



Photo by Purdy

LAYTON ON POETRY-MAN-CULTURE-WOMEN-HIMSELF

By RAY SMITH

Question: "Mr. Layton, you have been quoted as saying that you are Canada's greatest poet; do you have any comment?"
Layton: "I find it hard to argue against that."

For those who heard Irving Layton reading some of his poems Monday evening, the experience may have been anticlimactic, after the eulogistic preview provided for him by the Gazette. Reasons may have been the rather poor acoustics in Rm. 21, Layton's sore throat, and the fact that poetry readings to a large audience do not always succeed. Despite these difficulties, Layton's reading was very sensitive.

Layton was available for personal contact both before and after the reading, so, for those who missed him, here are some of the more salient quotations.

Q. "What's happening in Canadian poetry?"

Layton: "Me."

Q. "What are your standards for living?"

Layton: "In a word, creativity."

Q. "Do you believe in God?"

Layton: "Yes, but I don't know if God believes in me. I believe in a creative god."

Q. You have been associated with the Beats; what do you have to say about this?"

Layton: "I was once photographed with some Beats in Greenwich Village—I appeared behind Ginsberg's beard—but I am not a Beat poet."

And Layton on:

Canadian Culture: I haven't seen enough of it to be worried.

Canadian Women: I have seen enough of them to be worried!"

Norman Mailer: First as a success, now as a failure, he is a significant figure in the American Wasteland.

Advice to young writers: Don't let University interfere with your education. . . follow your inner dynamic. Crawl out of the universities and wander the streets of the melagopolis.

T.S. Eliot: We have assimilated him: I for one am grateful to him, but we must go beyond. It's the gentleman puritanism of Eliot which offends me. Yeats is a more sympathetic poet.

Robert Frost: He is a kind of Whitcomb Riley with muscles.

The poet of today: The significant poet of the sixties is one who presents the anguished, tortured reflection of our time.

Man today: I feel man must find his way in society. He is a sick animal and civilization is his disease. But the cure is by way of more civilization, so to speak. . .

Love in North America: The incapacity to love is a terrible malaise in America today. D.H. Lawrence saw this long before anyone else. He saw that man was losing his role as pioneer, prophet, warrior, and poet. When a great artist like Lawrence comes along today, and puts his fingers on the sores of society, we have nothing but a nervous giggle for him, you see. . .

Egotism: Every poet is an egotist; only it's that some are better than others at hiding it.

Life: There is no substitute for joy, creativity, and for living fully in the present.

E.E. Cummings: a fine lyricist, an innovator impossible to imitate. I like a poet who gives me

a sense of the joy, the wonder of life. Cummings does this; some of his lines sing out of your mouth.

The enemy: They are the ones who hate unconventionality, joy, adventure. (Q. Are there more enemies in the U.S. than in Canada? A. "Yes, they have a larger population).

Technology: It favours the female; she is apt at filing and making reports.

Man and the briefcase: He is becoming a homunculus.

Irving Layton: I think I'm a very good poet.



Kaplan, Aitchison say no N-arms for Canada

"Canada should not equip her forces with nuclear arms." This was the conclusion of both Prof. J. G. Kaplan of Dept. of Physiology, and Prof. J. H. Aitchison, of the Dept. of Political Science, in a discussion on "Canada's Place in the Nuclear Age", held last week.

Although they agreed in their conclusions, the speakers did so for different reasons. Dr. Kaplan emphasized human morality and pacifism, whereas Dr. Aitchison's view was based on military expediency.

Dr. Kaplan believed that the most vital objective the world must aim for now is the achievement of multilateral disarmament, which he contends is the best way to prevent a "precipitated, or even accidental. . . war." "A step away from disarmament is a step in the wrong direction," he said.

"With Canada's acceptance of nuclear weapons, it will be harder to achieve disarmament. War has changed so much that it is no longer useful as a method of diplomacy; (therefore) Canada

should examine her role. We should act to prevent the outbreak of war."

Dr. Kaplan, who is Vice-president of the Canadian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, then mentioned many of the types of people who are sympathetic to the goals of the organization. "There are fifty-seven artists (i.e. painters, writers, sculptors) who are willing to help the campaign. The clergy, however. . . are leading from behind. They will espouse any cause which is expressed by the majority of their parishioners."

Dr. Aitchison, who is President of the provincial New Democratic Party, stated that for the past few years he had advocated a nuclear policy for Canada if it protected or supported the American nuclear deterrent. "That is still my view today," he continued. "However, I now believe that Canada should not accept them. The U.S. deterrent is invulnerable against a Soviet attack. The Soviet Union could not possibly knock out the U.S. deterrent." He supported this charge by quoting American Defense Secretary Robert MacNamara as saying that if "the U.S. deterrent were three times its present size, it still would not be able to knock out the Soviet retaliatory force in one blow. Because the Soviet nuclear arsenal is no larger than that of the Americans, they could not, conversely, blow out the entire American retaliatory force in one blow. This U.S. deterrent force is invulnerable."

Prof. Kaplan ended his discussion with an examination of Canada's role in North American defense. "It has been said that Canada flunked the nuclear test when she refused to accept nuclear warheads, during the Cuban crisis," he said. "The crisis, however, was precipitated by the Americans. Thus Canada was expected to protect the U.S. deterrent even when the U.S. started the trouble. The U.S. commands a position whereby she will be solely responsible if a position is reached in which the deterrent has to be used."

Model Parliament overthrows two governments

Highlights of Dal's two-day Model Parliament last week included the overthrow of two administrations, an appearance by "Red Kelly", and a further renunciation of Canada's Prime Minister John Diefenbaker by the campus Tories. Of the four bills introduced by the House (including the speech from the throne) only one was passed.

First session of Model Parliament opened Wednesday night, with the Government being formed by the New Democratic Party, holding fourteen seats. Liberals and Tories, holding fifty-one seats, formed the Opposition. The Speech from the Throne, read by Governor-General Dr. A.E. Kerr, dealt mostly with the virtues of economic planning and the need for Canada to play a more constructive role in bringing about multilateral disarmament.

Debate on the Throne Speech was kicked off by Prime Minister Creighton Brown, who enlarged on the speech's content. Leader of the Opposition, Liberal John Myers, complained loudly for not having been permitted to form the government, which he considered the Liberals' "rightful" prerogative. Following this, the Opposition was exposed to an interminable barrage from Government speakers, until the sentiments for closure, reminiscent of the 1956 "Pipe-Line" debate, became adamant. After two hours, the Throne Speech was put to the vote. It was defeated 31-14, the entire Conservative camp abstaining. After a five-minute recess, Liberals formed the new government.

The first session's only Bill was put forth by the Tories for the adoption of nuclear arms for Canada's armed forces. The Bill was introduced by Alan MacDonald (Calgary North) who gave an impassioned speech showing the ineffectiveness of present Canadian weapons (such as the Voodoos and BOMARCS) without nuclear armaments. The Bill was passed 46-19. It was a "whips-off" Bill, where any member can vote as his conscience dictates, regardless of the party line.

DIEFENBAKER UNRELIABLE

Highlight of the session came when, in the body of his speech, Terry Morley (NDP, York South) quoted from one John Diefenbaker. The Tories questioned at length about the identity of this "fellow", and finally had him acknowledged as a "very old" constituent by the member from Prince Albert. The member felt that Mr. Diefenbaker was at best a "very unreliable" authority on

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Sheaf says Diefenbaker may be Canada's Chief Justice

SASKATOON (CUP) — Prime Minister John Diefenbaker may become Canada's next Chief Justice, according to a story in the University of Saskatchewan student paper, The Sheaf.

The Sheaf said it has learned that Diefenbaker would become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and Chief Justice of Canada.

The paper said it got its information from an Ottawa source "generally described as 'Usually reliable'."

The Sheaf said it contacted several political science, legal and political figures to ask their opinion on the constitutionality and mechanics of the move.

"None of those contacted would allow his opinions to be quoted on this issue, however, possibly because, as one of them put it 'one could scarcely imagine a more bizarre circumstance arising,'" The Sheaf said.

According to the U of S paper, procedure for filling the positions is for the Prime Minister, usually on the advice of the Minister of Justice, to submit names of persons to the Governor-General for consideration.

Customarily the Governor-General would appoint the person

recommended by the PM, although he has the power to refuse, to do so.

The Sheaf contacted, they claim, Fred Hadley, president of the PC Prince Albert PC constituency association, Diefenbaker's home riding.

Hadley said there was no truth in the rumors the PM would resign. He said there was no doubt the PM would win his riding with a bigger majority than ever.

"Mr. Hadley did admit, when questioned, that Mr. Diefenbaker had not yet been nominated, and that, in fact, no date for a nomination convention had been set," The Sheaf said.

"Speculation in Ottawa immediately prior to the dissolution of the last parliament was that the Socreds would have supported a PC minority government headed by someone other than Diefenbaker, perhaps Finance Minister Nowlan. Whether or not such support would be available should the PC's be returned again with a minority government is not known," The Sheaf concludes.

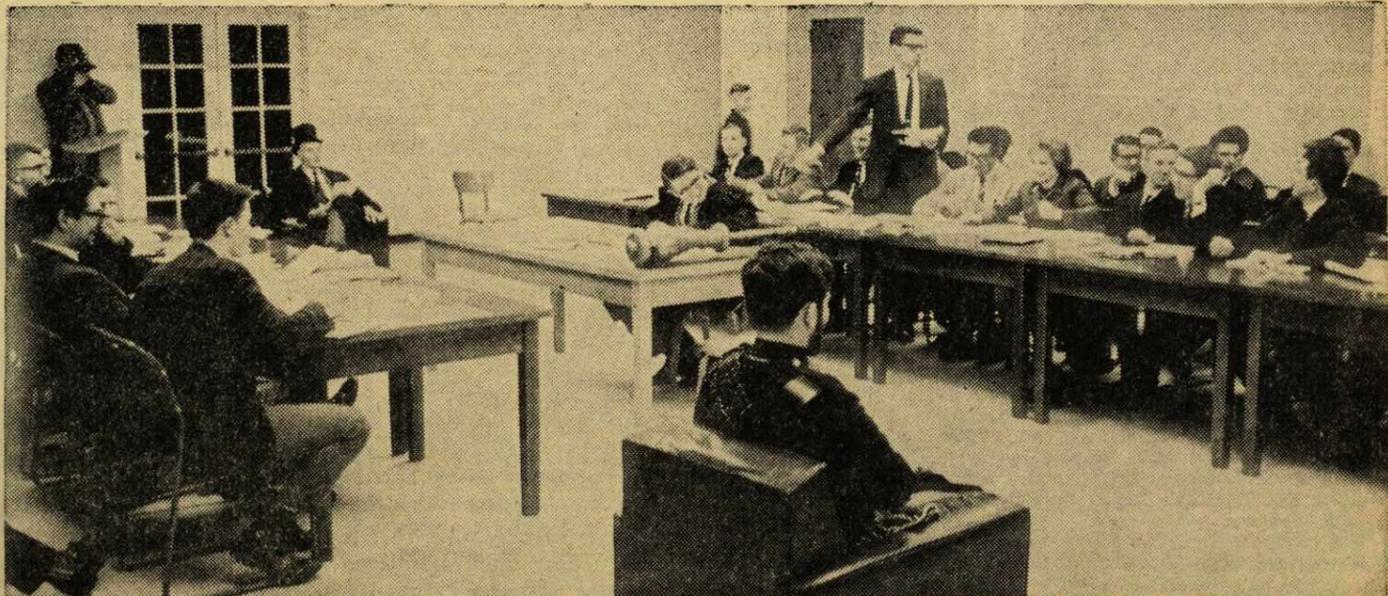


Photo by Purdy

LIBERAL LEADER John Myers harrangues the Honourable Members on the topic of who should form the government. At this time he was the Leader of the Opposition. Myers later replaced NDP leader Creighton Brown as Prime Minister. Professor Aitchison is Speaker, Ken Mackenzie is Sergeant-at-arms.