

Public Criticism Of Press Claimed Often Unjustified

BY BRENDA LARGE
 OTTAWA (CP)—Public criticism based on misunderstanding, members of a group of Canadian high school teachers said in interviews here Friday.

The 38 teachers, attending a 15-day workshop designed to show them how to use the daily newspaper as a teaching aid, agreed that contact with newspaper men speaking at the Carleton University workshop had given them greater confidence in Canadian newspapers.

But several stressed that students should be taught to read newspapers critically and to distinguish between editorial comment and objective reporting.

James Lovelink of Toronto, head of the history department at Scarborough's Cedarbrae Secondary School, said "people get as good a press as they deserve, and I think we're getting a better one than we deserve."

Mr. Lovelink added that workshop participants had been "surprised at the high level of professional independence and responsibility" exhibited by individual newspaper men who spoke to them.

"I was also impressed by the fact that the press is the last medium left to communicate between people working in technical fields and the general public."

He said newspaper reporters specializing in such fields as medicine, science and education were "doing a wonderful job in popular education."

A teacher, E. E. Nichol, Henri Enns of General Wolfe Junior high school, said he was convinced by workshop discussions that much broader use of newspapers should be made by schools.

"I came here with the idea that newspapers could be used as aids in teaching such subjects as current affairs. But now I think that the newspaper could well become a compulsory part of secondary schools."

INSPIRED HERE

Mrs. Phyllis Flewelling of Edmonton, a Grade 9 social studies teacher and school librarian at McCanley Junior high school, said the workshop had inspired her to plan a "crash program" of newspaper education for her students this fall.

"I want to make a complete study of the newspaper at the beginning of the term, taking perhaps two weeks to introduce my students to various sections of newspapers."

The workshop, which is under the direction of Russell Wendi, Carleton University's director of the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association.

His program of discussions and talks by prominent newspaper men and educationists continues until August 15.

HEARD FOUR SPEAKERS

The teachers have heard T. Joseph Scanlon, parliamentary reporter for The Toronto Star on "Problems of Reporting Economic Affairs"; Phyllis Wilson, reporter for the Ottawa Citizen on "Covering the Local Scene"; T. E. Nichol, vice-president and publisher of The Hamilton Spectator, on "Editorial Reporting"; and Guy Lamarche, reporter for La Presse, Montreal on "The Press in French Canada."

Among speakers yet to be heard are MP Douglas Fisher on "Politics and the Press"; Fraser MacDermott, Ottawa, a bureau chief of The Canadian Press on "National and International News Coverage"; and Russ Munro, publisher of the Windsor Tribune, on "The Foreign Correspondent."

University professors Wilfrid Erdington, director of the de-

partment of Journalism at Carleton University, and Dr. F. S. McFeat of the University of Toronto's department of anthropology, also are scheduled to speak.

Alta. Cabinet Minister Threatened By Clique

EDMONTON (CP) — Premier Manning said Friday an unidentified Edmonton clique had threatened the reputation and position of an Alberta cabinet minister unless he disclosed information damaging to his colleagues and the government.

The premier made his statement in a press release issued by his office here.

In Winnipeg, where he was to address the national convention of the Young Social Credit Association, the premier refused to elaborate on the statement except to say the group is "definitely politically motivated."

In reply to a question, he said the incident had "absolutely no connection" with the resignation of the cabinet minister from the cabinet last month of E. W. Hinman, former provincial treasurer.

"No other government officials would comment."

Text of the premier's statement:

"I feel the public should be made aware of certain reprehensible tactics being pursued by a small group of men in Edmonton whose avowed objective is to discredit the present government of Alberta and destroy the reputation of individual ministers."

An incident typical of their tactics occurred on Thursday, July 30th, when a cabinet minister was enticed by a devious procedure to the home of one of this clique and there pressured to divulge any information he might have that would be damaging to his colleagues and the government, under threat that if he refused to comply his reputation would be endangered and his position in

public life made untenable. They acknowledge their tactics already had included having the minister followed by a private detective. When the minister made it clear he had no idea what they were talking about, he was told if he would not co-operate their plan would proceed.

"It was made clear the objective is to destroy the government and the tactics cited indicate the lengths they are prepared to go to achieve their ends. The appropriate authorities have been made aware of their activities but I feel the public also has a right to know these facts that innocent people will not be misled by or become involved in the activities of this group."

It has always been the government's position that anyone having any valid complaint against a minister or member of the public service need only submit the same with substantiating evidence and the matter will be properly and promptly dealt with.

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