

THIS WEEK AND NEXT

by Ray Argyle



The Canadian Outlook

After enduring nearly a century, the Canadian Confederation is being tested from within by the political nationalism of our French-speaking co-founders and from without by the economic dominance of our American neighbors.

It would be typically Canadian and not wholly inaccurate to say it has been ever thus and therefore to accept whatever the tide of events may bring. But the fierce dialogue of the past few years between English and French Canada, and the mounting counter-attack against U.S. control of the Canadian economy suggests how deadly serious the struggle has become for the future of Canada.

The greater burden for Canada will probably come from without. Solutions and compromises can always be found for internal political differences. The politics of economics are more cruel because they are shaped by forces even the most knowledgeable economists do not always understand.

The question which will dominate the Canadian outlook for the rest of the century will be whether the country can retain its political and cultural independence while its economy is controlled from the United States.

The problem is not entirely unique to this generation of Canadians.

Fear of American domination was a chief reason for the British colonies uniting in 1867. They had purposefully rejected the American experiment. The British colonists saw in Confederation a way of keeping their ties with their homeland. The French of Quebec saw it as their only hope for autonomy, knowing they would face a hopeless future as a separate ethnic group under the flag of the United States.

With the withering of the British ties in English Canada, only the French co-founders of Confederation seem today to have the emotional commitment essential to fostering nationalism.

Canadians should recognize that the nationalism still being preached in many lands is rapidly being overshadowed by continentalism. By combining mod-

ern technology and vast land masses rich in human and natural resources, there have emerged three great super-powers, the United States, the Soviet Union, and China. And each has been able to spread its influence over its immediate neighbors.

The continentalism of the United States has already absorbed the Canadian academic and cultural communities into its orbit. The drain of our intellectual and creative talent to the U.S., and the overpowering presence of the American mass media in this country is a recognized fact.

It should be no surprise, then, that our economy has been likewise taken over, with something like two-thirds of Canadian industry under American ownership.

Whether this is good for Canada is the question. There are many who believe it is not. Former finance minister Walter Gordon, who would use restrictive government measures against foreign companies, has become the chief advocate of economic nationalism. His new book, a Choice for Canada, makes his stand clear.

Mr. Gordon's own Liberal party has always been the most pragmatic of the Canadian parties in its acceptance of American industrial partnership. The Conservative party, out of deep attachment to Britain, has traditionally resisted U.S. influence. The parties of the left, most recently the New Democrats, have found themselves ideologically closer to the Tories than the Liberals.

Canada's high prosperity of postwar years has coincided with a period of record U.S. investment in Canada. Because this has brought such high living standards, it is unlikely Canadians would be willing to pay the price of lowering those standards to achieve economic independence. Our task must be to strengthen our own segments of our economy, using free trade agreements to secure easier entry into U.S. markets, while supporting those aspects of our culture which make Canada unique.

Toronto Telegram News Service

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ONTARIO HYDRO TO PRESENT SHOW-TIME IN SCHREIBER JUNE 7th, 1966

The Schreiber Hydro Commission and the Catholic Women's League of Holy Angels Parish are sponsoring a local presentation of the celebrated Hydro Showtime. Lila MacDonald of

Ontario Hydro's Home Service Bureau will delight homemakers with her demonstrations and talks. She has many new ideas on how to use today's modern servant, electricity, to the greatest advantage.

Prior to joining Hydro, Miss MacDonald was a Home Economics teacher at Munro Junior High School in Winnipeg.

ROSSPORT CURLING CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

The annual meeting of Rosspport Curling Club was held Sunday evening in Mrs. Anne Todesco's home. The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$140 after defraying all expenses. Ways and means of raising funds for summer repair work were discussed. Tom Yandon and Joe Wills volunteered to chair a work party to paint the outside of the rink and Camilla Legault, Ida Duncan and Edith Ibey will form a committee to decorate the office (continued page 12)

remember - only you can PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

