



# Kampus Koncern

## British ambassador visits UPEI

The man immediately struck me as a very confident and resourful conversationalist; he held approximately twenty people in his grasp for one solid hour at a press conference held in the Panther Lounge.

The conversation with the assembled group ranged from dispelling the myth of the eternal motherhood of the Great Lion of the North Atlantic to the fact, which the High Commissioner found highly noteworthy, that Dalhousie University at present has four of its' colleagues acting as premiers in Canada, a position that only Oxford Cambridge could rival. It may seem strange that a conversation with a man of such high order in the British Foreign Office could be as spontaneous as it was, but this is

the nature of Sir Peter.

However, if one wished a dominant theme from the encounter it would definitely have to be his message - "Britain 1973". No longer the great empire of the 18th & 19th centuries, Britain is now faced with bargaining internationally on radically different terms than in the past. As he put it

"We are all surviving by our very wits - don't forget that". He emphasised the ideal of internationalism as that of peaceful co-existence but at the same time he took pains to tell those gathered that ideals are in fact ideals and that peaceful co-existence is attained only after great struggle. Because of this, he remarked, the age of national government rather than world

government remains with us.

Stan Dalton, editor of the Cadre, held a dialogue with the ambassador noting the great contribution Lester B. Pearson made in the field of international peaceful co-operation. It had just so happened that Sir Peter knew "Mike" Pearson while he was alive. He found the former Prime Minister of Canada very realistic; as he argued - "Mike worked incessantly for world co-operation but at the same time he knew the realities of national interests, therefore he was a man of great use to all men".

"Reality, Myth, and Experience," could be an apt title or headline for the meeting with the High Commissioner.

I say this because the man is involved in the proxis of internationalism as part of his daily routine. It is because of this fact that he holds credence in my judgement. He knows the reality of international situations because he constantly, in his pro-

fession, is dealing in the international arena.

However, one can also argue that because of his daily routinised view of international affairs he has become cynically dogmatic in many of his approaches. Are we still completely in an age of international conflict?

The High Commissioner would not go this far but there is conflict among nations and it appears conflict will remain for quite awhile yet. He did concede, however, that rapidly advancing communication technologies tends to sooth international crisis. He is, at least, with some hope.

By the end of the conference I became fully conscious of Sir Peter Hayman - he is, in fact, a well trained diplomat spreading news of the dynamic new Britain in a dynamic new world I probably would buy a used car from this man (what ever that means)

## forum for change means challenge to change

One could view the NDP "open-forum" on many levels; be it a farm policy workshop, a forum on the "ins" and "outs" (the old in-out?) of education or maybe a place to get plastered (there were bar facilities.)

Although comparatively speaking, the forum was attended by a small number of people, the voices that were heard were of a vital nature. The people, gathered together on Sept. 15, were concerned. Concerned about the apparent failure of Alex Campbell's now notorious Development Plan; concerned about the culture shock that is rocking island culture at its very foundation; and concerned about the

apathy of islanders to effectively deal with this situation.

The structure of the forum was highly democratic. There were no image-conscious leaders trying to hammer their Weltungshung on the people. Instead the leaders of the party listened; they were there to hear what the people gathered thought on the issues of the day on P.E.I. In this sense the "Forum for Change" was refreshing. The N.D.P. have shown the way to other political

associations on the Island, on this score.

Another equally incredible aspect of the gathering was the union of purpose that was

exhibited. Everyone felt something must be done; however, on this count, only time will tell whether something actually will be done. At any rate one felt the determination to make an attempt to discover methods for political change. In this sense the forum was educational.

Aquinas Ryan, however, remains an enigma. His record shows a sound political background, (he was at one time a president of the P.E.I. Liberal Association) yet the man fails to create the acceleration effect for popular support. This is the reason for the small turnout at the forum, and this will be the reason for an embarrassing small elect-

oral support at the polls in the near future.

The N.D.P. is lacking in what could be referred to as 'public statement'. The leader fails to get their message across effectively. But is it really Ryan's fault? The party membership itself has not unified its program for changes on the Island. If the N.D.P. does not articulate the alternatives soon, good ole Alex, by clever politicking, will cut the N.D.P. off before they take effective root.

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