

# Prime Minister more powerful than U.S. President

By Dennis Zomerschoe

"The prime minister of Canada is more powerful than either the president of the U.S. or the prime minister of Britain," says Marcel Lambert, Tory MP for Edmonton West.

Laurier LaPierre agreed with the opinion of the veteran politician and added that Canada's system of government did not provide checks and balances to this power.

He bluntly dismissed political parties with a wave of his hand. They are obsolete, but they don't even know it." He considers they will cease to be relevant by the 1980's. Referring to McLuhan's *Global Village*, he said that the technological revolution is increasingly bringing people closer together. This would also be an aid to solving human problems.

Mr. LaPierre considers that the Quebec problem will be solved by the technological advances in education which will facilitate bilingualism and consequent identification of different parts of

Canada with each other.

His next blast was levelled at the CBC's policy of running programs without considering the wishes of their viewers. "Who watches French programs on Sunday morning?"

Marcel Lambert spoke movingly of the dialogue between French Canadians and English Canadians. "French studies in Alberta are pursued with great conscientiousness."

He added that, according to his information, 15,000 people in Alberta (English speaking) are studying French. Despite their differences, it was obvious the two men had a certain affinity as they occasionally broke off the interview and conversed in French with each other.

The two also discussed student unrest. When questioned about student dissent in Canada, Mr. LaPierre said: "What dissent? I see only student assent." Most students in Canada he considered to be totally apathetic. "They go through the system and turn out like their parents. There is not

enough questioning of the basic issues at the university."

He considered students to be fighting for the wrong things. He considers the present education system to be repressive and inefficient.

He recommended instead that students focus on the real issues on a campus, which he felt, fall into three parts: parity on committees dealing with curriculum, appointments of faculty, and student organization at the departmental level. Mr. LaPierre considers this to be where the real power lies.

Mr. Lambert vigorously attacked the trend towards larger universities. "Maxi-universities are for the birds." He felt that a lack of communication exists among students, academics, and between these two groups.

He portrayed students as frustrated ants crawling over a giant anthill, and recommended a return to the tutorial system where everyone would get an adequate education.



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## Student employment future bleak— "Band-Aid solutions" to be proposed

By Murray Campbell

It's going to be a long, jobless summer for at least 30 per cent of the 25,000 university students in western Canada if a weekend conference of student union representatives here is any indication.

Representatives at the conference concluded that this summer is going to be worse than any previous, and that student unions are going to be forced into concentrating on "band-aid solutions," short-run solutions for essentially long-range problems.

Planning at the conference was carried out on two levels: one to help as many students as possible to gain employment during the summer, and the other to gather valid statistical data to use in future years as a basis for student demands on government and business.

### Special programs

Student unions on individual campuses are going to be setting up special programs to try and get the most possible jobs for students this summer. As well as

pressuring governments and universities to help set up special programs in recreation or clean-up, representatives looked into the aspects of "student capitalism," student operated enterprises in painting houses and other tasks.

As well, a tentative week of March 16 to March 27 has been designated Survival Week to not only let students on the campuses know that their students' union is trying to help the job situation, but let the public know that the problem exists.

Representatives were agreed that even with low-paying short-run jobs, not everybody is going to be able to find any kind of employment. It was felt that this year unions should stay in contact with these unemployed, organizing rallies at provincial legislative buildings, organizing mass welfare enlistments in individual cities and continual registration with local Canada Manpower Offices. Delegates also agreed that it is going to take considerable effort to make the public understand that "band-aid solutions" proposed by government, chambers of commerce and others are not valid attempts at alleviating the situation.

Frank Dabbs of the Calgary students' union has been chosen to set up systems of co-research for individual unions to correlate their research data into something of a common denominator.

A questionnaire drawn up by Mr. Dabbs will be given by all the unions to their students during Survival Week and a second one, as a follow-up to the first, will be sent sometime during the latter part of August. As well, it is planned to send a questionnaire to all spring graduates to determine their success in finding permanent employment in line with their field of study.

Representatives will meet again at a continuity conference in Vancouver March 21-23 so that incoming student council officers will be fully-acquainted with the efforts of this organization in the past year.

### ASA meets tomorrow in Arts Lounge

ASA will be holding its regular meeting in the Arts Lounge at 7:30 on Wednesday. The agenda will include:

- Discussion of reports of the election and forums committees
- report on English Department regarding student representation
- Geography Student Association grant.

Please attend.