

INTERVIEW:

Dr. T.J. Condon Speaks on the War in Viet Nam

The following is an interview with Professor Thomas J. Condon, AB, AM, PhD., of the department of History, on the current situation in Viet Nam.

Brunswickan: In view of the situation in Viet Nam now is there a possibility of Nuclear war?

Condon: No.

Brunswickan: Do you think this situation will develop into another Korea?

Condon: Yes, I think it is possible.

Brunswickan: Is there such a thing as America winning anything in Viet Nam?

Condon: The concept of win is not a useful one, the policy is one of containment and long range results.

Brunswickan: Do you think it would be possible for the US to step out gracefully if things got too bad or are they in a position where they can't back out?



Condon: We have to stay there until some settlement can be worked out by both sides.

You might liken it to Berlin where there has been no basic change in the situation four twenty years. The American nation is learning to live with the burdens of world leadership. They are less touchy about finding immediate solutions.

Brunswickan: How far do you think Russia will go in backing up Red China?

Condon: Probably not very far. Ideologically she could support China, but I don't think she would make any commitment of troops or aircraft.

Brunswickan: What do you think of Nixon's statement that 'we should hit them and hit them hard'?

Condon: I don't think we should go as far as former Vice-President Nixon said or implied. We should not escalate simply for the sake of escalating. What Johnson has been doing is correct, when we make a decision to hit back, we hit back very hard.

Brunswickan: Do you think Johnson's strong support in Congress and Senate and his landslide in the last election has made him bolder than he might otherwise be?

Condon: No, I don't think so. There is a tremendous con-

tinuity in foreign policy in the Far East over the past ten years that is not dependent on politics. There have been no major policy shifts from Eisenhower to Kennedy to Johnson.

Brunswickan: Do you think the American people are completely behind their government's actions?

Condon: No. I think the American people are reluctant to see this become another Korea. So few people are really aware of what is involved there. Extremes of either left or right are anxious to get in or get out. The issue is very complex. Security cover is to great to really know what is going on.

Brunswickan: Would Kennedy have handled the situation differently?

Condon: No, I don't see any departure at all from the Kennedy line. The men handling the situation now, men like McGeorge Bundy, are all Kennedy men.

Brunswickan: Why, do you think, do Canadian leaders seem to be reluctant to take a firm stand with the US?

Condon: I think that Canada would like to play an individual role in politics. It would like to see itself as a third force. There is a long practice in Canada of playing this role and this is what she is doing at this time. I think it is a constructive role Canada is playing.

Brunswickan: How significant is it that the western world is reluctant to back the US?



Condon: Well, are they? I would think that the West is exploring the possibility of other solutions of a non-military sort. If the US went to war on a large scale Britain and Canada would support her.

We must separate long range problems and short range diplomatic maneuvering.

Brunswickan: What kind of effect do you think the UN can have?

Condon: I'm not sure that the UN can do much more than urge powers involved to sit down at conference tables.

With De Gaulle and others attempting to narrow UN powers, it seems unlikely that



the UN could take police action as it did in Korea.

Brunswickan: What do you think of Henry Cabot Lodge's statement that the US is completely justified in being in Viet Nam?

Condon: His position is correct. We do have a right to be there. We are there by invitation, we have a commitment there and in that part of the world very touchy about whether we would keep our obligations to them.

Cabot Lodge made a lot of sense on television last night.* This is a problem that faces the free world. Pressure is on the US now to get out; this is the easy thing to do. It is easy to start a third world war, it is difficult, though, to stay to prevent World War III, to see Americans lose their lives, Viet Namese lose their lives, and to try to maintain a stable situation there.

I see no real meaning in charges of American Colonialism, Lodge was right when he said colonialism has been dead for a long time.

*Sunday, This Hour Has Seven Days.

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OPINION

by DOUGLAS C. STANLEY

The last few years have seen a great increase in the number of students at UNB. We are told that next year there will be more, and plans for the future seem to indicate that there will be no end to the increase in our numbers.

The question is often asked, however, are our numbers increasing simply for the sake of increasing? Is it no coincidence that the idea of student apathy on campus has been coming to the fore over these same years? Is it possible to reach a limit to expansion? Will the time come when New Brunswick's High Schools are unable to put out enough people prepared socially as well as academically for university? Or has this time already come?

How long must we wait until New Brunswick schools clean up their act, start paying better salaries, start demanding stiffer courses, better teachers?

Some of the freshmen here next year are going to be here because they took a course that hasn't changed in years from some TC chick who we probably chuckled at last year down at the KP Hall. And don't forget those girls are going to be teaching your children if you stay in New Brunswick.

It's no secret and it's no joke that in most cases people go to TC who can't get into university. The longer this situation remains, the more tainted becomes the image of the teacher.

Why does a post graduate feel embarrassed when he tells you he's in the Education Department?

Every year universities take the top off high school graduating classes and leave the rest for Teachers' College. It's plain to see that we are working in a vicious circle; in increasing our enrollment we are necessarily lowering it's quality.

The answer is the four year undergraduate program in Education. Girls come to University to study Nursing instead of going to hospitals. Why can't people desiring to teach and at the same time get a university degree take the opportunity. It would improve the status of teachers and they could demand higher salaries.

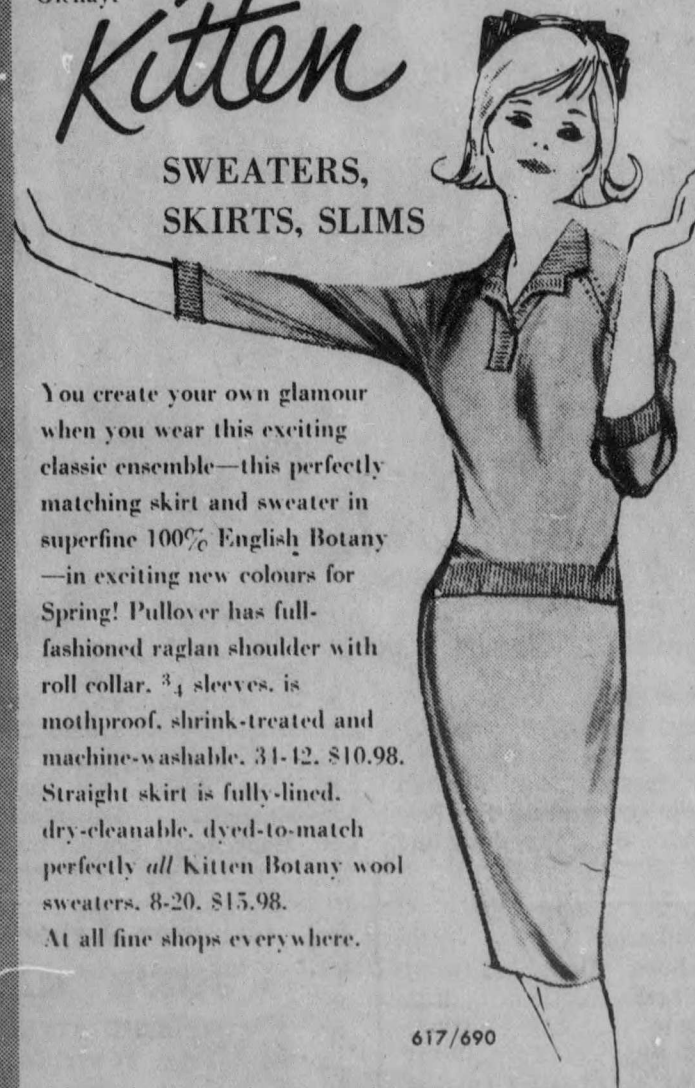
We should start looking at the problem of education as better preparing people for university. The fact that we accept more and more high school graduates does not mean more and more high school graduates are better prepared for university.

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