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FOX, Paul Wesley

MG 31, K 3

Finding Aid No. 1077 / Instrument de recherche no 1077

Prepared in 1978 by Tom Nesmith
of the Social and Cultural
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Préparé en 1978 par Tom Nesmith
de la Section des archives
sociales et culturelles.

MG 31
K 3

FOX, Paul Wesley (b. 1921). University Professor.

Originals, 1961. 6 cm. Finding Aid No. 1077.

Professor Fox holds a M.A. degree from the University of Toronto and a Ph. D. from the London School of Economics and Political Science. From 1948 to 1954 he lectured in political science at Carleton College. Since 1954 he has lectured primarily at the University of Toronto. He is a noted author in the field of political science and a frequent commentator on public affairs in Canada.

Presented by Professor Paul W. Fox, through Dr. Allan Whitehorn, research assistant to David Lewis, to the Public Affairs Section in 1977 and transferred to the Social/Cultural Archives Section in December 1977.

The finding aid No. 1077 is a list in alphabetical order of those interviewed by Professor Fox.

The collection includes transcripts of interviews conducted by Professor Fox with 26 participants in Canadian socialist, communist, and social reform movements between c.1900 and 1960. This material served as the basis for a historical look at Canadian socialism Broadcast 12 July 1961 on the C.B.C. radio program "Wednesday Night". The collection also contains research notes and other material Professor Fox used in preparing the interviews and program. Among the remaining material is a transcript of a debate between Gerald Caplan (University of Toronto CCF Club), David Greenspan (Ontario Young Liberal Association) and Jeremy Johnston (Conservative Club, University of Toronto) on the subject of socialist ideology.

The Sound Archives has a tape recording of portions of the program. Refer to: CBC Public Affairs Tapes - T 1974 - 50/25.

A copy of "Socialism in Canada", a CBC Times article about the program is also included in the collection.

November 1978
T. Nesmith

7-8285
Social/Cultural

The finding aid is a list in alphabetical order of those persons interviewed by Professor Fox. See the individual's file in the collection for each transcript.

Aiken, James
Argue, Hazen
Buck, Tim
Caplan, Gerald
Douglas, T.C.
Familo, Alfred
Glaspell, William
Good, W.C.
Greenspan, David
Harrington, J.D.
Irvine, William
Jodoin, Claude
Johnston, Jeremy
Lefeaux, W.W.
Lewis, David
MacInnis, Angus
MacInnis, Grace
Orlikow, David
Prevost, Marcel
Roper, Elmer
Salsberg, J.B.
Schultz, Jacob
Skinner, Robert
Steeves, Dorothy
Tipping, Fred
Turner, Arthur
Underhill, Frank H.
Walter, John
White, Fred

Social Cultural Review
Tom Nesmith

socialism in canada

CBC TIMES

July 8-14, 1961

An original interpretive essay on the history of socialism in Canada will be presented on CBC Wednesday Night, from 7.40 to 9 o'clock on CBC radio. It will be illustrated by dramatized speeches, discussions and interviews with many people, old and young, in all walks of life, who have been involved with socialist development in this country at some time from its early beginnings before the turn of the century to the formation this year of the New Party, which will hold a convention in Ottawa from July 31st to August 4th.

The program has been written and will be narrated by Paul W. Fox, assistant professor of political economy at the University of Toronto, who also conducts the interviews. Gordon Cullingham is program organizer and production will be by Del MacKenzie.

Cullingham says: "We intend to examine the roots of socialism in Canada, indicate how influences have differed in various parts of the country, trace the birth and record of the CCF up to the formation of the New Party, and explore the various interests that are simultaneously being appealed to now (farm, labor, and 'liberally-minded persons')."

In addition to talking to old-time socialists, Fox will explore the attitudes to socialism of three young men who are just entering active politics. He asks one of them, who is associated with the socialist movement, what special appeal it has for young people, and he asks the other two, who are identified with older political parties, why they did not become socialists.

"Socialism in Canada has had many different sources," Fox tells us. "The main ones have been British influence, the Fabians, Hyndman, Blatchford, and the Independent Labor Party. Marx was also an influence. There was a good deal of influence from the United States, too, in particular from Eugene Debs, who came to Canada to speak publicly.

"The roots of Socialism in Canada go back to before the beginning of this century. A number of British workingmen brought socialist ideas over with them. We interviewed some who are still alive and found that basically their ideas had changed very little.

"One of the oldest socialist parties in this country was the Socialist Party of Canada, which originated in British Columbia very early in this century. It had a number of militant Marxists in it, who, when they were not arguing with the rest of society, spent most of their time arguing among themselves. They engaged in political action, but some of them said they ran candidates only for propaganda reasons, while others apparently thought they were going to win political power. One of the former used to campaign for office himself, giving all the reasons why the voters should support a Marxist and then telling them that it didn't really matter whether they elected him—Marxism was going to rule eventually, anyway.

"Later, in the 1920's the Socialist Party split on the issue of whether or not to accept direction from the communists in Russia. One small group did this and then became the Communist Party of Canada. But most Canadian socialists refused to, and went on to create a socialist movement which was democratic, parliamentary, non-violent and peculiarly Canadian."

"It was out of this group that the creators of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation emerged in 1933," Fox says. "This marked the birth for the first time of a nationwide Canadian democratic socialist party. It included a number of western farmers, co-operators, intellectuals, and some trade unionists. As the latter developed in strength they became more prominent in the party and they are now playing a major role in transforming the CCF into the New Party."■