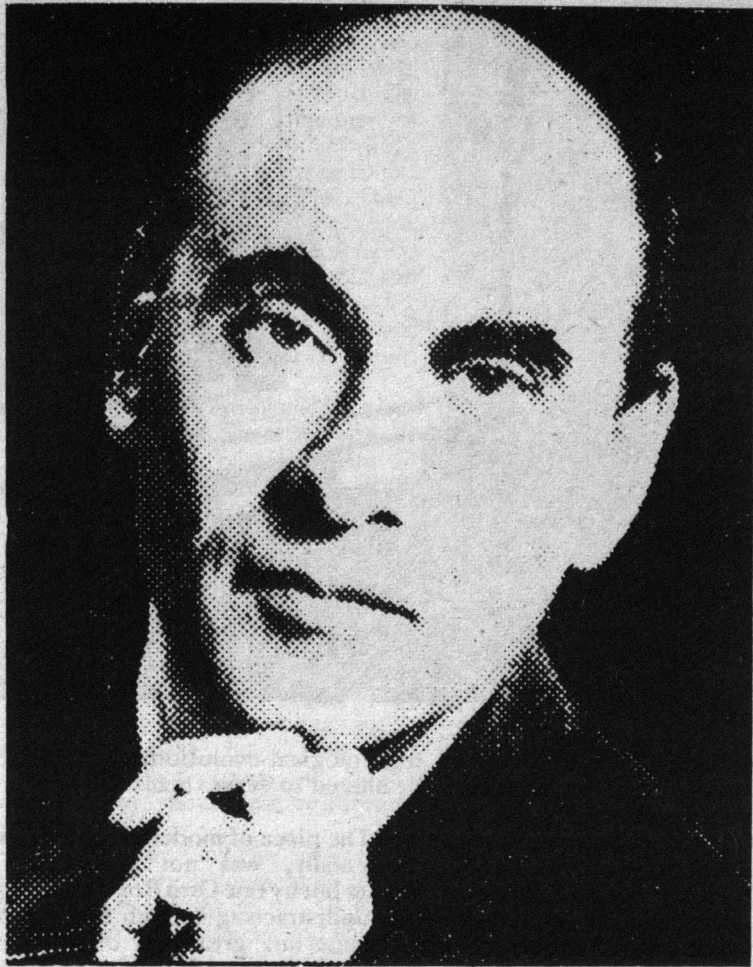


and Canadian Nationalism



Canadian Establishment and editor of *Maclean's*.

with this volume. So if I was writing such great bales of stuff, they wouldn't be there. That's part of the answer, but that's only a superficial answer.

You know, as I said before I'm not an advocacy journalist. This person who said that wants me to attack them for being terrible and I won't do that. And that doesn't mean that I don't think they're terrible. Necessarily, I'm just a journalist who believes that what you do is you give the evidence and then let the reader make up his mind.

He also says you're creating icons for our society. Are you using the Canadian Establishment to help forge more of a Canadian identity?

Sure, I think there's something in that. But I think they're valid icons. One cannot always construct the icons one wishes. One has to chronicle the icons that exist. These people are out there and they're doing this stuff. They're the leaders of the economic community in this country. Their lifestyles, that I describe in great intimate detail, have a bearing on all of us. The way they do business, all their accomplishments, all their faults, all their extravagances, are setting models for the rest of us whether we like it or not.

Who has been your model or what figures have you greatly admired in the field of journalism?

My role model is a former editor of *Maclean's* called Ralph Allen, who was editor in the '50s and who I worked for. He was a great editor — he taught me everything I know. When he left *Maclean's* and joined the *Star* I followed him and eventually became editor-in-chief. I also admire a lot of Americans — Halberstam, Mailer.

What did you think of Henry R. Luce (founder of *Life*, *Time* and *Fortune* magazines)?

I thought he was the worst thing that ever happened to journalism, because he used his magazines as propaganda weapons. And that's inexcusable because the reader doesn't know that it's propaganda; he thinks it's news.

Why do you personally feel so strongly about having an independent Canadian culture?

Well, partly my background I guess. You know, I arrived here when I was 11 years old from Europe, fleeing the Nazis. I had to learn about Canada, had to learn English — didn't know a word. I was trying

to fit myself into this society and got to really love this country by not taking for granted what people who are born here do. So that was part of the process.

And Canada literally saved my life. We were in France, the Nazis advancing and no country would take us. We tried the States, we tried Australia, we tried all kinds of countries, and Canada was the only country that would let us in. It isn't sort of a hairy-fairy thing; it's a genuine affection for a country that saved my life.

On what issues did you find his manipulation most distasteful?

Well the main one of course was Formosa — promoting the nationalist government's interests. But *Time* still does it. You know, *Time* will have a large interest in a movie and they will put that movie on their cover, not admit that they have a financial interest in it, and say that it's the greatest movie ever made. I think that's just awful.

Well you're a self-avowed nationalist. Isn't there a bit of Luce in you by using *Maclean's* as an instrument of this?

Well, you know, if Canada's national magazine wasn't nationalistic, there wouldn't be much point to it. My nationalism doesn't say as Luce's did that you have to vote for the Republican party, you have to recognize nationalist China — all that kind of stuff. All I'm saying is that we've got to have our own country operate according to its own values rather than imported values. It's a defensive nationalism.

Sure, I push those ideas, but I think they're universal ideas. They're not specific things that are going to benefit me or people I represent the way Luce did. But it's a good question.

As editor of our national news magazine, what do you feel poses the greatest threat to world security for the remainder of this century?

Well the biggest threat to world security is the fact that by 1985, 40 countries will have the nuclear bomb and the means to deliver it. It's one thing for the U.S. and the USSR to have it, but when a lot of very unstable countries...Argentina, Israel, Libya, Pakistan...when those kind of countries have nuclear capabilities, then we're in deep trouble. I think that's where the greatest danger is. It isn't the confrontation of the superpowers because there is some element of control because the destruction would be so complete that it's beyond imagination. There could be a lot of small nuclear wars which would wreak havoc and are entirely possible if not probable.

"Canada literally saved my life."

Looking at the way our system is structured, controlled by an establishment, people who are pursuing a narrow path of empire building...I mean doesn't this system reinforce conflicts and disparities in the international system? Certainly the establishment isn't focused on solving the problem.

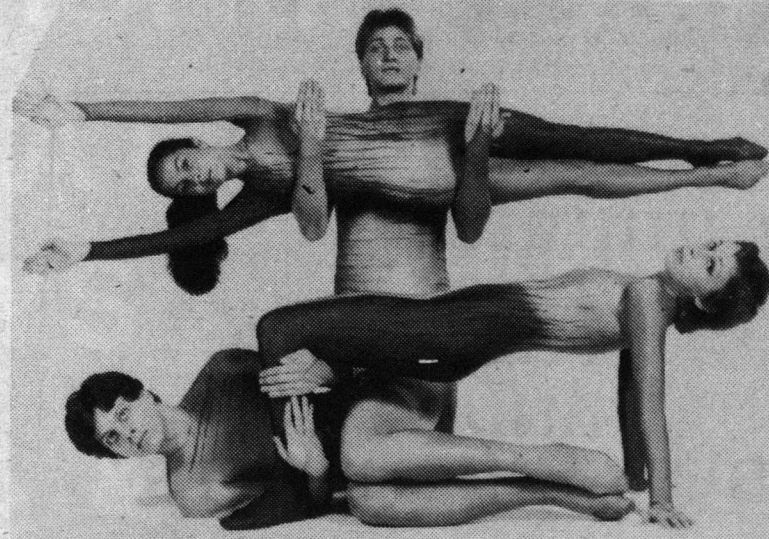
No, I think it's a SEPARATE ISSUE. You know, some guy who's flipping real estate in Burnaby has nothing to do with a possible world holocaust.

...Ahh but in a way he's using up resources that could be used toward some kind of campaign to help.

No, no, I don't buy that. It may be true, but I don't believe it.

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