

[POLITICS]

Mike, Volume Two, the Memoirs of the Rt. Hon. Lester B. Pearson, The University of Toronto Press, \$12.50. Volume Two is, inevitably, less of a triumph than Volume One. As *The New Yorker* said, Volume One could be read "purely for pleasure." Mr. Pearson died before Volume Two was published; as he saw death approaching, he devoted his dwindling time to Volume Three which would cover his years as Prime Minister and which will be published in due time. Volume Two is, then, a patchwork. Mr. Pearson had written the first drafts of the first four chapters and one for most of Chapter Six. The rest of the book was compiled by his editors from his personal records and previously published papers. The first chapters have much of Volume One's charm; he remembers, for example, an occasion on which, despite misgivings, he was persuaded by a political leader named Leo Gauthier to open the baseball season in an Ontario riding called Nickle Belt:

"I had surprised him . . . by saying I did not think much of the idea . . . 'This is a wonderful idea, so what's worrying you?' asked Leo. 'Well, you know people don't like to have a baseball game held up by expectant politicians, especially during an election.' 'Nonsense,' he replied, 'it will be just fine. I know my people.' I thought we had a pretty cool reception and said so on the way to our seats: 'Leo, that wasn't very successful.' A round, fat man and a jovial extrovert, he gave me a wide smile. 'Don't be silly, that was a triumph, not a single boo.' Everything in politics is relative. To him, if three politicians in an election campaign, two of them candidates, could delay a ball game for ten minutes without a boo from the bleachers, that was most encouraging — silence spelt success."

For students of politics and history, *Mike Two* is fascinating throughout. For more casual readers the first half alone is worth the price of admission.

Gentle Patriot, a Political Biography of Walter Gordon, by Denis Smith, Hurtig Publishers, \$12.50. This is a more closely knit work. Gordon is, in a sense, a tragic hero. After a full career as a most successful man of business, he joined his friend Lester Pearson in politics in 1958. He soon established a deserved reputation for unconventionality. He was, among other distinctions, an early advocate of nationalism in the modern sense. In 1963 he proposed a budget which would levy a 30 per cent tax on "certain sales by Canadian residents to non-residents and non-resident controlled companies on shares in

Canadian companies listed on the Canadian stock exchange. . . ." The proposal brought swift and powerful opposition and was the beginning of Gordon's political downfall. A decade later Parliament would pass with little opposition a law to limit foreign investments. Gordon would leave party politics behind and become more of a prophet than a politician. This book is remarkable in its clear and detailed depiction of what might be termed the politics of politics. It is a proper text for those who wish to know more about the art, rather than the science, of politics.

Home Country: People, Places, and Power Politics, by Peter C. Newman, McClelland & Stewart, Ltd. \$7.95. Mr. Newman, editor of *Maclean's Magazine*, is that fairly rare man, an accomplished twentieth-century essayist. His essays here are mostly political but he also has a few things to say about places, music, Expo and *Maclean's*. He is both an artful and an accurate reporter. For example: "Moshe Dayan slouches through the open vestibule of the Yarden Hotel at Tel Aviv and conversation stops. He is dressed in army fatigues with no insignia and has just flown in by helicopter from the market place at Deir el Kalah, where terrorist hand grenades killed two farmers. Involuntarily, I turn to look at the eyepatch which has become his symbol. But it is Dayan's good eye that reaches out and grips you, fascinates you, holds you in its unblinking stare, demanding: 'What have you done for Israel lately?'"

[ART AND ARTISTS]

Cornelius Krieghoff, by Hugues de Jouvancourt, Musson Book Company, \$29.95. It is best to let an artist's work speak for itself, but Cornelius Krieghoff also deserves a word or two of explanation. Hugues de Jouvancourt offers that plus 45 hand-tipped full colour and 121 black and white reproductions. Krieghoff was born in Holland in 1815 and came to Canada in 1836. He painted a wide variety of subjects — kitchens, cabins, card players, landscapes, riverscapes, horses and soldiers — but what he painted best were the homely scenes of life among the *Habitants*, the country people of Québec. He did it with a Flemish love of colourful detail on small canvases. He died in 1872, leaving behind an extraordinary body of work and a unique pictorial history of life as it was in Lower Canada long, long ago.

Caricature History of Canadian Politics, by J. W. Bengough, Peter Martin Associates, Ltd., \$10.00. The history was first published in 1886; it is a history, then, of the nineteenth century and the

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