



Hordes of impressionable young students and workers attended the council meeting to be educated about unionization. John Hushagen Photo

# The Gateway

## COUNCIL BACKS DOWN

Student Union President, Don McKenzie, surprised Students' Council Tuesday night by reversing his stand on the CUPE issue.

He supported dropping the appeal against certification of the Canadian Union of Public Employees as the sole bargaining unit for SUB staff.

Previously, the Students' Union President had accused SUB staff of being unreasonable in changing to CUPE after the Students' Union Staff Association (SUSA) had been accepted as the bargaining agent.

The entire issue was considered so important by council that it was moved to the head of the agenda, before any other business. Adoption of the agenda is normally the first item when Council meets.

Arts rep Barry McLaren pointed out that the Students' Union should be setting a democratic example for the university. He then moved that Council re-affirm the right of the SUB staff to belong to the union of their choice, and that the Union stop the appeal to the Supreme Court against the certification of CUPE Local 1368 by the Board of Industrial Relations.

With this, an hour of debate on the question began before a large audience of students and staff in the SUB Theatre lobby.

Treasurer Frans Slatter noted that originally the Executive decided unanimously to appeal certification. Thus there may have been considerable change of heart, since, when the vote came, he and External Vice-President, Ian McDonnell, were the only Executive members voting against stopping the appeal.

Students' Union Secretary, Vera Radio, said that, while she no longer feels that way, the reasons to appeal seemed plausible when the matter was first discussed by the Executive. Noting that many students were becoming increasingly concerned, Vera suggested looking at the whole thing once more and settling difficulties over the bargaining table. "We don't have the right to say no if our staff wants CUPE."

Students' Union Co-ordinator, Doug Black, detected a somewhat apologetic tone coming from some of the speakers but said he would not apologize. He admitted that the right to organize as a union is basic to workers and that he had been previously assuming that CUPE would make unreasonable demands.

Frans Slatter then gave a short history of the situation regarding

the caretaking staff in SUB. He began by saying that, when the Union moved into the new building in 1967, the University took over all maintenance and cleaning in exchange for the old Union building. Since Physical Plant was not geared to the type of work necessary, for example cleaning up after Friday Social, the Union took over caretaking services in return for an annual grant from the University. This year that grant will amount to about \$150,000. The gallery seemed quite surprised at the mention of the grant. Previously it had been claimed that the staff's wage demands could put a strain on the budget.

Frans also made it clear that he will continue to act the way he feels is best for the SUB staff. He claimed to "have seen no new evidence". At this point, speaking from the gallery, former Union President David Leadbeater shouted, "Of course you won't."

President Don McKenzie, a law student, dealt with some of the legal points involved. He raised the possibility of SUB staff being Crown employees, and therefore could not have the right to strike. Legally, Don mentioned, no settlements of any kind are allowed when certification of a bargaining unit is requested.

However, he also stressed that legality is not the issue. According to McKenzie, the issue is whether or not the staff have the right to organize. Noting that the Students' Union is in a very difficult position, he said he was sorry that a number of falsifications had been made by both sides during the past week. He claimed that not once did the old Students' Union Staff Association (SUSA) make any representations about complaints with the SUSA agreement. This

brought immediate outcry from some of the SUB staff present.

McKenzie's affirmation that anyone should have the right to organize with any group came as a surprise to some of the gallery. He then informed Council that they should recognize the organization of CUPE Local 1368, and then deal with further problems at the bargaining table.

With that Academic Vice President Dave Biltek announced that he had changed his stand and would vote to stop the appeal. He felt that the proper place to decide anything is over the bargaining table, and therefore unionization of SUB staff should

cont'd on page 12



John Hushagen Photo

"Their pay is the shits!" says Dan Carroll, representative of the Student Support Committee for SUB Workers, as the minds of student councillors finally get the message.

## U of T handbook attacked by press

TORONTO (CUP)--The 1971 University of Toronto Student Handbook has been vehemently attacked by Toronto's establishment press and repudiated by its publisher, the Students' Administration Council.

The main target of criticism was the handbook's lead editorial, entitled "The Year of the Siege." It concludes that the administration's violent tactics must be met with violence. One of the administration's tactics outlined in the editorial was ordering the violent eviction of the Wacheea tent city by calling Metro police on to campus earlier this year--an unprecedented action at the U of T.

Seizing the opportunity to distort the editorial's message, the establishment media quoted its conclusion out of context, implying that the handbook was designed to incite unprovoked

violence.

Although the handbook was distributed to 27,000 undergraduate and graduate day students at U of T, the press labelled it a "Freshman Handbook" accusing editor Alex Podnick, a graduate political science student, of seeking to mislead "impressionable" first-year students.

The Toronto Star proposed that the University's administration issue "a counter-manifesto to the incoming freshman, warning that any resort to illegality or violence will be answered with prompt expulsion." In its editorial, it demanded Podnick's expulsion as penalty for his "open incitements to defiance of the law."

The *Globe and Mail* suggested that "Mr. Podnick's ravings, if he attempts to translate them into action, can be dealt with by the

police."

Podnick said the press was guilty of sensationalism and deliberate misrepresentation of the editorial, and said the papers "implied that it was meant to incite an unprovoked campaign of 'violence and intimidation'."

"When the administration called in police to evict Wacheea--well aware of the likelihood of violence--despite Sword's pledge to negotiate with them later that morning and despite the fact that they weren't disturbing anyone, this same press remained mute," he added.

While SAC spokesmen praised the handbook as "one of the best and most useful booklets in some years", they repudiated "the tone and methods expressed in its 'inflammatory pages'."

Acting vice-president and

cont'd on page 3