Point of View

WHY JAMAICA SAID NO

by Garnet A. Brown

West Indies Federation has been a subject of international interest over the past three years. Although the thought of such a federation originated as far back as 1945, no positive steps were taken to initiate the move until 1959, when all the details were worked out and the first general elections held.

From the very outset, opposition toward federation was experienced. Two parties were represented in this first election, namely "The West Indies Federal Labour Party" led by the Hon. Norman Washington Manley, premier of Jamaica (pro-federalist), and the "Democratic Labour Party", led by Sir Alexander Bustamante, leader of the Jamaican opposition (anti-federalist).

Although federation became a reality due to the total vote of the West Indian electorate, there were marked signs of opposition by the Jamaican sector in that a greater number of anti-federal candidates were elected to represent the territory.

This apparent dissatisfaction among the Jamaican people did not prevent Federal policies to be formulated however, and for a while all seemed set for a smooth-running future. A Federal Civil Service was set up, a Governor-General appointed, and a premier in the person of Sir Grantley Adams took over the administration. This sudden calm was however a prelude to disaster, because it was not long before the Jamaican opposition began to incite the public on certain federal fiscal policies and again aroused public curiosity. This was followed by the resignation of Sir Alexander Bustamante from the Democratic Labour Party, on the grounds that it was unfair for him to be paid to do a job that was disastrous to the people. Consequently other members of his party followed suit.

These developments brought extreme pressure on the Jamaican Government, and so Premier Manley was left with no alternative, other than to call a referendum to decide this federal issue. The referendum was held on September 19, 1961 and the Jamaican electorate voted against federation.

The general principles underlying the peoples decision may be summarized as follows:

(1) There was a state of psychological unrest, especially among the lower working classes due to the fact that the opposition succeeded in presenting federation to them as a two-edged sword.

(2) The fear of federal taxation. The impact of this was made even greater when the Federal Premier made a statement to the effect that increased taxation for unit territories was a must.

(3) The fact that Jamaica was called upon to bear the burden of almost 50% of the federal expenses did not receive favourable reaction from the electorate.

(4) Freedom of movement and customs union were factors which milated against federation, because from the viewpoint of protection for infant industries, it was thought that such policies would be hindrances to Jamaica's development.

(5) The great distance between Jamaica and the other territories undoubtedly affected the results of the referendum.

(6) Jamaicans on the whole are highly Micro-Nationalistic, and prefer independence for the island separately, rather than independence within a federation.

Whether the decision to grant federation is a blessing in disguise is yet to be seen, and as far as opinions are concerned, the writer refuses to commit himself. However, the Premier accepted the decision of the people and is now busy working out details for Jamaica's independence on a date to be set in early 1962.

PRE and REVIEW

(Ed. Note—Any organization wishing to contribute to this column, contact Carolyn Stewart, 5-5919 or 5-5191).

DEBATERS

The first meeting of the Debating Society was held last Monday, October 23. Elections were held and the new executive is as follows:

President, Ed Bell.
Vice-President, Harry Scott.
Treasurer, Dave Whitworth.
Secretary, Andrews Pianim.

Professor Rowan, the new faculty advisor was introduced and gave suggestions and comments concerning the resolutions to be used in the forthcoming debate with King's College.

The next general meeting will be held November 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room and all those wishing to participate are asked to attend.

ENGINEERS

The Engineering faculty is fortunate in having the well known

(*Continued on Page* 5)

RUSSIA TODAY

(This is the third in a series of articles taken from a brief submitted to the NFCUS Seminar on International Affairs by four Canadian students who visited Russia this summer as delegates on the USSR-Canada student exchange plan.)

Dianne Lloyd writes about Soviet women:

If this is equality of the sexes, then the Russians can have it! I awoke on my first day inside the Soviet Union and was greeted by the sight of a group of hefty Soviet women repairing the tracks outside our railway car. Jauntily dressed in their bloomers, babushkas, and big boots, they heaved the lengths of track onto their shoulders without a sign of strain.

In the production line of a truck factory, the young women operate huge and powerful machines with skill and ease. They are busy playing their part in turning out more trucks for more projects for greater progress of the Soviet Union.

These are the women of the Soviet Union — strong, healthy, energetic, and happy. For the most part they are convinced that they owe these hours of strenuous toil to the state. They are enthusiastic about their part in the advancement of the USSR.

The place of the female in both of our societies is determined by what we value. To the Soviet people, labor is a glorious thing. To give one's abilities and energies to the state is to obtain the greatest benefit from one's life. In this sense, the ultimate aims of the men and women of the Soviet Union are identical. In the western world, the paths of the two sexes diverge. Even if you admit that the place of the woman is not always in the home, the lines still separate. The western woman is required to add a certain amount of beauty to life. The Soviet conception of beauty is in many cases different from ours so that you cannot say that the Soviet women attempt even to be objects of beauty in the sense that we understand the word.

The Soviet women are on the whole neither smartly or attractively dressed. For the most part they are sloppy and very poorly groomed. Even those who try to copy the few habits that they know from the western world have not grasped the fact that the basis of beauty is good grooming. Their hair is poorly combed, their fingernails dirty, their clothes untidy.

Is this the result of being taught to spend time on oneself is a habit of the "decadent, capitalistic women" and is of no benefit to anyone except that woman? Or are these women taught that there are better things in life to strive for than physical beauty? I think that the latter is probably true.

I think too that this shows the superficiality of many of the teachings of the Soviet system. A little education in the art of personal neatness and beauty would do wonders towards making the cities of the Soviet Union more pleasant.

In the realm of youth and student affairs, again you find many girls holding positions of responsibility. However, very rarely do you find them playing the role of chairman or president, although it is quite obvious that many do have a great influence on the activities of such groups.

The percentage of female students attending universities and other institutes of higher education in the Soviet Union is about the same as it is in Canada. I would venture that more girls go into industry after their elementary education than do boys. In a cotton factory in Tashkent which employed 15,000 workers, most of them were women—and a large number of these were young girls.

Women in the USSR (being extremely proud of their equality) continue to work after their marriage probably because they do not feel that raising a family and maintaining a home is a full-time job. The state takes much of the responsibility of raising the children. Working, studying, unwed, or widowed mothers can leave their children in a nursery school or kindergarten from the age of a few months. However, they by no means neglect their children.

On weekends, the ballet theatres, art galleries, parks and other centres for recreation are filled with families. This ability to appreciate culture and the desire to communicate this appreciation to their children, is one of the most commendable attitudes that I met in the Soviet Union.

The women of the Soviet Union are imbued with a sense of dedication that is not only lacking in western women, but is lacking in the whole of the peoples of the western world.

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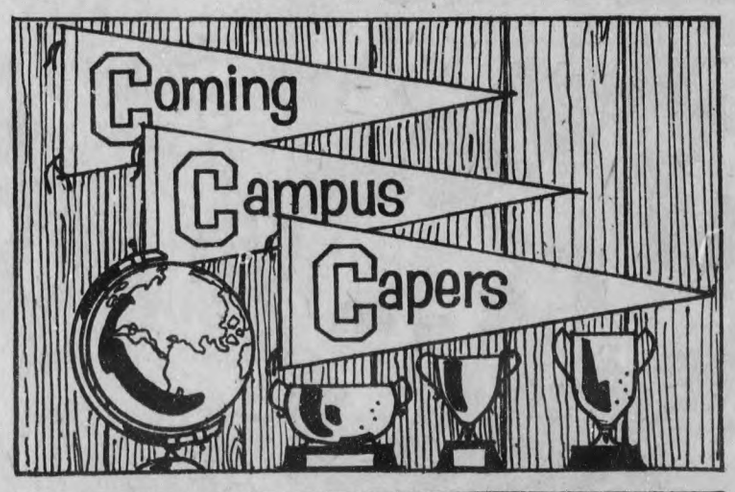

For listings in the Brunswickan of coming events contact the Campus Co-ordinator. Betty Fearon, at GR 5-9007. The best hours to phone are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-6 p.m. Deadline for the Tuesday issue is 6 p.m. previous Thursday and for the Friday issue, 6 p.m. previous Tuesday.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

9:00 LBR FORMAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Maritime Intercollegiate Cross Country Championships—UNB hosts

9:00 am Christian Mission Camp—Lake Yoho. Cars leaving Old Arts at 9:00.

8:30 pm Hard Times Dance—Mem. Hall. Admission 25c.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:30 IVCF—Student Centre—talk by the Rev. Dick Williams—**The Resurrection: Fact or Fiction?**

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