

MODEL

Mock or Model?

The composition of this year's Model Parliament has given rise to the old question — "Will it be a Model or a Mock Parliament?" The entrance of the Maritime Monarchists further complicates the matter.

The election gave the Conservatives 20 seats, closely followed by the Christian Atheists with 15. The Liberals have 11 seats and the New Party 5. The MM's entrance, despite the previous action taken by the Joint Committee of Model Parliament, reduces the number of seats held by the larger parties, giving the PC's 18, the CA's 14, the Liberals 10 and the MM's 4.

With this distribution of seats, the fall of the Conservative government is very possible. Holding a plurality of 4, the Tories could be defeated by a coalition of the minority parties. The precariousness of the PC position indicates that Parliament will by no means run smoothly, nor will it be dull.

This of course does not mean that it will be mock. Much of the responsibility of the latter situation rests with the CA's and the Monarchists. If the Christian Atheists, with their large block of seats, can act in their official capacity as the opposition without turning the procedure into a farce, Parliament will be Model. The action of the MM's will also have a great bearing on the character of Parliament.

Are the Monarchists by being permitted to enter parliament by the action of the SRC, setting a precedent — what will prevent any number of small parties forming in future years — all contesting for 51 seats? The end result may well be not a Model Parliament but chaos. Splinter parties will weaken rather than strengthen Model Parliament. The difficulty of obtaining a firm majority with five parties can be illustrated by the composition of the House as it now stands. What will happen with even more parties?

This year's Model Parliament will undoubtedly determine the character of future debate — mock or model?

PARLIAMENT PERSONALITIES

Governor-General — Dr. C. B. Mackay

Speaker of the House of Commons — Dr. K. B. Sayeed

Members of the House of Commons

Member

Progressive Conservatives

Joanne MacArthur
Hope Hyslop
Marg Howie
Guy Bird
Roger Harley
Doug Somerville
Sam Wakim
Tony Laskowski
Bob Kerr
Jim Sheldon
Barry Mackay
Allan Frew

John Hanson
Harry Scott
Ralph MacKay
Bob Watt
Mac Harris
Jean Thompson

Christian Atheists

Terry McCluskey
Bill Pierce
Roy Davis
Roger Cattley
Martha Saunders
Midge Syvertsen
Dave Statham
Russ Greene
Peter Hinchcliffe
Wayne Lockhart
Pam Kierstead
Larry Simpson
Gerry MacLean
Bob Sutherland

Portfolio or Critic

Prime Minister
Citizenship & Immigration
Northern Affairs & National Resources
Finance
External Affairs
Public Works & Government Whip
Forestry & Solicitor-General
Fisheries
Labour
Postmaster-General
Health & Welfare
Mines & Technical Surveys
& Government Whip
Agriculture
Trades & Commerce
Defence
Transport & Defence Production
Justice
Secretary of State

Leader of the Opposition & Public Works
Defence
Transport & Trade & Commerce
Fisheries
Recreation & Physical Fitness
Indian Affairs
Defence Production
Citizenship & Immigration
Veterans' Affairs
Swamps & Bogs
External Affairs
Labour
Minds
Injustice

Liberals

Ed Bell
Sandy DiGiacinto
Willie Bigelow
Geoff Stevens
Jim Anderson
Sheila Watson
Alex Ross
Charlie Hubbard
Ross Corbett
Walt Learning

New Party

Mike Denny
Dave Peters
Betty Fearon
Courtney Alexander
Eva MacDonald

Maritime Monarchists

Pete MacNutt
Charlie Daughney
John McLean
Doug Paton

ON THE AGENDA

Due to the decision of the Model Parliament Committee to admit the Maritime Monarchists as instructed by the SRC, there will be five bills introduced in the Parliament plus the Speech from the Throne. The contents of four of these bills have been revealed at press time, but that of the Liberals is still a matter of pure conjecture. The President of the University, Dr. C. B. Mackay has consented, as in previous years, to read the Speech from the Throne. The latter is to be written by the PC government, again as in previous years.

The Government Bill, to be introduced Saturday morning, lowers the voting age for federal elections to 18, and further provides a constituency for any university having in excess of 1500 regularly registered students over 18 years of age. The Christian Atheist Bill provides for the incorporation of the Trans-Canada Sewer Co. The New Party is introducing a measure to: ensure that any nuclear arms in Canada be under Canadian control, have Canada withdraw from N.O.R.A.D., combine certain operations of the armed forces now being carried out by each component, set up a Canadian Peace Corps, and abolish 4 o'clock tea served in the armed forces. The Maritime Monarchists' proposal is a resolution praying that the British House pass an amendment to the British North America Act to unite the four Atlantic Provinces into one province in the Dominion.

What the Liberals are planning to propose was, at press time, a matter of speculation but it has been rumoured that they are considering legislation to legalize certain forms of gambling.

SURVEY:

Are You Going To Model Parliament?

Judging from the answers received in answer to this question — there appears to be a general lack of interest on campus in the forthcoming Model Parliament. First and second year students generally exhibited indifference. In a comparison of Faculty replies, Arts seemed more inclined towards supporting the event.

An ENGINEER (picked at random) when asked about the attitude of his Faculty replied: "The Engineers would like to participate in various functions such as the Model Parliament, however, the time element does not permit this support." But, he feels the Engineers should find time, even if only as a basis for communication with Arts students.

The following are answers received from various students on campus when asked if they were going to Model Parliament. Negative replies were also asked — "and why not?"

JUDY BOLLMAN (American): I'm not interested in Canadian Politics!

TOM PAM: No. The Liberals are not in the majority.

CHARLIE ROBERTSON: Yes, I'm an individualist.

MARY LYONS: Possibly. Actually I've never thought about it.

TONY ST. MARS: No. I hate all politicians!

ROSS WEBSTER: What! Is it this afternoon?

ED BELL (Leader of the Liberal Party): Yes, I'm interested in politics and wish to learn about them in every way possible.

GERRY BINGHAM: No. Cannot afford the time.

DAN CASEY: I don't know. Why?

TERRY MCCLUSKY (CA): I won't guarantee the Saturday morning session because of the Senior class party is on Friday night, but...

TERRY O'NEILL: Yes, to heckle the Liberals.

J. S.: To be perfectly frank I'm going to see what kind of a farce it is going to be.

TOM TOMCHAK: What? Where? How? Who?

LIZ MacFARLAND: Yes. I'm interested in seeing how tricky the CA's will be.

DOUG McKINLEY: If the campaign platforms are any indication of the happenings at Model Parliament, then the Model itself will be a farce. MM's included...

TED FOREST: Yes. I've never seen a parliament in session before.

MAC FREW: To take part in a high level debating function.

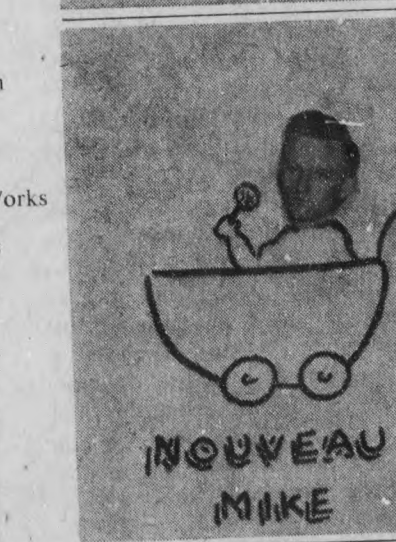
JOHN MARTIN: Maybe. Might go because of the "fuss" during the elections.

CATHY HOGG: How much does it cost? But is there enough room for everyone? Guess I'll go!

BOB LITTLE: I hope to be able to attend. I'm interested because of the political storm kicked up on the campus, and to discover the level of debate.

IAN McCURE: I sat last year and felt it was a farce.

ROGER HARLEY: Why? Because I'm Minister of External Affairs.



P A R L I A M E N T