

planning, to produce policies and doctrines that complement political objectives and which, should our best efforts fail, hold out some prospect of avoiding total disaster.

The nuclear winter thesis is yet another example of the current fashion for "catastrophism." Unless we act immediately and in ways radically different from the ways in which governments and political communities usually act, then catastrophe will follow. As a result of the constantly expanding list of potential catastrophes with which we are confronted, the ethical demands on political action con-

stantly expand too. Thus also, the moralizing tone of those who threaten us with nuclear winter: it is not enough to address ourselves to the task of maintaining our disparate and multitudinous political objectives in an anarchic world of sovereign states, but we must act in the interests of generations yet unborn. That we should frighten ourselves with the potential consequences of nuclear weapons is probably a good thing to do from time to time, but fear can paralyze action, and those who would frighten us too much, do not encourage reform, but despair. □

Book Reviews

Herbert Norman

by A.R. Menzies

E.H. Norman: His Life and Scholarship, edited by Roger W. Bowen, University of Toronto Press, 206 pages, \$24.95.

The Department of External Affairs and Herbert Norman were both born in 1909. In this 75th anniversary year it is a happy coincidence that a collection of essays, mostly prepared for a 1979 symposium at St. Mary's University in Halifax, should be published about Canada's greatest Japanologist and talented diplomat, who unfortunately took his own life in Cairo in 1957.

This book is divided into three equal parts, dealing with Norman's life, his historical writing about Japan, and finally three speeches and an essay by him. All reveal aspects of the man, his environment, his remarkable grasp of European history, his approaches to the analysis of Japanese history, and the heavy pressures of the US Senate McCarthy Committee on him. However, the book leaves significant parts of his career unexplored. A rounded biography of this unusual historian and diplomat has yet to be written.

Part One contains five essays on parts of Norman's life. Professor Edward Reischauer suggests that his boyhood in rural Nagano Prefecture made Norman "more aware of the poverty and problems of rural Japan and the deep roots of its traditional ways."

As one who followed seven years after Norman at the Canadian Academy in Kobe, Japan, Victoria College in the University of Toronto, and Harvard University, I was disappointed that there was no treatment of the influence on him of these institutions. Victor Kiernan has written a general essay on the intellectual leaders and movements in Cambridge in the 1930's but was not close enough to Norman to give us an intimate description of his study of European history there, on which he drew so effectively for

comparative purposes in his writing. However, his comments on Norman joining the Communist Party there are informative.

This collection of essays does not contain any by his contemporaries in the Department of External Affairs, except for a short one by Arthur Kilgour who served with him for less than two months before his death in Cairo in April 1957.

I first met Norman when he was repatriated from Japan in August 1942 in an exchange of diplomats and civilian internees. We found that we had much in common in our educational backgrounds, as well as historical and current interest in East Asia. I worked closely with Norman for over a year on a research project related to Canada's war effort. As a young bachelor I enjoyed many meals prepared by his gracious wife, Irene. On such social occasions Norman was a lively conversationalist and colourful raconteur because of his wide reading and remarkable memory. He enjoyed good food, classical music, theatre, and fine art.

In his work assignment Norman was able to follow the war in the Pacific as the Japanese advance was halted and then pushed back, and the Allies began to develop post-war policies. Norman's doctoral thesis, published in 1940 as *Japan's Emergence as a Modern State*, describing the transition from the Tokugawa military feudal government to a modernizing capitalist structure following the restoration of power to the Meiji Emperor in 1868, was regarded as a landmark study. The suicidal fanaticism of Japanese soldiers in the Pacific campaign rendered them beyond the human understanding of most Westerners. Norman's scholarly analyses of the Japanese government structure and its socio-economic roots in *Japan's Emergence*, in his *Soldier and Peasant in Japan: The Origins of Conscripted* (1943), and in his 1945 paper on the *Feudal Background of Japanese Politics*, encouraged others trying to understand the social motivations of the Japanese military expansion in a reasoned, rather than emotional way. According to Reischauer, these "were probably the most influential scholarly works shaping American and all Western political