

Everchanging China

On November 21, at 8:00 pm. in the McInnes Room, the Dalhousie Student Union and the local Canada-China Friendship Association will co-sponsor a public lecture by William Hinton, one of the world's foremost authorities on modern China. Hinton is scheduled to speak on "The Continuing Revolution in China." Admission for this event is free.

Although he is a U.S. citizen and resident, Hinton knows China and its revolution from first-hand experiences. He first visited China in 1937 where, after working six months as a newspaper reporter in Japan, he travelled across Manchuria before returning to the states. He saw much more of the country in 1945 while working as a propaganda analyst for the U.S. Office of War Information in several Chinese cities. He returned to China in 1947 as a technical volunteer with the Church of the Brethren Unit of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration tractor programme. When, in the fall of 1947, UNRRA was dismantled all over the world, the machinery was hauled away to the mountains and stored in loess caves. The UNRRA staff was dispersed and Hinton went to teach English at Northern University in Kao Settlement where, as an observer with a land reform work team, he gathered material for his best-known work, *Fanshen*. In 1949 fuel for the tractors again became available. By this time the Communist Party's policy of land reform was essentially completed in the liberated areas of North China; as a result large-scale farming and farm mechanization became possible for the first time. Hinton thus rejoined the tractor project and participated in the first sixteen months of revolutionary agricultural development. The fascinating story of this project is reported in his book "Iron Oxen."

Hinton returned to the U.S. in 1953. Arriving in the midst of America's Cold War hysteria, the large collection of notes and materials he had accumulated for the writing of "Fanshen" were peremptorily impounded by U.S. Customs and eventually placed under the custody of the infamous Senate Committee on Internal Security. After a long, strenuous and costly legal battle, Hinton finally regained possession of his notes.

Primarily because of this delay "Fanshen" was not published until 1966. However, the book has rapidly come to be acknowledged as the classic study of the land redistribution phase of the Chinese Revolution. Universally acclaimed for its lucid style, accurate reporting and warm, yet penetrating, human insight. "Fanshen" tells the story of how China's hundreds of millions of landless and land-poor peasants revolutionized themselves and their society under the able leadership of Mao Tse-tung and the

Chinese Communist Party. Unlike so many works which approach historic events strictly in terms of the activities and thinking of a few prominent figures, Hinton's account has the rare virtue of giving the reader a vivid sense of what the revolutionary process meant for the daily lives of the common people who suffered most from the established social order. In this regard the book provides a detailed description of the politicization, consciousness raising, and inner conflicts which were part and parcel of the rise of people's power in modern China.

Hinton visited China again in 1971 to investigate the nature and significance of the extraordinary Cultural Revolution which swept over the country in the years between 1966 and 1969. In "Hundred Day War" Hinton attempts to reconstruct and interpret the complex struggle between student factions which occurred at Tsinghua University, China's leading scientific education centre and one of the original hotbeds of political activity during this period. An important companion volume to this case study of Tsinghua is Hinton's incisive essay "Turning Point in China." The latter effectively challenges the prevailing

Western interpretation of the Cultural Revolution which simply views it as a military takeover, a personal power struggle, or an effort to guarantee the succession to Mao. By contrast, Hinton postulates that while a struggle for power did occur during the Cultural Revolution, the source of the conflict was profoundly political, not personal. More specifically, Hinton argues that underlying the polarization of forces into two camps were fundamentally divergent conceptions of the direction China's future social and economic development should take. The book also describes the new forms of commune organization, industrial management, and educational practice that have appeared subsequent to this commonly misunderstood period of upheaval. Hinton has been sufficiently impressed by the meaning and consequences of the Cultural Revolution to remark that it "may well be the most important political development of the second half of the twentieth century."

For a number of years Hinton and his family have run a farm in Pennsylvania. He has just recently been actively involved in the formation of a national organization of China friendship associations in the U.S.

American Claptrap!

by Michael Greenfield

Here we are, speaking with Democratic Congressman John "Smiley" Trapklap after his fourth successful congressional bid:

Congressman, how was the campaign this year?

Just fine, the easiest campaign I ever had. People were fed up with the economy, high level corruption and other Republican-created problems.

But Congressman did not the voters suspect you, being six years in office, at least in part, a contributor to the present problems?

Listen, as long as the Republicans held the seat of power, all I could do was point out Republican mistakes, thereby helping to correct them and make our nation strong--

In other words Congressman - complain.

What else can I do? After all I am just one citizen.

Now let us examine the issues, Congressman. What are your feelings toward inflation and recession? Inflation and recession are bad problems. And don't let any Republican try to convince you that it is'nt! The fault lies with the Republicans. They try to blame it on the Arabs, but that cheap trick just won't work.

What do you propose then, Congressman?

That every red-blooded American should follow my example - complain. Someone in Washington is bound to here us.

What is your position with regard to foreign policy?

Nixon may have done a decent job, but Ford is really blowing it. Imagine, trying to be open and even friendly. He fails, like all Republicans fail at being open and friendly. It is a common fact that Republicans cheat, lie and bug offices.

Congressman Trapklap, do you think Watergate helped you win the election?

Sure, it was a big factor. But I hope the voters won't be deceived that Watergate was a unique instance. Republicans can never learn from their mistakes.

How do you feel about the House being veto-proof, with a two-thirds majority for the Democrats?

Frankly, I'm very anxious. Now my constituents might expect me to be able to do something effective. Listen all you voters! As long as Ford's in their we're in for bad times. How can you expect anything positive with that incompetent football player running the show.

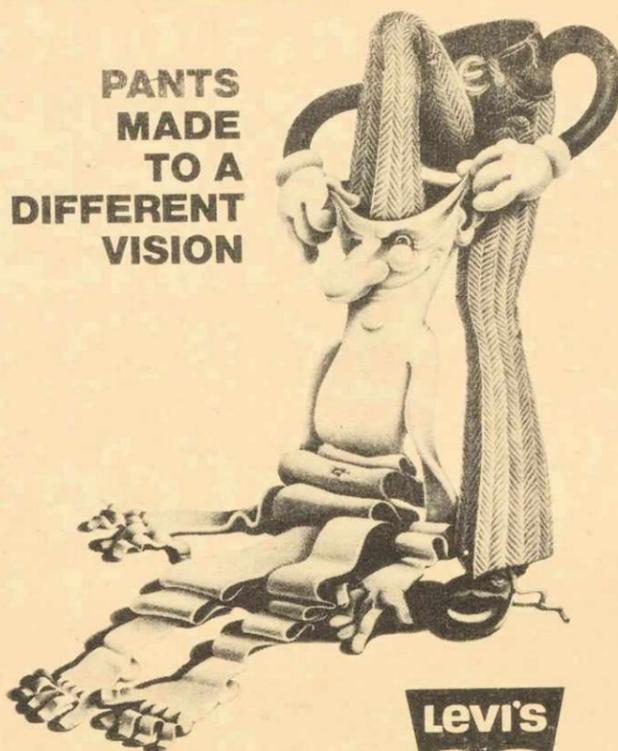
I realize that he is only a former Congressman, but what do you think about his chances in '76?

With enough complainers like myself in this country, we should be able to find grievous fault with his handling of the situation. We should be able to defeat the Republicans despite their devious nature.

By the way, Congressman Trapklap, there were rumours about your health during the recent campaign?

I had the flu, so what. Look, now I'm healthy, my families healthy, I can't complain.

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CUSO NEEDS Health Personnel

To teach and work overseas. Share your expertise with the developing nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific.

INFORMATION SESSION:

Nov. 18, 8:00p.m.

Seminar Rm. 'A'

Sir Charles Tupper Bldg.

CUSO staff members will be available for discussion.

A film will be shown.

Everyone welcome.