

RCMP and Armed Forces bugging students

By I. CINMAN

More than a dozen Canadian universities have come out against RCMP and Armed Forces' general surveillance and electronic eavesdropping on faculty and students, insisting that no such abuses have occurred with the knowledge of university administrations. Many more are expected to make similar views public in the near future.

A great number say that if any such incident were to arise in the future, university officials or faculty should only become involved if government legislation or a court order compels them to do so.

The universities' reply comes in answer to a letter from the Canadian Association of University Teachers asking universities to comment on the fact that the RCMP and the Armed Forces have engaged in electronic surveillance of students and faculty at certain Canadian universities. The CAUT also asked universities to assure Canadians and the academic community that surveillance practices have not been condoned by university administrative bodies. All who replied stated that no such practices had been condoned or that they were investigating the matter.

Defence Minister Barney Danson initially confirmed allegations carried by the press last November that a combined Canadian Forces and RCMP intelligence unit bugged the student assembly room in the University of Ottawa administration building in 1970, gaining access over a period of several days to the conversations of anyone who used the room. The room was used mainly by political science and social science students and faculty. Mr. Danson also said that the University of Toronto was the scene of a bugging operation.

He also stated that he was opposed to such practices and that they would not happen again.

The Minister subsequently denied that these specific events had taken place involving armed forces personnel, although the Department admitted to the CAUT that military officers taking

courses at universities were instructed at the time to engage in general surveillance of a non-electronic kind.

The CAUT is seeking clarification from the federal government concerning the role of the RCMP and the Armed Forces security division on university campuses as a consequence of these revelations. In addition, the CAUT plans to make a submission to the MacDonald Commission concerning the activities of the RCMP.

In its communications, the CAUT is asking the federal government to ensure that Canada's security forces conduct themselves according to the understanding reached between the CAUT and the government of Lester Pearson.

The 1963 agreement says that the CAUT acknowledges the right of the RCMP to conduct criminal investigation of any individual accused or suspected of a specific crime on or off campus. At that time the government indicated that it would ensure that the security forces would not undertake general surveillance or electronic eavesdropping at universities.

In 1967, the CAUT made its position known again, this time to the Royal Commission on Security, where in addition to objecting to surveillance and electronic eavesdropping it recommended that there be a quasijudicial review mechanism so that those accused of security violations would be justly treated, but without endangering national security.

In the last few years the CAUT has made a number of representations to the government concerning the standards and procedures used by the RCMP in security screenings and general operations.

In pursuing its objective of getting the government to spell out the rules which govern RCMP activities, the CAUT says that the agency should only investigate specific complaints of illegal activities on campus, in the same manner as the police would pursue any other criminal charge.

The CAUT, has always opposed general, continuous or permanent surveillance of faculty and students on university campuses, the use of electronic or other

mechanical listening devices and the use of undercover paid informers on campus.

In its submission to the MacDonald Commission, the CAUT will point out, among other things, that certain alleged and some acknowledged past RCMP activities on campus represent an infringement on civil rights, invasion of privacy and a clear threat to the academic freedom of faculty and students. CAUT's view is that universities should have the freedom to experiment, to conduct research and to speculate freely, particularly when the results of that research and experimentation indicate that the opinions or the practices of those in authority are inaccurate or based on premises that do not accord with all the facts.

Of universities which replied to the CAUT circular, University of Waterloo said that "it has not and does not condone, directly or indirectly, general surveillance practices or electronic eavesdropping on campus by the security forces".

The University of Toronto, in consultation with the campus security department, said that no electronic surveillance or eavesdropping occurred with the knowledge of university authorities. Nor did any of the university's governing bodies authorize the RCMP or the Armed Forces to carry out surveillance on faculty or

Replies were received from Mount Allison University, Wilfrid Laurier University, Dalhousie University, Queen's University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Saskatchewan, the University of British Columbia, McMaster University, Brock University, which assured the CAUT that it did not condone nor would it permit such activity on its campus, the University of Waterloo, the University of Calgary, whose policy on security and confidentiality of records hinges on guarding the privacy of its faculty and students, the University of Victoria and McGill University, whose President assured the CAUT that McGill administration did not approve any RCMP surveillance activities

on campus. McGill urged its faculty and students not to assist the security forces in surveillance and eavesdropping, "unless a court order has been issued". The University of Montreal and the University of Quebec are currently investigating whether the federal or other security forces have been active in that campus.

Revelations that Canada's security apparatus has been conducting operations on this country's campuses are not new, but they have become of more immediate concern owing to the testimony before the Keable Commission in Montreal on RCMP illegal activities.


Similarly, the recent introduction and application of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act revealed that the CIA has been

secretly funding university research centers and has been involved with several academic journals or international academic conferences. In response to these revelations, Harvard University passed a set of firm rules for faculty and administrative conduct when dealing with security services.

In Great Britain, a Labour MP claimed recently that Special Branch officers or their informants are collecting information on political activities of students in every university in Britain. The allegations followed an incident at a Scottish university where a student was offered tax-free payments by a Special Branch officer to report on student political activities.

[From CAUT Bulletin]

**SEE THE WORLD
FIGURE SKATING
TOUR '78**



**AN EXHIBITION BY THE
1978 WORLD CHAMPIONS**

One Performance
March 17 — 8:00 p.m.
AITKEN UNIVERSITY CENTRE
Tickets \$7.00 & \$8.00 (incl. tax)
Now available at Aitken Centre
Box Office

AITKEN UNIVERSITY CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK - FREDERICTON

Too bad, dopers

Time are tough for U.S. dope dealers. They just lost their only tax breaks. The U.S. Tax Court recently said that pot smugglers cannot claim confiscated marijuana and vehicles as "ordinary and necessary" business expenses.

The Court made its decision

after hearing two precedent-setting cases. One involved Doug Holt of El Paso, Texas. During an Atlanta Drug Bust, narcotics agents confiscated a ton of pot and Holt's truck and trailer. He then tried to write-off \$58,000 (dollars) in business and trading losses from his taxes.

EDUCATION INTERNS

1978

Required Orientation
will be held in

March

Pre-Registration is required

Sign Up at d'Avray 203

before March 6, 1978

Present your parents with a copy of the
Bruns.

SURE CURE FOR "EXAMINATION BLUES"

(A disease which reaches epidemic proportions among UNB & STU students during examination time)

Protect your U.N.B. & S.T.U. Student from the ravages of "Examination Blues" with a Capital Y's Men's EXAMINATION BLUES BASKET



We will deliver to your son or daughter an Examination Blues Basket just prior to the week of examinations with the basket. We express your personal concern and extend your good wishes. The "Examination Blues Baskets" contain fruit, candy and cookies.

Complete the form below, attach your cheque or money order for \$7.50 per basket and return to us.

PLEASE DELIVER _____ BLUES BASKET(s) to:

Full Name _____

Full Address is _____

With love & best wishes from _____

Signature _____

Home Address _____

To: Capital Y's Mens Club
Dep. A
P.O. Box 1265
Fredericton, N.B.
Canada