

casserole

a supplement section
of the gateway

editor

marjorie bell

photo editor

b.s.p. bayer

layout editor

dan carroll

By ELLY ALBOIM
Bureau Chief

Canadian University Press
I interviewed Gerard Pelletier, Secretary of State, on Tuesday, Oct. 29, the day after Pelletier spoke in Montreal about the youth draft and year-round school season proposals. The following is my report with the interview edited down to a manageable size.

When you finish reading this, you'll probably wonder why we bothered with Pelletier. I went to interview him on the strength of his speech in Montreal, reasoning he had spoken out in reaction to student unrest and would have a fairly cogent analysis of what the government thought was wrong. I had supposed he would discuss the student in societal terms, offering alternative positions and proposals. There was little of that, thought I tried, I really did. I gave up fairly quickly.

This thing though will give a fairly clear insight into what the government is doing, the sense of urgency it doesn't feel, and perhaps the way it will go about developing its proposals on youth.

CUP: Why do you think the media was so immediately responsive to your proposals on youth which were after all, only a small part of the speech and at best, vague, and hesitant thoughts?

Pelletier: Well I don't know. I think there is in the population at large and probably in the press particularly a concern with the so-called student unrest and youth manifestations and the generation gap and all the rest of it and that anything concerning youth will attract . . . interest.

A second reason probably is that I intentionally selected these ideas as sounding rather far-fetched . . . (but deserving) closer study. I wanted to make the point that we

This week there are two major articles and a report on the music scene last week.

Gerard Pelletier, for one of the so-called "wise men", sounds suspiciously like a collection of all the middle-aged platitudes your old man might tell you when he wants you to get a hair cut.

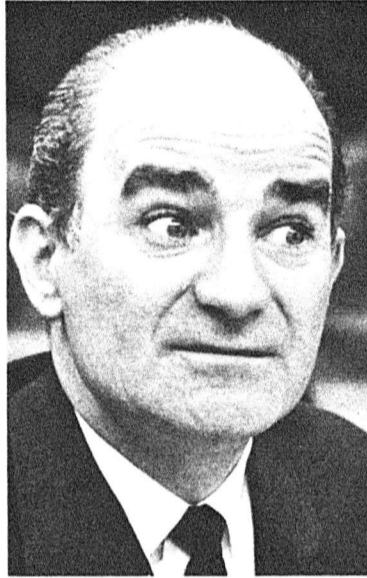
Perhaps this is the wisdom of the Trudeau era. Perhaps we'd better not ask just what the "Just Society" is.

Dick Gregory is the other side of the coin. His talk is summarized on C-4 and C-5. His philosophy isn't totally clear, but at least his philosophy isn't a watered down form of expediency.

In the arts pages, on C-7, we have a report on a most enjoyable week in music. The University Symphony has grown into a mature addition to the musical scene, and student conductor Ted Kardash has enough flash in his direction to make his career worth watching.

—the phantom critic

So we asked Gerard Pelletier what he the youth draft, year-round school,



*Have you any
specific proposals
you would like to
see implemented?
Oh! There are
a number of them,
only to recite
them would be
a little long . . .*

wouldn't satisfy youth with a youth policy that would be just a continuation of the ordinary routine.

It was probably to a certain extent a deliberate attempt to shock people into realizing that a youth policy will have to consider solutions and measures that are not in the ordinary common field of government clichés.

CUP: What is your department doing in the youth "field" now?

Pelletier: We are laying the grounds, doing our homework. After that, we want to consult with youth in quite an elaborate way, stating the problems as we see them and asking: "can you see them in the same light?" "What solutions do you have in mind? What do you think they are worth? How could they be applied?" We are really trying to start a process of study of the problems to come to a policy.

CUP: What would the consulting processes be?? Who would you talk to and in what way?

Pelletier: I think we would consult any representative group and personally I would go on to soundings and polls—you know, go into it in the largest possible way.

I said in the paper that when you talk about youth you tend to think about students only. But the larger part of youth is not students and they are working people and isolated. They are organized very little and it is difficult to get them into the labor movement . . . there aren't enough representative organizations we could rely upon to know all their needs so I should think that we would approach this particular area of youth with all the means of discovering their needs and thoughts and aspirations.

CUP: Students at university are now worried about a co-opting process that absorbs dissidents into tokenistic positions of responsibility. How, getting back to my earlier point, would you allow them a sufficient freedom of action

to satisfy them and the taxpayer at the same time?

Pelletier: I think that any individual at a certain point in his life has to come to terms with reality. He'll do it in a conservative way or a reformist way or a revolutionary way but what he wants to achieve is always less than what he will achieve. What you would like to do is always different from what you will be placed in a position to do. That's what I call coming to terms with reality. It is from those positions of reality that we must act.

I think there is a spectrum of youth opinion that resembles the spectrum of opinion you will find in the general population except that you might find a higher degree of radicalism in youth, and so much the better if it were not we would be headed for a very dull future. But I believe strongly myself in the possibility of acting together no matter what kind of radicalism exists in youth because there is enough of a common denominator in society, which includes youth, so that you can work out. As I said before, if this didn't exist it would mean the country, the society no longer exists and you'll have civil war. You must deal with a democratic process, otherwise it's the rule of force and we are not ready for that. I don't think for a moment that youth, and not the students in particular, would want to say "we entrench ourselves away from society and we conduct an operation that has nothing to do with the rest of the country and we don't want to talk, we don't want to discuss, we don't want to come to terms with anyone". I don't think this is the road we are on.

CUP: Perhaps I've misunderstood basic orientation. I've the impression that the press regards your statements as an expression of concern with student unrest which after all has been led by a small vanguard of students and that you were trying to deal in some way with this dissident group.

Pelletier: I am very deeply con-

C.B.C. BARBERS
STUDENT RATES
CAMPUS TOWER
8625-112 st. 439-2723

TEACHER INTERNS WANTED

Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories

6 Positions available, 4 Elementary, 2 High School, May to August inclusive, leading to appointment to permanent teaching staff, September, 1969. Transportation, \$360 per month, plus special northern allowance of approximately \$50.00 per month depending on location.

Interns will work under direction of experienced and well trained teachers and principals in medium sized or large modern schools.

Northwest Territories experience acceptable for permanent Alberta Department of Education certifications.

Full information on these positions available at the Student Placement Office, Department of Manpower Office, University of Calgary, or University of Alberta, Edmonton. Applicants must have valid teacher's certificate by September, 1969.

These positions are only open to students planning to accept a teaching position September, 1969, for the first time.

Letter of Application should be forwarded immediately to:
Student Placement Office or Student Placement Office,
Department of Manpower, Department of Manpower
University of Calgary, University of Alberta
Calgary, Alberta. Edmonton, Alberta

Closing date for applications December 2, 1968

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WILL BE ARRANGED

We like to
look after

YOU

at the



ROYAL BANK