

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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the wooden horse By FEC

KENNEDY

When I first heard of the shooting of President Kennedy, I was having coffee in the Canteen. Sitting nearby was an American student of extreme right-wing views who is a supporter of Senator Goldwater.

During the course of the ensuing discussion (before the President died), that American student made a remark to this effect: "Kennedy won't die. The bullet was probably a blank. I'll bet it was staged. Those Kennedys are ruthless enough to stoop that low."

If only that were the truth.

President Kennedy certainly had his faults — indeed, he had many. His political image was constructed with the meticulous care of a computer—so much so that we often wondered whether we were being hoodwinked by big money and Madison Avenue. His appointment of his brother Robert as Attorney-General was unwise; and I think the Attorney-General has been something of an albatross around the neck of the Kennedy administration. The election of his brother Edward to the United States Senate was a master-piece of political manipulation. And there are many who would say that President Kennedy needlessly pushed us to the brink of nuclear war over Cuba.

Despite all this, President Kennedy's performance in office unquestionably matched his image. History will mark him as one of the great Presidents, probably in the same category as President Roosevelt, Kennedy will not be remembered for his legislative reforms, for they were largely frustrated by an intransigent Congress dominated by men who were out of step with the times.

Rather, I think he will be remembered because he understood the perspective of history. He realized that his four or eight years in office could be nothing more than a passing moment in a long scheme of events; and he had the courage to do what the scheme of things required, despite the opposition of those who lived in the dreamland of the past. In short, he had a sense of history: he saw what had to be done, and he tried to do it.

It now seems likely that President Johnson will oppose Senator Goldwater for the Presidency.

There is no doubt in my mind that Kennedy would have crushed Goldwater.

But how will Johnson fare?

I think there will be a tendency to underestimate Johnson. For he is a master politician. He went to Congress at the age of 29, and to the Senate at the age of 40. He is generally regarded as the most effective Majority Leader ever seen in the U-S Senate. His powers of persuasion were awesome. And he was a magnificent strategist: he seldom allowed matters to come to a vote until he was reasonably certain of victory.

But the talents that made Johnson so effective in the Senate provide little indication of his suitability for the Presidency. As Majority Leader his job was to guide legislation through the dangerous avenues of the Senate; as President he must originate that legislation. Until now, he has been a conduit-pipe; hereafter he must be a pump.

It is difficult to assess Johnson's policies: it is tritely said that he is a liberal by choice and a conservative by geography. We shall learn between now and the election whether choice or geography will be the victor.

For the moment, we can hope that Johnson will find as useful a running-mate as President Kennedy did; we can hope that Johnson will defeat Senator Goldwater; and we can hope that Senator Goldwater will not be permitted to make political capital out of the leftist leanings of the alleged assassin—for that would only add to the already unspeakable tragedy.

THE ARAB SIDE :

Dear Sir:

Your article, headed "Arab case questioned at ISA parley" furnished the reader with quite inexact information, including some statements which were actually not made during the evening in question at all. The ISA meeting was well covered except for the totally false ideas concerning the Arab which were presented in the article. The article tended to make the meeting seem a failure. Whether the article was deliberately slanted against the Arab nation or not, I cannot say but I do know that Dr. Varma did not call the Arabs "dishonest backstabbers" nor did he say that our politicians are either fools or knaves. I dare say that Dr. Varma is not the type of man to insult peoples and nations; and as a University Professor would not speak such nonsense as to call politicians "fools or knaves".

Dr. Varma did not complain about Arab hospitality when he was teaching in Syria and U.A.R., and if a few politicians in Syria ill-treated him during a military revolt in 1961, this does not mean that Arabs are dishonest. One must bear in mind that Dr. Varma held opinions contrary to those of the politicians who ill-treated him. One must also remember that many Arabs were similarly mistreated by the same politicians and for the same reasons. Neither these people nor Dr. Varma have called nor would they call the whole Arab people dishonest and undesirable over something like this.

In the meeting, Dr. Varma said that only a few politicians had ill-treated him, certainly not the whole Arab nation!

Facts are facts and as such must not be changed by biased reporters and their prejudices. The Arab case was shown accurately to the audience; it seems to me that this article presented a good chance to a Zionist sympathiser to smear the Arab nation. A reporter should accurately record events. Remember "Ye shall know the Truth, and the truth shall make you free".

We have a proverb "It is possible to lie about the dead, but

not about the living". The Zionists have had many years to spread their lies about the Arabs. We had no representative in North America at that time; so, as far as the world was concerned, we might as well have been dead. Anything can be said about us to people who don't know us, and have no contact with us. But now, some of us are attending Canadian Universities, and I can show U-N pictures of what was done to the Arab people by these Zionists in 1948. As a Palestinian refugee in Jordan myself, I can show scars of bullet wounds which I suffered at their hands even though I was only 8 years old, and unarmed. I was merely a child, a pure child; I had nothing against them at the time, yet still, they shot me!

Dr. Varma is still living, and the reader can ask him whether or not he said these falsehoods about the Arabs and politicians in general. He merely spoke against the few individual men who had mistreated him in the course of a military revolt.

I am a student, and am not here to engage in politics, but simple human nature moves a man to want to correct obvious lies and mistakes. This is why I have written this letter; simply to put the record straight, and to inform the reader of the lies and distortions of truth which appeared in the story, and also to remind him not to believe everything he hears and reads, but, instead, to find out the facts, and to base his judgement on them.

If any reader should want to go into this matter more deeply, there is a book, written neither by Arab nor Zionist in the Macdonald Library on Campus. It is entitled "To whom Palestine?" by F. Gervasi. Our quarrel is not with the followers of the Jewish faith, but with the Zionist aggressors who have invaded our country following the Second World War. We are not responsible for Adolf Hitler nor his mistakes, nor should we suffer for them.

ADIL SALAH (Ed's note) — The unfortunate thing about "Facts" is that they do not always say the same thing to all people.

KENNEDY

A great man has been taken from us, struck down in the prime of his life by an assassin's bullet. The analogy between Lincoln and President Kennedy is a striking one. Both men will be long remembered for their strong stands for human rights and the equality of man. Both gave their lives for humanity. It is almost 100 years since Lincoln's death and we still feel a sense of sadness and loss when we consider President Lincoln's abrupt end. This same feeling of emptiness will long pervade our thoughts when we consider President Kennedy's short career. This man through his actions and words fought to make the world a better place for all of us. The test-ban treaty could well have saved the world from itself. It was a positive step towards an earth without war. His civil-right program was a tremendous advance to protect uphold and further what President Lincoln preached 100 years ago. There is one way we — the people of the world — can perpetuate this man's memory. We must strive to continue and further the courageous efforts which this man initiated in his short life. He gave his life for what he believed; the very least we can do is to make the small sacrifice and take positive action to uphold peace and the equality of all men.

A remarkable illustration of our system of government accompanied this tragedy. Less than 40 minutes after the passing of President Kennedy the U. S. had a new president. The country will suffer through President Kennedy's loss but the government will not fall, the economy will not crumble and the administration of the most powerful country in the world will continue. It is the system of government that President Kennedy lived and died for. It is this system we must strive to perpetuate and improve.

Editorial — Halifax — Mail-Star — Nov. 20, 1963

Protest Dalhousie Housing Lists

Out of Motives which are above reproach, Dalhousie University is laying itself open to the charge that it condones and even encourages the practise of racial discrimination by city landlords against African and West Indian students.

A few years ago, landlords wishing to rent rooms to university students submitted their names to the business office. Students desiring off-campus accommodation (in those days, virtually all out-of-town males) were given a list of homes to contact. When it was found that many foreign students, mostly Negroes, were being turned down because of their color, it was decided that the housing list should specify those places where foreign students were acceptable.

While this arrangement no doubt has spared many foreign students the humiliation of being awkwardly turned away, not to speak of saving landlords the embarrassment of admitting their prejudices, we feel it should be abolished.

The Nova Scotia Society for the Advancement of Colored People has protested the practice whereby Dalhousie in effect lends its facilities to landlords who discriminate against foreign students. It asks that the university "refuse to list any landlord who is not willing to accept any student whom you find morally and intellectually

capable of attending" Dalhousie.

Unfortunately, meeting this request would not eliminate discrimination. Far from it. But it would mean landlords would not be able to advertise their prejudices through the university's housing lists.

Under the province's new Human Rights Act, landlords are within their legal right to refuse housing to anyone they wish, for whatever reason, provided only that the denial does not concern an apartment in a building that contains more than four self-contained dwelling units. It is another thing, however, for Dalhousie, or any other university which follows a policy of non-discrimination to permit its name and facilities, however unwittingly, to be used in this manner.

Moreover, it is possible that Dalhousie is contravening that section of the Human Rights Act which prohibits the publication or display of any notice "or other representation indicating discrimination . . . against any person or class or persons for any purpose because of the race . . . of such person".

The University of Alberta and the University of Toronto have taken such action as requested by the NSSACP. Dalhousie, and any other university in this area to which the complaint applies, should follow suit.

DAL GAZETTE ON HOUSING

The Principle: Our housing lists should include no names of people who discriminate against students because of race color creed or Religion.

The Problem: This could then make it more difficult for all students to obtain housing.

The Solution: Student Residences for our entire out-of-town student contingent.

The above points are a straightforward description of the problem. The solution will require much money but if landlords in Halifax will not accept Dalhousie students the administration must provide accommodations. The Residences will take time. Stop-gap measures therefore are necessary to alleviate the problems of an

PRES. HICKS STATEMENT

There is no place in Dalhousie for discrimination in the university's treatment of students on the basis of race, color, or religion and it is unfortunate that at the present time we do not have sufficient residence facilities to accommodate all students in university halls of residence.

The university does not condone the attitude of some landlords who specifically discriminate against students of a particular race or color of skin. The university must recognize it cannot compel householders to provide rooms for students. For example: Some landlords will only take male students while others will take only female and where rooms are let entirely at the discretion of householders one cannot over-ride their feelings in matters of this kind. The university attempts only to provide students with information about available rooms.

Perhaps we should let only those landlords who will take students of any racial origin. In doing so we would eliminate many who do provide rooms for only white male students. Therefore there would be increased pressure on remaining accommodations making problems of "foreign" students more difficult rather than easier.

I do not think there is any question of the university breaking the law or even using its facilities to condone discrimination and I question whether, in Act at this time and under the conditions presently abounding in Halifax; it would be helpful to foreign students if the university would refuse to pass on a list of names of landlords who are willing to take only students of a particular kind.

The Dalhousie student council presently has a committee studying this problem and university authorities will work in fullest co-operation with them in the hope that in the not too distant future we may be able to find accommodations for all our students without a hint of discrimination.