

Statement of the Council of the York Student Federation on the withholding of information from the Canadian people by the senate at York University

that government, defied the Canadian people. York being the first university to deny the government request for citizenship statistics and related data, has set a precedent. The senate has decided what information will be given to the Canadian people and what information will be withheld.

1) The senate has claimed that a discipline by discipline breakdown of citizenship, and educational background of faculty and graduate students is confidential information. Yet the data has already been compiled; it is in the hands of some groups and not others. It can therefore be used by certain groups for their purposes and not by others. Furthermore there is certainly so consensus in the university that such information should be confidential. The political science department for example, by publishing such data about new faculty in the 1970-71 syllabus, has expressed the belief that this data is important enough to be made available to the public.

A major issue, then, is one of openness of information in the university. All members of the community should have equal access to information that has been solicited and compiled, so that the issue with which the data is concerned can itself be discussed openly and freely in the university community.

2) The senate of York university has defied a body elected by the Canadian people in Ontario and has dictated to them that they will not be given information relating to an institution which they, through their tax money, pay the cost of maintaining.

3) One's country of acculturation and his educational background have a direct bearing on his ability to teach Canadian students. Familiarity with the context within which one is teaching is a criterion for employment.

Today many Canadian students have a right to demand that their courses deal with Canadian issues and problems. They, therefore, have a right to demand that they be taught by Canadians familiar with and interested in solving these problems and those non Canadians who have done research in and about Canada, have made a concerted effort to learn about this country and have adapted their teaching methods and course content accordingly.

4) Canadians have a right to jobs in their own country. Statistics released at York last year showed that the training of Canadian students to fill positions in Canadian universities was not a priority at York. In the sociology department, for instance, it was discovered that 92% of Ph.D. students (12 out of 13) were non-Canadian.

We cannot help but fear that the senate is suppressing

this kind of information this year because the situation has not significantly changed. Rather than rectify the situation, we must conclude then, that they have chosen to hide it.

5) The Canadian taxpayer has a right to a full return on his tax dollar. This begs the question as to whether the Canadian taxpayer should pay to educate American students who will, for the most part, return to the United States after building a reputation in Canada.

Surveys have shown that most Americans teaching in Canada retain their U.S. citizenship (even when qualifying for Canadian) and do not intend to remain permanently in Canada.

Canadians, on the other hand, are much more likely to live in Canada, contributing to Canadian society over a long period of time and thereby repaying the taxpayer many times over.

Therefore, be it resolved that The Council of the York Student Federation issue the following set of demands:

1) That the Canadian people be immediately given all information regarding the nature of education at York, including full disclosure of the country of acculturation and education background of all faculty and graduate students, as requested by the Ontario legislature.

2) That Canadian students be allowed to exercise their right to be taught by those professors who are most familiar with the Canadian context.

3) i. That York University make as a priority the hiring of qualified Canadian faculty capable of critically analysing, and finding solutions to, the real and urgent problems in contemporary Canadian society (e.g. U.S. domination).

ii. That York make as a priority the admission of Canadian students into its graduate programmes.

4) i. That courses or special study programmes be established for members of the York teaching staff who are unfamiliar with the Canadian context.

ii. That a study be embarked upon to determine which members of the teaching staff would be willing to participate in such programmes.

Our primary concern is with the future — the future of our country, the future of our university. Our goals are such that there is a place for everyone presently at York, Canadian and non Canadian, who is willing to work with us in developing a Canadian university which seeks to critically analyse and find solutions to the major problems in Canada today.

We the councillors of the York Student Federation hereby declare our disapproval of the recent decision made by the university senate to withhold valuable information from the Canadian public — namely, statistics on the citizenship and educational background of York faculty and graduate students.

This refusal on the part of a body obviously influenced by Americans, can be construed as the latest manifestation of American influence in Canada and apparently fails to take into account the growing public concern with Americanization.

The senate, because it accepts the Ontario legislature as the legitimate voice of the Ontario residents has in defying

A summer Sunday in Belfast

Red brick in the suburbs, white horse on the wall,
Eytalian marbles in the City Hall;
O stranger from England, why stand so aghast?
May the Lord in His mercy be kind to Belfast.

—Maurice Craig

By DAVID McCAUGHNA

It's hell hitching in Ireland on Sunday. The only cars on the roads seem to be filled with vast families on their way to the beach or down the country to visit grannie. So we're stuck in Belfast until Monday morning. The university hostel isn't bad, but Belfast is surely the worst city in the British Isles to spend a Sunday. The British 'blue laws' are foolish but in Northern Ireland they go one degree further: the pubs are closed. The citizenry, both Catholic and Protestant, appears to spend a considerable portion of the day in church.

Two weeks previous to our visit fierce rioting broke out in the Catholic Ardoyne Rd. district between British troops and the residents. A nineteen-year-old apprentice, Daniel O'hagan, was killed when the troops opened fire. The tension is heavy in Belfast now.

"Don't stare at people on the street," a boy at the hostel warns. "You can never tell who is carrying a gun."

As we walk into the city we pass a group of police standing around a car, an ominous note, for a week later two young policemen are killed when an abandoned car they are investigating near the border explodes in their faces.

Belfast is a flat, brick city that lies at the end of Belfast Lough, a bay off the Irish Sea. It's dull and unpretentious. There is nothing especially striking about the place. Belfast attracts few tourists. It's a hardworking city containing endless rows of terraced houses, churches and small shops. The Belfast working-class has a reputation for being heavy drinkers. In the evenings, when the sun sets across the thin northern sky and there is a chill off the sea, fires are lit in the houses and the smell of coal smoke is everywhere. The major industry in Belfast is still ship-building, but it's declining now as the Japanese capture the market.

We have a map of the city and decide to walk through some of Belfast's notorious neighbourhoods like Falls Rd. and Sandy Row where the worst rioting has occurred. It's Sunday morning and the people coming from church hurry along the streets, bells ringing across Belfast.



Belfast graffiti are famed among connoisseurs of that art, but it's not in jest here, rather, deadly serious. Red letters splashed sloppily across a wall: HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD REMEMBER 1916. JOIN THE IRA commands another wall. GOD BLESS BERNADETTE is scrawled across the front of a boarded house.

Bernadette Devlin, heroine and now martyr to thousands of Catholics on both sides of the border, is fifty miles away in Armagh Prison. She is serving a six-month sentence and the Northern Ireland government refuses to allow her to be sworn-in as member of parliament for Mid-Ulster until she is released. Bernadette is in good spirits, they say, sewing shirts for the guards and working on a new book to be called Prison Journal. At last report she was learning crocheting from a murderer. Her popularity has increased but her dream of uniting working-class Catholics and Protestants is still far off.

"Three years ago we all thought things were going for the better," the boy at the hostel told us.

The shopkeeper, a friendly man with a hunchback, wonders where we are from.

"Be careful around here," he said. "I don't go out after dark myself because you can't tell your friends from your enemies."

I ask about the riots.

"The shop window was smashed but that's about all that happened to us. We didn't know what was going on those nights with all the noise and fires. This street got off well. We would like to sell out but can't get any takers."

Outside it's raining and we run into a doorway for shelter.

Brendan Behan agreed with Bernadette, he said, "I'm convinced that the next forward step in Irish affairs will come from the industrial workers up here (Northern Ireland), and it is they who will transform Ireland into what the leaders of the 1916 Rising wanted — a Socialist Republic." But the majority of working-class people haven't yet come to the realisation that the religious issue is really a ploy to keep them divided and weak. Only in this way can the ruling Protestant Ulster Unionist Party rule and protect its own interest and British economic investment.

We walk through Protestant Sandy Row. Belfast isn't all bleak and ugly. There is a strange, muted beauty in these neighbourhoods. The rows of houses hint at a wistfulness, recalling the prosperous 19th century when they were built. Today, in one out of fifteen of the houses there is unemployment. The unemployment rate is growing. Industrial expansion in Ulster is at a virtual standstill. What wise industrialist would be so silly as to invest in such an unstable land? In the rolling suburbs, the middle-class is fleeing; immigrating to England, Canada, and Australia. On every block there are many 'For Sale' signs. The only refuge for the working-class is England.

The Union Jack flies up and down Sandy Row this Sunday. Here the symbols of British nationalism are asserted as in no other part of the United Kingdom. The Queen is seen as the great Protestant Monarch, a safeguard against the insidious threats from Rome. NO POPE HERE, GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, and KICK THE POPE reads the paint on the walls. But the neighbourhood is very similar to Falls Rd. With the pubs closed, groups of men in black suits congregate at the corners and in one window we notice a set of Coronation china on display.

We are tired of walking and take a bus out to Carrickfergus. Its on Belfast Lough and is a pleasant town with an imposing ruin at the water's edge. The sky has cleared some and we rent a boat for an hour. At the dock the boatman stares at us. Doesn't he trust us with his little boat?

"Where you fellows from?" We tell him. "Ah, be careful around here with the Catholics. The bastards'd cheap their own mother if you gave'em one chance. A dirty lot, too. Low on self-respect, if you know what I mean."

When we come back we ignore the warning and walk through the Catholic area. It's neat and civilized.

Is there a solution to the tragedy in Ulster? The government has promised some moderate reforms but even they are slow in coming and now the government is hesitating over right-wing pressures. The British government has warned that if Ulster doesn't come to grips with her problems, Britain will suspend the government and the country will be ruled directly from London. Ian Paisley, MP, reportedly eats at a table alone in the House of Commons. Bernadette Devlin says, in her book The Price of My Soul, "We are fighting for the economic rights of an underprivileged people... only if it's an all-Ireland working-class revolution are there enough of us to overthrow the powers that be." She will be released from prison this fall and will continue the struggle.

Monday morning and a half-hearted sun shines across the city. We take a bus to Lisburn and begin hitching south and home. A man in a clinking van gives us a lift.

"I think they should hang Bernadette Devlin by her knickers," he tells us in a singsong Northern voice. We are happy to be going home.

