

if the frogs
are honest

The Gateway

will they sinc?

VOL. LVII, No. 26, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA

FRIDAY, JANUARY, 20, 1967, SIXTEEN PAGES

Loan frauds investigated

Quebec students involved in falsification of claims

By BERNIE GOEDHART

An investigation into the possibility of a fraud involving from \$2 to \$3 million in student bursaries will be conducted shortly in Quebec, according to the Montreal Star.

The fraud involves alleged falsification of declarations by Quebec students wishing to acquire government loans.

In a letter to Premier Jean Lesage in May, 1965, provincial auditor Gustave E. Tremblay stated an inquiry into students' claims showed only 29 per cent of the students gave truthful figures regarding family income.

As a result, the provincial treasury paid out \$2 million in excess for bursaries.

The inquiry took the form of a spot-check of 1,370 records of 46,000 students being compared with income tax returns. Approximately 706 students gave a lower return on income than stated in the income tax files.

The amount of money in question ranged from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

Last spring Mr. Tremblay was scheduled to make available for the public accounts committee the results of a sample check in 1965-66 of 10,000 bursaries records against income tax returns.

However, since the House prorogued for the elections and Mr. Tremblay is on holidays, the report remains unknown.

CHECK CLAIMS

Since the Department of Education in Quebec has started to check on students' claims (May, 1965), several problems have been encountered. Some statements (e.g. those referring to the amount of money earned during the summer) are difficult to verify.

Former education minister Paul Gérin-Lajoie had promised a fool-proof method of verifying students' claims but apparently the confidential nature of income tax returns as upheld by the Income Tax Act stood in the way.

Under conditions of a recently approved bill, anyone found guilty of falsifying information to obtain government loans is liable to be fined up to \$1,000. He would also have to return the money loaned to him.

Alberta does not share Quebec's difficulties involving fraud on the part of students wishing to obtain government loans, according to J. M. Whidden, university bursar.

He said, "I don't think it is an issue here. I would know if it were something flagrant, but I don't think it is something we are bothered with here."

C. G. Merkle, chairman of the Students' Assistance Board, said a number of precautions are taken to guard against possible fraud.

"We make periodic checks at all times," he said, "and they have revealed very few discrepancies. Interviews are also conducted on a random basis with parents and students."

He added he was under the impression that applications in Quebec were processed by computers. This is not the case in Alberta.

Sinclair re-imbursed by council

Students' council Monday night re-imbursed co-ordinator Glenn Sinclair for expenses incurred on unauthorized union business.

Sinclair requested and received \$101.43 for car rental from traveling he did in Ontario through a week last August. Without obtaining council authorization, he visited various Ontario campuses investigating their activities programs, co-op housing, and attitudes to Second Century Week and CUS.

Sinclair had gone to Ontario before the Waterloo Co-op Housing Seminar for personal reasons.

The amount requested covered only an outstanding account to car-rental leasing, Sinclair stated. It did not include his living or personal expenses.

Vice-president Marilyn Pilkington spoke against the paying of the expenses. "This would be setting a dangerous precedent. In previous years there were stringent regulations about payment of expense accounts. Sinclair's actions were unauthorized," she said.

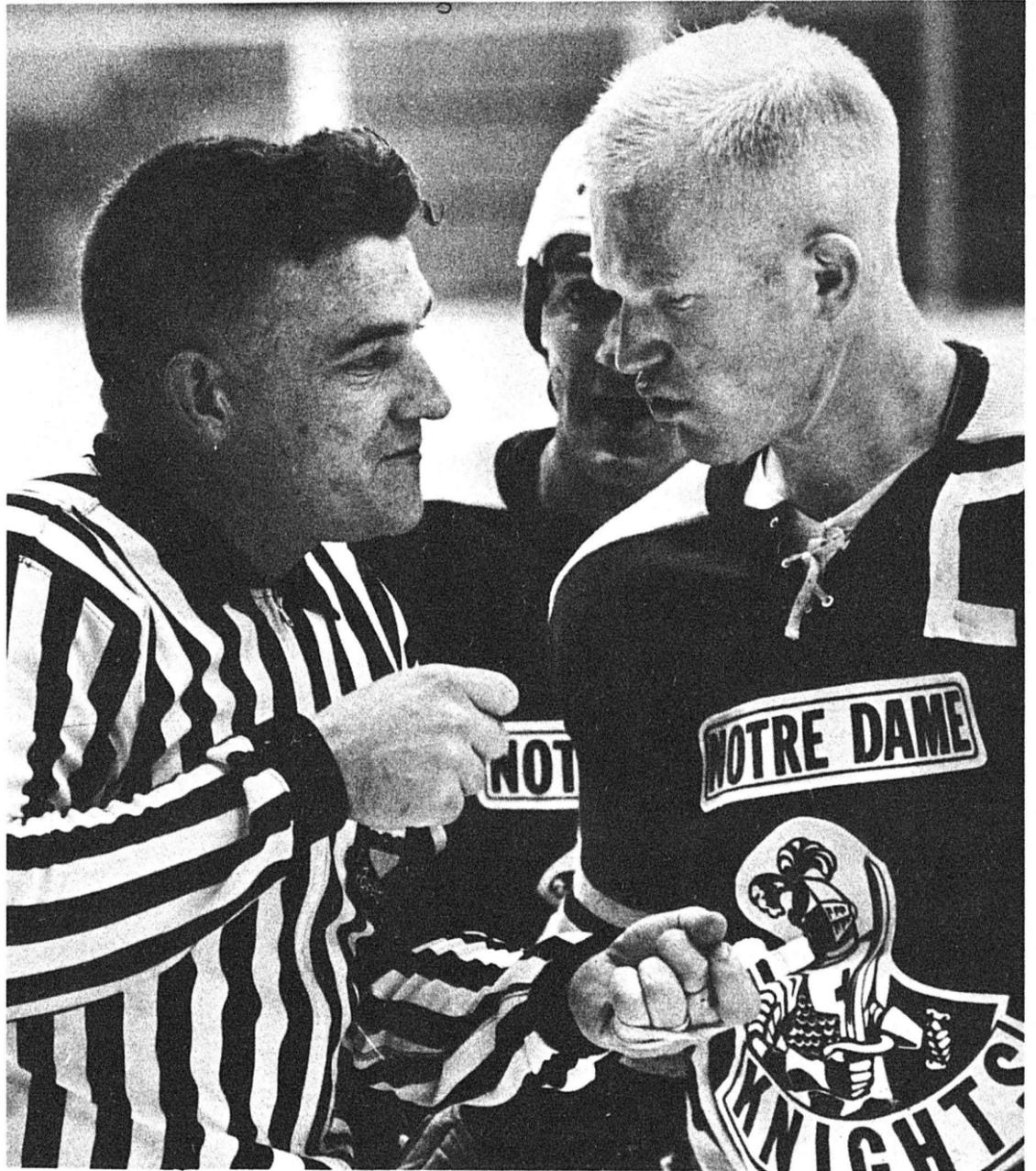
"We are not concerned with precedent. We should re-imburse members who incur expenses on students' union business," said CUS chairman Owen Anderson.

Sinclair had given up a well-paying job to devote his summer to union business for \$25 a week.

Phys ed rep Peter Golinowski inquired how beneficial had been Sinclair's visits to these campuses.

"We have had no report relating to these other activities from Sinclair," answered president Branny Schepanovich. "This is the sort of thing called 'campus communication.' My personal feeling is there is little value in it."

After debating whether the issue concerned "principle" or "people", council passed the motion to pay Sinclair.



—Al Ygckulic photo

LOOKIT FELLA, REFEREES NEVER MAKE MISTAKES—Referee Bill Fletcher seems to be offering Notre Dame captain Leroy Mowery an ultimatum as toothless, bad-boy Frank Arnett gapes with astonishment. The Golden Bears downed the Nelson, British Columbia club 4-1 in a penalty-studded contest at Varsity Arena Monday. See story page six.

Approved in principle

Visitation gains support

The provincial Department of Youth has approved in principle a proposed high school visitation project.

The project, originated by ed rep Dale Enarson, was presented to the department in November by the U of A students' union. The brief contained a budget based on a grant of \$7,000 from the provincial government.

Enarson explained the project as a program in which university students would visit high schools and work on a student-to-student basis trying to interest more students in post-secondary education.

A recent survey of the prairie provinces shows only 50 per cent of the matriculants go on to higher education of any kind, Enarson said.

Robert Clark, Minister of Youth, is very pleased with the proposal, reported Enarson. "He was glad to see a project in which the university, the students' union and the provincial government could work together for mutual benefit," he said.

As outlined, the project would have two students doing intensive research on four pilot high schools in different parts of the province from May to September. During May and June they would be visiting rural schools, and during September a city high school.

Wherever possible, the university students would work with the guidance councillors. Through personal interviews and panels they would try to interest more students in the wider horizons offered by further education.

In some schools, financial aid would be emphasized, in others, better employment opportunities would take precedence.

Enarson said students' council would be calling for applications for the positions on the project at the next meeting.

SCW circumvents UGEQ

Quebec students will be taking part in Second Century Week.

But the SCW organizers had to bypass the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec (UGEQ) to get the participation.

Dave Estrin, SCW director, stated Monday at the first SCW press reception that UGEQ refused to take part in SCW because they had not consolidated their forces in Quebec yet.

However, UGEQ gave permission

to SCW officials to approach Quebec universities on an individual basis.

"We are going to have the students from French-Canada here, and we're going to have the dialogue we expected," said Estrin.

In other SCW news Gail Price, SCW hostess, announced a dating bureau may be set up to get dates to the Bar None dance for all official SCW guests. Bar None will be held on March 11, the last day of SCW.