

## "Wire-Service Nationalism" One Big Cause Of Distortion

By Bruce Ferrier

"Wire-service nationalism" is one cause of distortion in international reporting, says former CBC foreign correspondent Donald Gordon.

Mr. Gordon, now with UAC's political science department, was addressing a meeting in the Med building Jan. 23. His topic was "Distortion in International Reporting."

Mr. Gordon cited three main causes of distortion: the Time Squeeze, technical limitations, and editorial policy.

"Wire-service nationalism" comes under the third category. It is the mis-representation of a country's position in world affairs for the sake of producing news-worthy copy.

Mr. Gordon suggested that much Cold War propaganda is a result of the wire-services' search for news items that cause the situation to seem worse than it really is, simply because they make good reading.

"The 'Time-Squeeze,' another source of distortion, is encountered by foreign correspondents whose working day ends at 2 p.m. and who must gather their information and write it up by that deadline.

Often it is impossible to check facts, and the stories that go out may not be correct representations of the real situation.

Editorial policy often hampers ob-

jectivity in reporting. Most papers are out to please their readers, and print only what is sensational or lively enough to be interesting.

Often events will be "blown up" to meet editorial requirements. Others, important but not interesting, will be ignored.

"An event doesn't qualify as an event until it becomes splendid and artificial," observed Mr. Gordon.

In one day of wire service transmission (60,000 words), there were 25 errors serious enough to require formal correction. Ghanaian President Nkruma's death was featured in many British papers and caused much harm to UK-Ghanaian relations.

Mr. Gordon noted that reporters who are not completely sure of their information will use qualifying phrases, such as "It is reported that," or "unconfirmed reports say . . ."

But newspaper space limitations and radio and TV time limits often cause these qualifying phrases to be dropped. Perhaps worse still the average reader tends to ignore them anyway, accepting what is said as the truth.

The significance of this distortion was revealed in the question period following the talk. When asked about the effect of inaccurate or twisted reporting on the attitudes of members of a country's foreign service, Mr. Gordon suggested that it was considerable. "Wire-service nationalism may be the shaky basis for a nation's entire foreign policy."



A WOMB WITH A VIEW—Shown above is one of the rooms in the new residences. In the words of Richard Bissel, "seven and a half cents doesn't buy a heck of a lot!"

## Pretty Bright Future For Canada

Liberal finance minister, the Honorable Walter Gordon, Tuesday forecast a "pretty bright" economic trend for Canada.

He cited the recent decrease in seasonal unemployment, the impetus given to industries establishing themselves in slowly developing areas, the reductions of Canada's deficit in international balance of payments and the completion of the Columbia River treaty as an indication of Canada's economic trend.

The availability of money in Canada was a major topic of interest to the audience.

### DEBT DOWN

When queried about the national debt, Mr. Gordon contrasted the present amount of about one third of the Gross National Product with the pre-war World War II figure of just under 60 per cent of the GNP.

Indicating the importance of Canada's developing her primary and secondary industries in lieu of the variable world demand for raw materials and manufactured goods, he felt there was a sufficient money supply to finance an expanding economy.

He emphasized three of the Liberal governments' major problems. First, the difficulty in formulating a national unemployment policy when much of the trouble is centralized in Eastern Quebec and the Maritime provinces.

The need to balance Canada's international payments was emphasized. Thirdly, he mentioned biculturalism. The French-Canadians are trying to catch up with the rest of Canada in a hurry, he said, and urged that their problems be considered calmly and not intolerantly.

## Canadian University Press DATELINE

### Waterloo CUS Withdrawal Aborted

WATERLOO, Ont.—The personal intervention of Dave Jenkins, president of the Canadian Union of Students, has prevented the withdrawal of Waterloo University from the Union.

On January 17, the University announced its withdrawal from CUS. On January 20, Jenkins flew to Waterloo to consult with student leaders, and refused to accept their resignation. They decided to give the matter a week before making a final decision.

On January 27, the Students' Council decided to withdraw the motion, and applied for re-admission to CUS. The Councilmen officially apologized for their earlier action.

### Men Want More Women Hours

TORONTO—Undergraduates at Toronto's Trinity College men's residence are still awaiting a decision on their petition for increased visiting hours for women in their rooms on weekends.

Harvard's Dean John Munro had labelled a similar request from his students last month as a "license to use college rooms for wild parties or for sexual intercourse."

But Trinity's Dean of Men A. J. Earp said he would have no anxiety about his decision, if the Toronto newspapers had not publicized "a private internal matter of the college."

"I am satisfied with the behavior of my students. They set and observe their own codes," he said. But Mr. Earp admitted that "promiscuity exists whether it is in residence or not, and thus is not affected by extended hours."

Women are now allowed in rooms on Friday from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight and on Sunday from 3 to 11 p.m. Residents want added hours on Saturday from 3 to 12 midnight mainly for a place to go following weekend activities.

### Collection Hi-Jack Not Noticed

KINGSTON—Detectives of the Ontario Provincial Police have tracked down a collection of stamps valued at \$18,000 and returned them to Queen's University which had not known they were missing.

Apparently the collection was stolen on Oct. 11 from the Douglas Library and because no one reported the stamps missing, the police searched for three months in an effort to find the owner.

Only when they were brought to the university's chief librarian was it known that they had been missing.

### Atom Accelerator To Be Shared

OTTAWA—Carleton and Ottawa Universities are to share a new high-current nuclear-particle accelerator, financed by a \$250,000 National Research Council grant.

The 3,000,000 volt accelerator, used for the study of the atom nucleus, is to be housed in Ottawa's new physics and math building scheduled to be completed in 1965.

A joint announcement by the universities said "this is the first time two Canadian universities have cooperated in a major research facility."

### M.P. Speaks Out

## Gordon Airs Liberals' Views On Issues

By Doug McLean

The Honorable Walter Gordon, Canadian Finance Minister, visited Edmonton this week in the midst of a series of speaking engagements across Canada.

At a press conference Tuesday he expounded the Liberal views on some key Canadian issues.

First of all, the Budget.

"It is a tradition for Finance Ministers to disclose no information concerning the budget before its official unveiling, therefore I can give you no definite information at this time." He did indicate, however, that signs point to increased economic activity in the U.S., and likewise here. Mr. Gordon said the

### Prof. Awarded Research Grant

#### University Information Service

The University of Alberta has been awarded a 1964 research grant from the Corn Industries Research Foundation.

Dr. Raymond Lemieux, professor of organic chemistry, will use the \$8,000 grant to help support his research in fundamental carbohydrate chemistry.

Dr. Lemieux has received support for this study from the Foundation for five years.

The grant is one of 32 such projects, being carried on in Canada, the U.S. and overseas.

The sponsoring foundation is a non-profit organization which represents 11 American corn refining firms.

Canadian economy is inextricably linked with that of the U.S. and if our neighbour country has a prosperous year we will do likewise.

He hinted that the 1964 budget would run a small deficit. Mr. Gordon would not speculate on tax reductions similar to those instituted in the U.S. by Kennedy and Johnson, saying "wait and see."

He hailed Quebec plans to upgrade the quality of her Education system as a "wonderful idea." Mr. Gordon mentioned that Quebec is going through a period of turmoil in which the province is trying to catch up with the progress of the world in the 20th Century.

Quebecois "feel they have been unfairly treated, and we must be tolerant and considerate of their demands." If Quebec secedes, he said, "There would not be much left for any of us," and indicated that in this event Canada would probably be economically and then politically swallowed by the American giant.

Mr. Gordon stated that foreign imports would probably increase in the future. There is an economic balance to be maintained, though, between the benefit of low-price articles and the disadvantage from home industries being undersold.

The Liberal government has instituted many of the recommendations of the Glasgow Royal Commission of government efficiency.

Its main recommendation has been to create the office (filled by George McIlraith) of Chairman of the Treasury Board, whose function is to take charge of the routine financial operations of government.

When asked whether he could declare a certain local football team a disaster area and allocate a government grant for "rehabilitation," Mr. Gordon grimaced and mentioned his

home-town celler-dwelling Toronto Argonauts.

He outlined probable main occurrences of the next sitting of Parliament. The Canada Pension Plan will be a major piece of legislation. He said there is a very good chance that the voting age will be lowered to eighteen before the next election.

He mentioned that the ten million dollar University Scholarship Plan was a Liberal election promise that has become part of a Liberal four-year plan, and will probably be instituted in the future.

### Clark Reviews SU Operations

Brian Clark, Students' Union business manager, presented a general review of operations to Council last Monday night.

He said a physical change in the general office was so effective that the staff was caught up in its work for the first time in two years.

At present, Clark is planning to establish a filing system that would provide background information on matters pertaining to the Students' Union.

There are fewer bookings for space in SUB this year. As a result, those who wish to use the building are accommodated with little trouble.

The Handbook and Telephone Directory overspent their budgets by 10 and eight per cent respectively.

The Gateway special edition cost approximately \$500 more than an average issue. Added expense was due to the color cartoon section and five hundred extra copies were also printed.