

Tories Discuss Biculturalism

Student Progressive Conservatives from most of the Maritime Universities met in Moncton Friday and Saturday for the third annual Atlantic Regional Seminar. Delegates spent two days discussing the problems of Canadian Nationalism. Discussions centered on the approach the Conservative Party ought to take on biculturalism. Mr. Hewart Graffey, M.P., special speaker for the conference, whose Quebec constituency is 75 per cent French speaking, spoke at length about the outlook and attitudes of the French Canadian to this problem.

The problem of defining "Canadian" was discussed, especially in view of the invasion of American culture into the English speaking part of Canada. The delegates concluded that at this stage of our development as a nation, the most important unifying facts between our various ethnic groups must be the common desire to work out a satisfactory answer of our common responsibilities as Canadians. This country has not accepted the "melting pot theory" as has the U.S., but has chosen to maintain a respect for individuality especially in respect to cultural matters, and it is the work of the Conservative Party, especially the younger members to ensure that a balance is reached between those who wish to see the "melting-pot theory" applied here,



Miss Dianna Yue, crowned Queen of Science at the Science Ball Saturday. She is in first-year science, majoring in physics. (DGP Photo Munroe)

and those who wish to dispense with Confederation altogether.

The French-speaking delegates helped in discovering and assessing the needs and desires of the French in Canada, and all those

taking part agreed that the exchange of views which occurred was most useful to all concerned.

Delegates from Dalhousie were Barry Oland, Paul Murphy, Art Donhoe, and Joe Macdonald.

CUP Runneth Over

by Zack Jacobson, CUP Editor

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE RCMP QUESTION

The meeting held last week by the Prime Minister, Commissioner McLellan, CUS President Davy Jenkins, and others, on the question of RCMP investigations on University Campuses is encouraging, but we don't find it completely satisfying. There are some questions yet to be answered.

Jenkins was told, "There is at present no general RCMP surveillance of University Campuses." (ours) We do not wish to descend to arguing unimportant semantics, but we cannot help wondering about the words "at present". They seem to imply either that such investigations have been held in the past or will be held in the foreseeable future, or both. The questions arise here:

- When was the last such "general surveillance" held, and why was it carried out?
- Were students investigated, or professors, or both?
- Is this a common procedure, or only carried out under extreme conditions?
- What constitutes such an "extreme condition"?
- Have these investigations been carried out under Conservative government, or Liberal, or both?
- In wartime or in peacetime?
- When will the next one be, and why?
- Or was the phrase "at present" simply inserted into the usually cautious language of official communiques by mistake?

The fact that Mr. Pearson says that there is a re-examination of all security procedures being done now indicates that such "general surveillance" has been practiced in the past. We trust that if this is the case, much more information about these past activities will be made public, particularly concerning methods and reasons. Also a statement of future policy in this regard should be forthcoming.

Aside from this sort of "general surveillance", it stands to reason that the RCMP would only investigate campuses "as required for information on people seeking employment in the public service, or where there are definite indications that individuals may be involved in espionage or subversive activities." No-one seriously suggested that the RCMP was continually examining every facet of university life with a microscope. We are satisfied that this first function is justified, certainly the government has a right and a duty to know the qualifications of anybody they intend to hire to a responsible position. But, again, there is not enough information delivered about the second function, the investigation of espionage and subversive activity among university students, or, for that matter, anyone else.

The questions again:

- What constitutes a "definite indication" of subversive activity sufficient to spark such an investigation of a particular person?
- What sort of dossier is kept on a person who is so investigated, and for how long?
- Who has access to this dossier?
- What sort of detrimental effect can the existence of such a record, whether good or bad, have on an individual's future career?
- Who knows when an investigation is being carried out on a particular person? Who knows when any investigation at all is being carried out?
- Under whose authority are these investigations carried out?

It is entirely possible that the entire furor that has been kicked up about this subject has been totally unfounded. However, the fact that the government officials involved waited until the very day set by CUS almost a month ago, and the only released sketchy information concerning the matter to the public. This suggests that the entire purpose of the meeting was to throw a few conciliatory nebulous statements into the jaws of Canada's University Papers to keep them silent, for they had effectually promised to set up a loud howl if nothing were said by that date.

It certainly seems apparant that the present government is endeavoring to do all in its power to rectify any procedural injustices that there may have been in the past, but we are intensely interested in knowing what these injustices might have been. We do not mean to create trouble where none should exist, or bad feeling; but we fell that we are entitled to answers to the questions asked here.



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