

Comments



Mugwump Journal

By EDISON STEWART

Most of us are aware of the coup that occurred in Chile last week. Many of us have gotten that information from the news agencies currently available to us: The Daily Gleaner, The Telegraph Journal, the CBC, and Radio Atlantic. An article published recently by James Taylor, the managing editor of the United Church Observer, gives a totally different view of the situation in Chile. (Most of the Journal this week is being devoted to this discussion, incidentally, because I feel it's important for us all.) The news has been distorted: not by the newspapers and radio stations I've mentioned, but by their sources of information - the wire services. Much of this wire service information is from the States. Canadians have three socialist governments; the Americans have none. Socialism is a danger in the eyes of many Americans. For Canadians, socialism is just another form of democratic government, says Taylor. As a result, "the Canadian reader has become a victim of U.S. paranoia about socialism."

"Nowhere has this distortion been more blatant than in stories about Chile, that long narrow country at the bottom of South America that elected a socialist government, headed by a president who was an avowed Marxist, Salvador Allende," says Taylor. The coup that resulted in Allende's suicide was preceded by a transportation strike that brought Chile to the verge of civil war. Says Taylor: "The implication was that this was a revolt against the president by the very people who elected him, the working classes."

"But this was not a 'truckers' strike.' It was a 'truck owners' strike'. It had little support from unions, workers, or peasants. It was supported by doctors, lawyers, and engineers, and by store owners, not employees, who closed stores for 48 hours. Instead of being a revolt by the masses, it turns out to be a sabotaging action by the members of the former privileged classes, those who had benefited at the expense of the poor under the previous conservative governments," says Taylor.

Taylor quotes Dr. John Pollock, a political scientist at a university in New Jersey who studied six of the best American papers and concluded that the US media treats Chile as a battle ground between Marxism and democracy. US papers have portrayed Allende as a puppet on a Communist string who was juggling Chile's economy for the sake of socialist ideals.

The US papers ignore the disruptive influence of US monetary and trade pressures and the destructive actions of Chile's right wing groups.

"Allende's socialist government was consistently portrayed as stifling the freedom of the press," says Taylor. "Any impartial visitor to Chile soon discovered the opposite. There was probably no other country in the world, and certainly no other in Latin America, where the press had such freedom to attack the government. Almost all the country's radio stations, and a majority of the newspapers, were openly anti-government. Unfortunately, these papers were also the ones with the best contacts in North America."

Taylor notes that the largest daily in Santiago, Chile's capital, had a vice-president of Pepsi-Cola as its publisher.

On June 23 the New York Times ran a headline: "Court in Chile shuts paper over anti-Allende ad."

Says Taylor: "Clearly implied is that Chilean courts had become tools of the government against any political opposition. What the story did not bother saying was that the ad advocated open disobedience, violence and insurrection - an advertisement that would have been intolerable to the US government had any American editor accepted it. The story also left the impression the closure of the paper was permanent. It was, in fact, for one day."

Labour unrest in Chile was also exaggerated, he says.

A Christian Science Monitor report said of a strike at the world's largest underground copper mine: "Much of the labour force is striking against the government..."

"Other reports of the same dispute," says Taylor, "claimed as many as 12,000 copper workers had walked out."

"The suggestion, of course, was that workers have abandoned the government what support had it left? More direct investigation, however, shows that of the 12,750 workers, at least 70 percent were on the job during the strike and among blue collar workers, more than 90 percent were working."

"The support that the few strikers received came from unlikely allies - the various associations of land owners, industrialists, merchandise distributors, doctors, lawyers and engineers, and from the right wing political parties. The 'strike' was not supported, it now appears, by any major trade union. No other miners' union joined in the walkout."

Evidently Chile's new found "government" has very very little democracy going for it. Socialist or not, Salvador Allende's government at least had democracy in its favour. The armed take over of Chile by right wing fanatics is a sad thing indeed.

Note to S.J.: No go, my friend. Anonymity definitely not preferable here. But the idea sounds good to me. Come on in and talk it over with us. (And I do mean 'us' - more people than myself have to decide.) We hope to see you soon.

Anthro is international faculty

Dear Sir:

The interest you have shown in the staffing policy of the sub-department of Anthropology is most welcome. (Brunswickan September 14, 1973).

Although it does not seem to have agitated the student body at UNB as much as it has students elsewhere in Canada, the debate about the preponderance of foreign nationals on the teaching staffs of Canadian Universities has a long history. Simplistic nationalistic arguments have long since succumbed to a mature appreciation of the complex practical, theoretical, methodological and even ideological elements of the problem. More recently the debate has tended to focus on that loose conglomeration of disciplines known as the "social sciences" because they are suspected by some to be particularly susceptible

to hidden cultural or ideological influences. It would be impossible for me to do justice to all the terms of the debate here, but I would like to identify some neglected points which have particular relevance to the teaching of Anthropology.

For practical, administrative reasons Anthropology at UNB has been linked with Sociology. It is understandable, therefore, that the distinctive identity of the two subjects might have become blurred in the eyes of the uninitiated. Nevertheless, the two subjects are quite distinct in their history, their literature, their methods, their concepts, their object of study, their professional associations and even in the type of person they attract. It is true that Anthropology has some features in common with Sociology as it has with History, Psychology and Archaeology, but this is to say no more than it is one of the

humanities or one of the social sciences. The precise measure of the differences between Anthropology and Sociology might be demonstrated in a lecture more successfully than in a short letter, but one clear difference which has direct relevance to your interest might be mentioned.

Sparing the various qualifications which individual theorists might wish to attach, it can be said that Sociology concentrates on the understanding of the Sociologist's own society; Anthropology concentrates on the comparative study of man and society. The Sociologist's forte is a disciplined, analytic approach to the people and institutions with whom he is most familiar, in a language and in a system of values and symbols in which he participates. The Anthropologist's forte is the study of man in other societies whose institutions, language, thought patterns, symbols and values are alien to him and which he has to try to understand often by a long and arduous process which might involve lengthy periods of residence in the alien community. The methods used to achieve these ends are different and the existential experience of the analyst is different.

Now it would seem to follow that the argument that Canadian nationals are to be preferred to foreign nationals as teachers of Anthropology should be kept carefully distinct from the same argument as it is applied to Sociologists. Indeed, it might be argued that foreign nationals have a great deal to offer Canada in the comparative, anthropological analysis of man and society.

This is not to say that British or American anthropologists might not unwittingly propagate the preoccupations of their own intellectual traditions or seek to mould Canadian educational institutions along lines which are familiar to them, but at the same time, the influence of the anthropologists' international and cross-cultural interests and associations and their desire and ability to enter sympathetically into the preoccupations of others, should not be underestimated.

In the case of Dr. W. Dalton's appointment it is interesting to note that although American he did all his post-graduate training in England and spent two years living with the Bedouin of the Libyan desert. The only Canadian applicant of comparable expertise was also trained in England and subsequently declined our offer of an interview on the grounds that he was accepting an appointment in the United States. In my view, this is how it should be; the essence of Anthropology is internationalism.

Further commentary and interest from your readers would be welcome and perhaps this might be a suitable subject for one of the open seminars we are planning in Anthropology this term. It is a genuine and timely debate and one in which we can all learn from each other; after all, we are all immigrants, are we not?

Yours sincerely,

Victor E. O'Connell, D.Phil.,
Co-ordinator of Anthropology

SRC shows strong indications of executive domination

By GARY CAMERON

This year's Students Representative Council has showed strong indications that it will continue to be dominated by SRC President Roy Neale.

Council members, either through timidity, apathy, or just plain ignorance of what is going on, are exhibiting a docility and blind trust that is akin to walking through a Bombers locker room screaming 'UNB sucks'.

Much like what happened in pre-Watergate Washington, the executive (in this case the chief executive) has moved into a power vacuum vacated by an ineffective legislative body. As the balance of power swings toward the executive office the legislative body (in this case the SRC councillors) becomes less and less effective in its role as part of the system of checks and balances which regulate the executive branch of the student government.

With an executive already consisting of a comptroller and assistant comptroller as well as a vice president, Neale has created the post of External Advisor, a vehicle for the eventual introduction of an external vice president, part of an already top-heavy executive. Presented at Monday's meeting as a fait-accompli to the uninformed councillors, the position will undoubtedly receive ratification from council at the next meeting, (if a decision can be reached as to what constitutes a quorum). This is, however, rather anti-climatic as the position is already listed in the SRC Orientation pamphlet, along with the name of the person appointed to it by Neale during the summer vacation.

The Travel Office, a service to students that looks worthwhile on the surface, has one hitch to it. The applicants for the post of Travel Officer (who works on a commission basis and could potentially earn anywhere from \$1500 - \$7500 a year) won't be screened by the Applications

Committee (a committee set up by the SRC to perform this type of work) but by the executive. This was accepted with only token resistance by council members present at the meeting.

Another Neale election campaign plank, the Campus Co-ordinator, has a potentially useful position but has already erred once in missing the conflicting of two major events.

Engineering Week and Fall Festival were both scheduled for the same week. This mistake necessitated only the cancelling of bookings for Red and Black at the Playhouse.

A docile council accepted Neale's advice once again and appointed Neale, SRC Chairman Peter Forbes and SRC Councillor Valerie Jaeger as 'temporary' representatives for the SRC on the Student Union Building Board of Governors until the SRC Applications Committee could advance a permanent board. However, the temporary representatives showed

Get your student insurance forms right away

Dear Sir:

A number of pre-registration kits were mailed to students without the student insurance application, this for the reason that supplies from the underwriting company were delayed. Any student who did not complete the insurance card should do so at the Business Office at his or her early convenience to ensure that the insurance company has a record of students' names so that any claims may be honoured.

Yours very truly,

D.G. Segewick,
Assistant Comptroller.