## Axe worthy of grinding

#### Maureen Brown

When Manitoba Liberal, Lloyd Axworthy arrived in the Senate Chamber at York on Monday, he remarked, "I approach this discussion with some degree of trepidation, since York has recently acquired a national reputation as being a political minefield for aspiring politicians."

The MP for Winnipeg-Fort

Garry, recently touted as a

possible successor to Liberal

Leader Pierre Trudeau, discussed

some "made-in-Western-

Canada issues", in his talk "A

New Federalism for Western

Before arriving at the crux of

his message, Axworthy said he

wanted to dispel some of the

current myths about westerners

like the image of "a Calgarian in

Canada".

argued that Canada's west is civilized and sophisticated.

Furthermore, he said "the centre of Canadian nationalism in terms of the ambition to own our own industries is now in Western Canada. We are becoming increasingly equal to central Canada in our sophistication and the nature of our industrial base."

believes that this economic

boom in western Canada can

impediment for the full

utilization of the Western

economy for the entire country is

our present political structure,

and the attitudes that go along

with it. "We have allowed, in the

last several years, for the

pendulum of federal/provincial

arrangements to swing increas-

ingly toward more decentraliza-

But, in his opinion the biggest

only help the rest of Canada.

Axworthy suggested that the best way Westerners can achieve their ambitions and aspiritions to become a fully grown, mature economic unit is not to rely on provincial governments but to endorse a more dominant central government. "Contrary to what you normally hear from Western politicians—both federal and provincial-that the way to salvation is through provincial redemption ... it has already gone too far. We are in danger of indulging and frittering away one of the great economic opportunities of our time simply because we are not allowing the federal government to play its full role in regional development."

In reference to Quebec Liberal

leader Claude Ryan's recent white paper on constitutional reform Axworthy remarked, "Ryan's proposals have strong federal elements; the spirit is a welcome point of view." Regarding the current polls in

Eighty eight per cent of the 150

votes cast by members of the

Graduate Assistants' Associa-

tion supported the contract

agreement reached by the GAA

negotiating committee and the

university administration,

according to Chief Union Steward Leslie Sanders.

Jonathan Mann

88 think it's great

which the Liberal party has been loosing momentum, Axworthy commented, "We are ahead and will be on election day. People do not believe Joe Clark can manage a government and he has shown he can't."

The 750 member union has

won a one year contract, giving

its membership greater job

security, salary increases

averaging 9.5 per cent, and

contract clauses on maternity

The contract is the first

offerred to any Canadian TA's

with some form of job security.

and sick leave.

# More strike talk Michael Monastyrskyj

Between the GAA and YUFA, this campus has heard a lot of strike talk this year. Last Wednesday, we listened to more, as Ontario Liberal leader Stuart Smith and York professor H. Glasbeek debated whether teachers have the right to strike. However, the subject of the Moot court discussion was secondary and elementary school teachers, not university professors and teaching assistants.

Smith argued against allowing teachers to strike, because by doing so, "you are interfering with a very basic right." He agreed that a person's right to withdraw his services was a fundamental liberty, but holds that it must not interfere with society's obligation to give every child an eduation.

Smith then listed statistics which showed that in 1975-76, students with average grades dropped out of school at higher

rates if they came from schools with striking teachers.

"The right of equality of opportunity, to the extent we can provide it, has to be the hallmark of liberalism." He added that the right to strike must take second place " provided that there is a reasonable alternative to the strike mechanism."

This alternative according to Smith, is compulsory arbitration. He pointed to its application in Manitoba, which he called "particularly successful."

Smith believes, however, that some civil servants should be allowed to strike. Saying that a student can learn more from a good book than from the verage university lecture, Smith added, "I would take university professors as an example.'

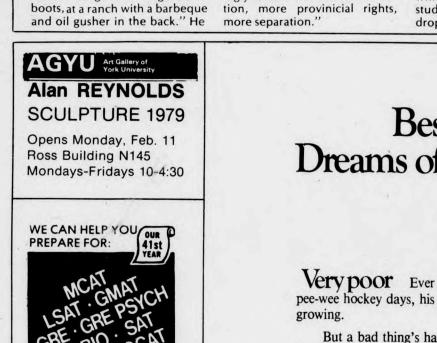
Osgoode's Glasbeek began his argument by remarking, "I don't know if you realize it, but I've been set up. I've been asked to stand up for the proposition that hurts children.

Glasbeek said that in his native Australia, despite compulsory arbitration, "schools have been struck and locked out endlessly."

With slight sarcasm the professor added that this has 'closed opportunities. That's why we flee to Canada.'

In reply to Smith's charge that eacher strikes hurt the equality of opportunity for students, Glasbeek point to Canada's large disparities in wealth and opportunity. Why, he asked, should teachers be forced to follow a principle ignored by the rest of Canadian society?

Glasbeek ventured that the higher drop out rate cited by Smith was more likely caused by the recession than by walkouts. According to Glasbeek, by withdrawing their services, bus drivers and garbagemen cause more damage than do striking teachers.



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