

SHEER POLITICS

ON THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT

SHEER POLITICS 1 by
Joseph M.J. Sanlei

On Jan. 15th (last), the Boston Globe, an independent and historically left-of-center publication, printed a commentary on the upcoming elections, but not however the American elections, nor even the earlier Canadian elections, but rather the rapidly approaching exercise of the democratic franchise in the Federal Republic of Germany. The surprising thing was that this commentary was written from anything but a left-of-center perspective. A few days later, in the same newspaper, there appeared several extensive articles concerning the also rapidly approaching general elections in the French Republic - these were also composed of a decisively right-of-center bias; as opposed to normal

Globe political fare. The purpose of this article is not so much to analyse a rightward turn (if any exists) in one of the world's oldest left-of-center publications (remembering that political terms, i.e. left, center etc., depend entirely upon a relative political determination in any given age), but rather to briefly view the electoral processes of the Free World from what perhaps are the implications of a broader rightward swing, whether real or fictional.

As can be ascertained by the astute observer from the title chosen for this weekly column, I would not be expected to be opposed to all movements right-of-center. However, I believe strongly that much ideological game playing and manipulation is being employed at the present historical move-

ment in the name of conservative, or heaven help us - "neo-conservative", back to normalcy, cold-war politicians. At best it is opportunist by exploiting a very real and justifiable fear of Soviet Communism which now permeates our political environment and, at worst, will prove possibly fatal to our Liberal tradition by further alienating our already alienated peoples from their governments. I fear that the hard won gains of labor, women, and "racial", religious and political minorities throughout the Free World may be irreparably damaged by our self-appointed "saviors" from the "neo-right". Employed are such cheap tactics, the likes of which (at least not on this side of the Atlantic) have not been seen since Nixon's so called "Honor America" crusades, scoundral wished to inextricably unify the names "America" and "Nixon". Contemporary neo-Nixonites continue sailing the very course plotted out by their now departed (figuratively) skipper by expounding, at every opportunity, deep neo-sermons in the blessed name of neo-free enterprise, for which, I might add, each of them (among whom, in the U.S.A., are to be found a Mr. Connally of Texas and that greatest "neo" of them all, Mr. Reagen of California) have managed to demonstrate firm "biblical" support for each of their positions. (For those of you who care to check for yourself, I believe you may find these passages of sacred unit somewhere after the explanations of how the sun revolves around the earth!).

Meanwhile, the democratic left (as well as the truly honorable democratic right) struggles throughout the Free World to unite against rapidly increasing pressure for the abandonment of its progressive goals. From the Canadian NDP to West Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Union, the neo-ideologists of the "neo-right" gain in popular support all too often because of emotional rather

than rational appeals to the masses.

This is in no way - and certainly not by this Republican New Englander - an endorsement of either the NDP or the German CDU; nor is it an attack upon their opponents per se (many of whom I view quite favorably) but rather this is a statement of the belief that shoddy opportunism, left, right or center, must be ended. If the democratic right will survive (and I believe it essential that it, as well as a worthy opposition democratic left, must survive in order that our Liberal heritage be preserved, albeit altered) it has no choice save to expugate itself of all its neo-conallys and neo-reagans. The political philosophies that had been rejected by our 19th century forebearers must not now come to dominance in the latter years of the 20th century - our fragile freedom cannot be preserved by ideas that have been archaic for more than 100 years.

The warnings of the Boston Globe commentary in relation to the dangerous development of (non-democratic or even naive democratic) leftist strength within Western Democracies certainly cannot be ignored by any rational lover of Liberty. The threat to our joint security and our cherished Liberty is, in fact, real. However, we must never be so blinded by a paranoia of Red flags that a co-equal and ever present threat from the non-democratic right and political opportunism is allowed to prosper. The price of Liberty truly is eternal vigilance - employ the ballot wisely and vote as if the whole world depended upon it.

WICKER EMPORIUM

75 Queen Street



CHARLOTTETOWN'S LITTLE CHINATOWN

WICKER FURNITURE, BASKETS, BLINDS AND DRAPES,
NOVA SCOTIA PINE FURNITURE, TINWARES, GLASS-
WARE and many other ITEMS, AND THE ONLY HEAD SHOP FOR
ISLAND.

by which that

TEN PERCENT STUDENT DISCOUNT

OPEN DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
FRIDAY 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

THE
BYRDS

DON'T KNOCK
NATURE. IT MAY
SOON BE THE
ONLY THING
WORKING IN
CANADA.

