

Democracy dead at Kings?

by Trent Thompson

PRINCE HALL, University of King's College was the scene of a Sunday debate, September 25, 1977. The issue to be debated was: Be it resolved that no civilized person would ever wish to dine at 5 p.m.

The student body of King's College understood that the outcome of the debate was to determine the hour of dining, at present an unsatisfactory 5:30 p.m.

Arguing for the government presenting the resolution, were the Hon. Rev. Prof. Wayne J. Hankey and the Hon. Prime Minister Dr. John Godfrey. The government argued that only cows and farmers would wish to dine at the barbarous hour of 5:00 and therefore the civilized men of King's College should receive the advantages of High Tea at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner at the proper hour of 6:00 p.m.. President Godfrey stated that one should not be governed by the near example of Dalhousie, whom he referred to as "Upper Slobovia."

The opposition, arguing on behalf of the student body, consisted of the Hon. Mr. Bassett and the Hon. Mr. Epstein.

They countered the Government's position by demonstrating that civilized man could not be determined by his hour of dining



Kings President John Godfrey has upset the students of Kings College by changing supper hours.

and therefore one should revert to common sense and practicality in choosing a dinner hour. The seven-

teenth century European views of the government were rebutted by the nineteenth century rationality of

Jane Austin's England.

The speaker then opened the floor for arguments "for" or "against" the government. Three persons spoke against the resolution in support of the opposition. No arguments were made on behalf of the government. Contrary to the proper rules of the debate, the government then proceeded to announce a cabinet shuffle which enabled the Hon. "Nouveau" Prime Minister Rev. Prof. Wayne J. Hankey to have the last word.

The speaker called for a vote on the question. A standing vote was called for and the house defeated the resolution soundly. It was obvious that 90% of the students in the house were anti-High Tea and a later dinner hour.

Approached after the debate by members of the student body, President Godfrey re-iterated his position to institute High Tea and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The debate had merely been "sport" and the opinions of the students mattered NAUGHT (NOT, for those uncivilized). In the words of President John Godfrey defeated in the debate, "This is not a democracy or a rose garden."

Students at King's fear the imminent arrival of High Tea and Autocracy.

Godfrey sets stage for confrontation

by John McLeod

The University of King's College which recently was host for the public hearings of the Task Force on Canadian Unity is now facing its own unity crisis. The crisis is an administration versus students confrontation of the type that one would associate with California and the sixties. In this case the issue, when Supper time will be, seems rather petty.

The year began with supper from 5:30-6:30. During orientation week this was not seen as a major problem but when classes began, opposition to the arrangement rose as people began to fall into routines and this time became somewhat inconvenient. For the majority it is a question of convenience but for a small number it is a matter of having a choice between food for the body (supper) and food for the mind (classes). Another problem was that eating at 5:30 caused large lineups because everyone came at once.

On Sunday there was a debate in the Dining Hall on the resolution "Be it resolved that no civilized person would dine at 5 o'clock." During the debate the President of the University, Dr. John Godfrey, expounded on his position that to eat at 5:00 p.m. was profoundly uneuropean and reflected the increasing Americanization of our society. In his dissertation Godfrey jocularly linked Big Macs with the Mafia and cited a recent CBC program that linked Pizza to organized crime. Godfrey concluded his remarks by proposing to have Supper at 6:00 p.m. and to have High Tea at 3:30 for those that were addicted to eating at 5:00.

To understand this you must comprehend Godfrey's view of King's College. He views King's as

an enclave within Outerslobovia (Dal) where the Oxfordian concept of the Medieval University is not yet extinct. Dr. Godfrey, at times, has been known to regard himself as a "Temporal Ruler" who presides over a land that is "neither a Democracy or a Rosegarden."

At the conclusion of this debate there was a standing vote and the resolution was defeated. After this a number of naive students believed that the President would be bound by this 'referendum' and that mealtime would move. Sometime Monday the President discovered that for this year, at least, it was impossible to move Supper to 6 o'clock.

In a memo dated Sept. 27 the Dean of Residence, Mr. Tom Curran, announced that the President realized that his policy had caused hardships both to the students and to the kitchen staff who had to contend with massive line-ups at 5:30. In the same memo it was announced that there would now be 3 supper shifts, 5:15, 5:30, and 6:00. Under this arrangement those that wished to eat at 5:15 would be limited in number to 75 and would have to sign a list for this time at breakfast.

Darrel Johnson, of Saga Foods, felt that any arrangement that would avoid the 5:30 rush would be somewhat helpful as this would allow his staff to provide better service.

However, the students regarded the President's policy as revenge for losing the debate on Sunday and protest has started with renewed vigor. At a meeting on Tuesday night the students voted unanimously in favor of a supper time from 4:45-6:30, as allowed in the food contract, as opposed to the President's policy. This result was

expected as the student body was convinced that the president was being vengeful. Many students spoke during the meeting but only one suggested that before falling into 'armed camps' the students should take time to consider all positions.

Thus, at King's, there exists the makings of a Classic confrontation.

The administration feels that it is being compassionate and accommodating but lacks tact in the way it announces that it is making a major concession. The students view the new policy not as a concession from the previous one but as an attempt to deprive them of what they believed that they had won after the debate on Sunday.

Probation program

The Junior League of Halifax, a voluntary women's organization, in cooperation with Correctional Services, Department of the Attorney General, Province of Nova Scotia, has initiated a two-year demonstration project called Volunteers in Probation.

The VIP project will recruit concerned men and women of the community to provide one-to-one service to adults who have been placed on probation by the Courts. The majority being of the ages sixteen to twenty-five. The volunteers will be expected to give offenders personal, individual attention for a few hours a week. Professional probation officers have an overwhelming number of case-loads and it is impossible for them to provide extensive service.

Martha Shinyei, coordinator of the project, was recently employed as a Research Associate with the Canadian Penitentiary Service in British Columbia. Shinyei and probation officers in the metro area have developed a rigorous screening process of volunteers, followed by an extensive and interesting training program. The program

deals with the Criminal Justice System, including an intensive look at the Courts, probation processes as well as discussions of interviewing techniques. Further on-the-job training, such as group discussions and film sessions, will also be offered. The volunteers will be supervised by the adult probation officers.

The Junior League of Halifax is supporting the project with a funding of \$37,000 raised from the community with the Junior League Follies.

Interested in the Criminal Justice System in Nova Scotia since 1973, the League believes that private citizens must become involved in combating crime and delinquency in the community. They feel it is essential that the general community assume some responsibility for people who have committed criminal offences. In order to do this the public must become aware of the processes of the Criminal Justice System.

Anyone interested in becoming a V.I.P. should contact Martha Shinyei, Coordinator, Volunteers in Probation Project, 3rd Floor, Lord Nelson Arcade, 424-5775.