

# 'The greatest collection of lies and distorted facts'



## UGEQ's LaTouche damns Estrin's version of Second Century Week's French-Canada crisis

By DANIEL LaTOUCHE  
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This week, students from all across Canada are participating in the \$250,000 project labelled Second Century Week. It is now certain that very few Quebec students will be in attendance and so far no Quebec student organization has given its support to the Alberta project.

David Estrin, director and chairman of the planning committee, in a

Alberta. From the start, the Centennial Commission insisted on the "approval and authorization from the national student bodies—Canadian Union of Students and Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec."

It is only eight months later that they approached the representatives of UGEQ while CUS officers were informed as early as September, 1965. It is clear that Estrin is simply lying when he says it was his com-

Mr. Estrin continues then to say that in May, 1966: "Two Alberta students flew to Quebec and New Brunswick for a week of discussion in French and properly armed with briefs on the project written in French . . . the monetary expense to the project was about \$500."

Let me laugh. Their French brief is nothing else but a two page resume of the official 21 page brief presented to the English unions. I prefer not to comment on the quality of the translation, suffice it to say that we needed the English original to decipher the French translation.

I am also profoundly disturbed by the fact that in their great Anglo-Saxon generosity they agreed to have discussions in French. Three rahs for them—if they spoke as good French as Estrin did it must have been quite interesting. As for the \$500, I propose a national subscription to help pay them back.

On May 9, 1966, they are supposed to have met with the president of UGEQ and with "Mr. Jean Archambault, secretary. Our talks were very indecisive. There was never any spoken criticism of the project as such."

It is incredible. First of all, there never was a secretary-general of UGEQ named Jean Archambault (I believe I should know, since I should have sat with him on the same executive for 12 months). As to the absence of criticism he is totally right, but the thing he forgets to mention is that the project was so weakly received that nobody bothered to go to detailed criticisms. This reception is quite understandable if you consider that they were asking the French Canadian students to join in "The celebration of Canada's centennial", and these celebrations "imply a looking to the future basing perception on the gains of the first century."

But what if you believe that this first century was not so great after all for French Canadians? Also, Estrin does not mention the generous

offer they were presenting us: Out of 100 students participating in the literary seminar, eight would have been French speaking students from Quebec. The situation was so ridiculous that there would have been more English speaking Quebec delegates than French speaking ones. A very generous offer indeed.

On the next page the secret report goes on to say: "Our best hope is that another attempt would bring different results if undertaken perhaps in the fall. A change of personnel will have taken place on the UGEQ executive and perhaps a change of heart." A very revealing comment indeed.

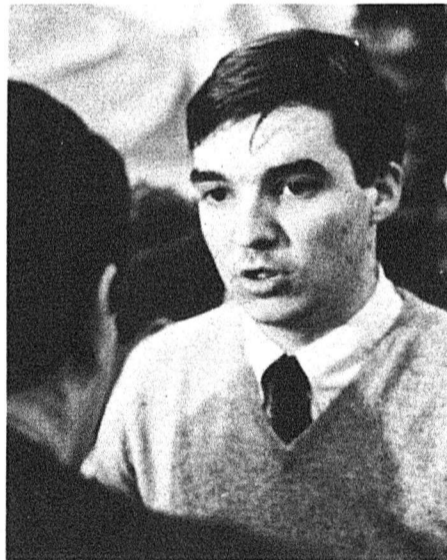
Then we come to the really funny part of the report. Allow me to quote in full.

### background

Second Century Week took its place with the blasted mail-box and the empty armory as a symbol of French-Canadian reaction to English Canadian "arrogance." Last week's \$280,000 festival was almost torn limb from limb, by criticism of its handling of the Quebec affair. This article is one example of the reasonable tone participants maintained. Daniel LaTouche, the author, was one-time international affairs vice-president of the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec, and is now a political science student at sedate UBC.

"For the next occasion at which this topic arose saw a UGEQ representative Mr. Daniel LaTouche, vice-president of international affairs, criticize several aspects of the program . . . the occasion was the meeting of the Western Regional conference of CUS in Saskatoon.

Mr. LaTouche apparently sort of fell into the conference, in that he had attended the SISA seminar just previously in Winnipeg, and it is certain that UGEQ would not have paid so as to have representation at the western regional . . . to give Mr.



DAVID ESTRIN AND DANIEL LATOUCHE  
. . . the accused and the accuser

secret and confidential document entitled *Quebec, its students and Second Century Week*, tried to explain, in ten long pages, this unfortunate situation.

His explanations constitute the greatest collections of lies and distorted facts I have ever seen in the Canadian student world. Consequently I feel obligated to present the other side of the medal and this publicly since I do not believe—like Estrin says in the foreword of his document—that "these issues . . . are better kept secret until the conclusion of the project."

The project originated during the summer of 1965 at the University of

mittee's intention to involve "French Canadian students from Quebec in the planning and executing stages. It had always been the intention to have a Quebec student as one of the key planning persons."

Instead of contracting the officers of the national union of students as they should have done, they chose to visit the local member unions of UGEQ. Even more, Estrin claims that they received "a favorable and enthusiastic reaction." On the contrary, the Quebec reaction was quite cold and it is only to be able to receive the Centennial Commission grant that Estrin distorted the facts in such a way.