



—Neil Driscoll photo

**WHAT SORT OF MAN WORKS FOR THE GATEWAY?**—A tired Gateway staffer takes out his frustrations on an overused typewriter at 3 a.m. Monday. You can save him from having frustrations by coming up to The Gateway office and signing on as a staffer.

# Rule by stalemate claimed national policy of Canada

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By  
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Canada's government, one that is supposed to set national policies, has evolved a system of rule by stalemate. Few will challenge the assertion that Parliament, especially under the Liberals, seeks only to maintain social peace, a policy that makes government a co-ordinator in the dominance of corporations.

Because federal administrations in Ottawa have operated under the shadow of official Washington and have not challenged U.S. economic inroads, Canada's governments have increasingly acted the part of colonial caretaker regimes.

Lester Pearson is not the first Liberal Prime Minister to act more as a diplomat than as the head of a sovereign government. Since the time of Mackenzie King, the Liberals have looked upon federal government, domestically and in its foreign relations, as mainly a task of diplomacy. Mr. King, more concerned with retaining power than with action, believed that the Prime Minister's job was one of bowing to the winds of political influence. It is not surprising, therefore, that he and his successors were most responsive to the prevailing wind from the United States.

## CITES DIVISIONS

The King-Pearson style of government cites regional and social English dichotomy, as reasons why

vigorous national direction is impossible. Certainly, Liberals are not alone in observing that Canada was formed out of a collection of local tribes, who value their autonomy and made federal co-ordination difficult. But it has been the Liberal Party, more than any other, that has built its power on the division between Canadians and has used these divisions as an excuse for inaction.

The solution to our problems never has been a homogenous country, or, as the Conservatives have called it, unhyphenated Canadianism. Canada has two nations, one of them a French fact, the other a polyglot collection of English-speaking communities.

Autonomy for these groups is the only basis for Canadian existence. But succeeding Liberal governments have not educated Canadians, especially young Canadians, about the nature of their country, nor have they evolved policies to assure survival of its parts.

Merely turning to Canada's other political parties will not bring young people significantly closer to adequate national policies.

The Conservatives, though led by a man probably destined to become part of Canadian folklore, John Diefenbaker, offer the slogans of independence from foreign economic domination, but few policies that could make it possible.

The New Democratic Party perhaps does offer the most hope. But fearful of offending the powerful U.S.-dominated trade unions and possibly upsetting its working-class vote, the NDP is likely to flirt cautiously with the issue.

The failure of Canada's parties to counter the trend toward continentalism has assured the continuance of old social problems and has caused new ones.

Traditional imbalances in the economy have been increased. While the West, with its abundant primary resources is finding new levels of prosperity, the Atlantic region and the rural sections of Ontario and Quebec are still poor.

The country's economically deprived regions have the most longstanding grievances, but, paradoxically, they have failed to organize significant political opposition and have been the slowest to abandon the two-party system. In fact, it has been in the urban centres—the areas most affected by the new continentalism—that social malaise and consequent dissent has grown.

With the gradual disappearance of an independent Canada, the problems as well as the material benefits of the Great Society imported from the south have appeared. Over the years, Canadian adults have learned to live with this new style of life, but young people have not yet come to terms with its values and they have few vested interests in it.

As well, they must cope with the problem of being citizens of a country unsure of its identity and unable to show its youth what being a Canadian means. As a result, young people suffer from their nation's incoherence.

There are many young protest groups today, but more than in other areas, discontent exists most consciously in and around the universities.

In the past five years Canada has witnessed the beginnings of a movement among youth that has campaigned against nuclear weapons for Canada, supported U.S. civil rights activists, held teach-ins and sit-ins on Viet Nam, that has campaigned for free university education and a student voice in determining university policies.

Student action on this scale is a phenomenon in Canada. It involves a variety of groups with different aspirations. In terms of evolving opposition politics on a significant scale, these groups have not advanced a great deal.

But around the student activists a coherent political and social program is emerging. Such a program has as its core an ideal of radical democracy—a search for political, social and economic institutions that give people the power to make the decisions that shape their destinies.

These young people, however, are not likely to work through existing institutions, either political parties or voluntary organizations.

For the most part, these groups have already come to terms with the Establishment. Some of them, the trade unions, for instance, were born out of social protest movements and, having attained their initial objectives, are satisfied to remain where they are. Others, made up of middle-class people who wish merely to tinker with obvious social outrages, are not likely to broaden our concept of democracy.

If recent experience in Quebec is any guide, this search for a new democracy will involve a rediscovery of Canada. Traditional Canadian nationalism offers nothing to today's youth. It paints a land of independent-minded, rural Britons too wise to go along with Yankee folly, and calls it Canadian history. It is nothing more than a yearning for days that never existed.

The present economic elite of Canada can never have any interest in challenging the continentalist drift of the economy; therein lies the futility of former Finance Minister Walter Gordon's attempt to convert Toronto's Bay Street to Canadian nationalism.

The elite, comfortable in the U.S.-dominated Great Society, is attracted by the short-run gains of going along with the Americans. It is not tempted by the greater power and more substantial profits that might be had through a struggle for economic independence.

It is this failure of will that underlies our inability to repatriate our economy. Although there are no universally accepted plans to do this, many approaches have been developed. They have not been tried because those with power in Canada have no strong motivation to do so.

Only a broadly based opposition movement that really wished to repatriate our economy would undertake this task and it is this that interests young people.

## NEW POWER CENTRES

Student efforts in this area are the beginnings of action to create new centres of power at the base of society. They are directed toward decentralizing power by carving out major areas in which citizens can directly participate to decide community issues. They are aimed at creating the base needed

see page 8—STALEMATE

## Private elevators designed for handicapped students

An elevator, that can be operated by only one single student who holds a key for it, is one of the novelties built into the Marshall Tory tower.

Eight more students are eligible to receive similar keys upon request.

The elevator marks a stepping stone in the long battle which these students have fought to obtain facilities which will admit their wheel chairs in and around campus buildings without help from by-standers.

When the Education Building and the residences were in the planning stage, the Canadian Paraplegic Association asked for small ramps and slightly modified bathrooms to permit free circulation of wheel chairs in these buildings.

However, the extra expenditures did not seem to be justified in the

face of low enrolment of handicapped students, and nothing was done.

### FAULTY LOGIC

In a brief to the administration, Mr. P. Garipey of the Association pointed out the faulty logic behind such reasoning.

He cited a pilot study carried out at the State University of Illinois where enrolment of handicapped students rose to 400, one quarter of whom depended on wheel chairs, when needed facilities were introduced on the entire campus a while ago.

A handbook lists the total enrolment of the University of Illinois as 43,700.

Reaction to the brief was most encouraging, Mr. Garipey indicated.

The Tory Building and SUB have been built with new specifications

designed to maintain a minimum of human dignity for the wheel chair student.

The biggest problems are posed by attempts at modification of existing structures on campus. Mr. R. Phillips, superintendent of buildings, has indicated the Education Building will be the first to receive a ramp and other by-passes of stair-ways in the corridors, which might have to be cut into portions of adjacent classrooms.

Some telephones will be lowered, and special parking stalls will be made available to handicapped applicants.

### GENEROUS FUNDS

"The administration is very generous with funds, but an existing need must be demonstrated before the department can proceed with construction," Mr. Phillips told The Gateway in an interview.

"Thanks to a good deal of pressure from the Canadian Paraplegic Association, the need has been effectively impressed upon the administration, and construction is about to begin in the Education Building.

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