

More Politcal Fun

May 6th, 2014

Diefenbaker

- John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson went up against each other in four elections over ten years.
- Diefenbaker believed in 'unhyphenated Canadianism': A belief in the equality of all Canadians, whatever their heritage. He championed human rights and introduced the Canadian Bill of Rights.
- His beliefs were what made him popular but they also made him unpopular.
- French Canadians believed they had a unique culture and didn't agree with being lumped in Diefenbaker's 'unhyphenated Canadianism.'

Pearson

- Pearson appealed to younger urban voters.
- He wanted to sever the connection to Britain.
- He wanted an identity that was meaningful to all Canadians.
- 1963: Pearson won the election.
- He modernized Canada.





The Great Flag Debate

A hypothetical situation.









Social Welfare

- Pearson's government continued to build on the social welfare programs that Mackenzie King's government started.
- He had introduced unemployment insurance and family allowance.
- 1966: Pearson's government began the Canada Pension Plan.
- They also introduced the Canada Assistance Plan: helped the provinces to fund social assistance programs.
- He also introduced universal healthcare or the Medical Care Act.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

- French Canadian federalist.
- Appealed to young Canadians
- He was relaxed and witty. Drove a flashy sports car. Was a 'hip' dresser. He dated celebrities and was an international celebrity himself.
- 1968: He became prime minister.
- He thought the government should defend rights and freedoms of people but not interfere with personal liberties.



Quebec Nationalism

- 1959: Maurice Duplessis passed away.
- 1960: Jean Lesage (a Liberal) came to power with the slogan “Time for a Change.” Immediately, he began to go about ridding Quebec of corruption.
- Wages/pensions were raised. Restrictions on unions were removed. The economy/politics/culture were all modernized. This was called the Quiet Revolution.
- 1962: Liberals went a step further. Using the slogan ‘Maitrez chez nous’ (Masters in our own house). The goal being to strengthen their control on their economy.

Separatist Movement

- 1960s/1970s: The separatist/nationalist movement grew in Quebec.
- Quebecois resented injustices they perceived from English speaking Canadians.
- For some, the only solution was an independent Quebec.
- Extremists joined terrorist groups, one example being Front de liberation du Quebec (FLQ). The FLQ blew up mailboxes, attacked symbols of English Canadian power in Quebec.
- 1967: Rene Levesque left the liberals and formed the Parti Quebecois (PQ).

Bilingualism!

- 1963: Lester Pearson created the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism (Bi and Bi Commission). They called for Canada to become bilingual with French and English.
- It also recommended that Canada adopt strategies to promote both languages.
- Pierre Trudeau took it one step further: the 1969 Official Languages Act.
- As with everything, some loved it and some hated it.
- Western Canada: They thought it was too focussed on Quebec.
- Francophones: Wanted to special status for Quebec.

October Crisis

- October 1970: The FLQ kidnapped British diplomat James Cross. They said they would release him in exchange for a release of some of their prisoners and a public reading of their manifesto.
- Premier Bourassa agreed to most terms save for releasing prisoners. The FLQ responded by kidnapping Pierre Laporte.
- In response, Trudeau implemented the War Measures Act. Membership in the FLQ became a crime.
- October 16th, 1970: Federal troops patrolled the streets of Ottawa and Montreal. 100s of pro-separatists were arrested.
- Pierre Laporte's body was found on the 17th. They located Cross after 60 days of his imprisonment.

Bill 22

- The Official Languages Act did not go far enough.
- 1974: Premier Robert Bourassa created Bill 22 which aimed to protect the status of the French language.
- It made French the sole official language in Quebec.
- But not everyone in Quebec was proficient in French. And Bill 22 made them feel obligated to leave and go to Toronto.
- Anglophones saw it as the loss of the language rights. Francophones didn't think he had gone far enough.

Parti Quebecois

- 1976: Parti Quebecois won the election. In the last election they had only had 7 seats.
- He had promised that their election would not mean automatic separation. He promised referendum.
- They passed Bill 101:
 - French only the official language of the province. Government employees had to work in French.
 - Commercial outdoor signs in French.
 - Children of immigrants to attend French schools
- Non Francophones didn't like it. But finally Francophones liked it. They felt it would protect their language and culture.