

# HOFFER, LEGGETT, GIVE PSA STORY

"We have to fight because we live in a semi-fascist province." — John Leggett, SFU faculty member.

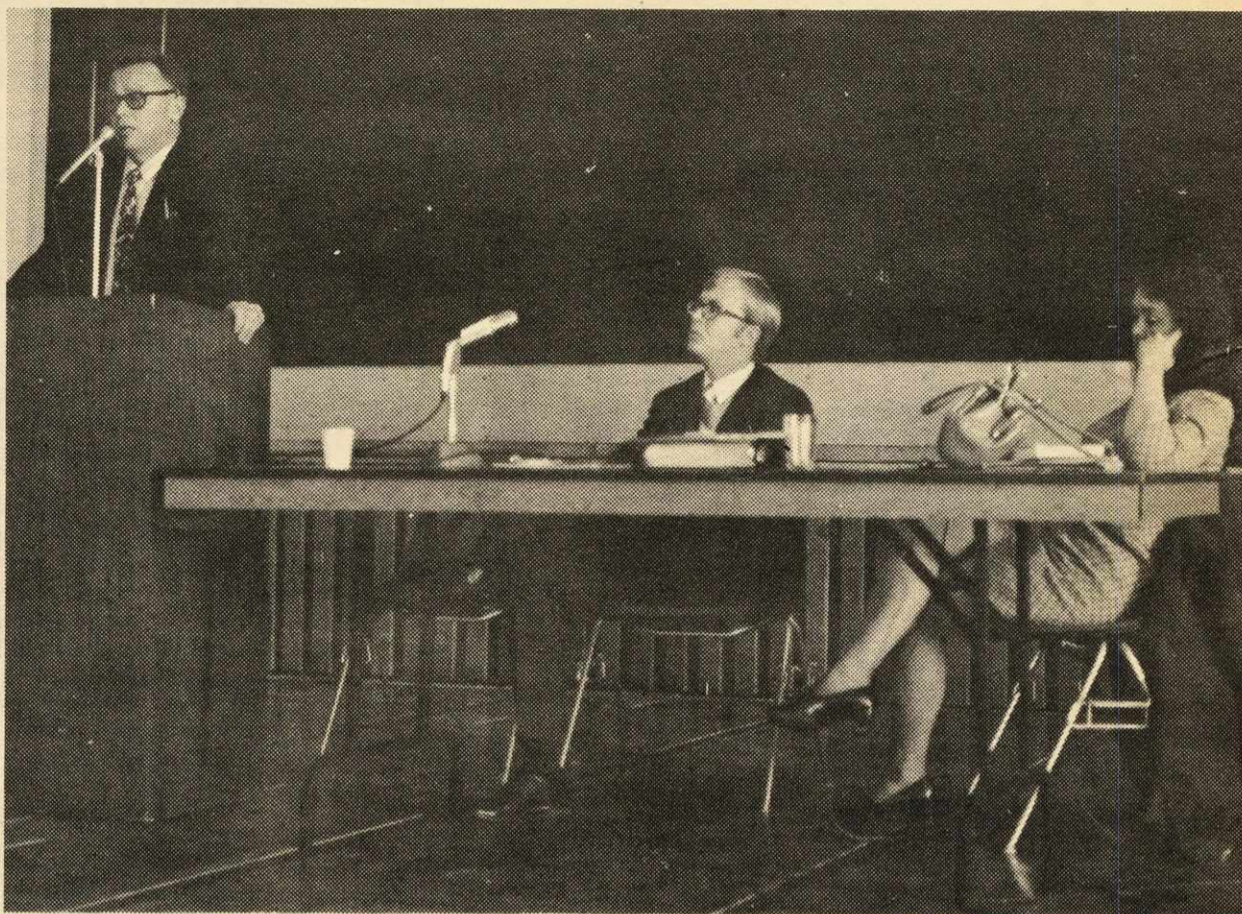
Tuesday noon saw a meeting being held in the McInnes Room of the SUB to discuss the actions of the PSA Department of Simon Fraser University. The PSA Department is an amalgamation of the former political science, sociology, and anthropology departments. Speakers at the meeting were Mrs. Pat Hoffer, a PSA graduate student, and John Leggett, a member of the PSA faculty.

Mrs. Hoffer began the meeting by describing the structure of the PSA Department, and the atmosphere which prevails on the SFU campus. She described the system by which the department had been running, that is with equal representation of students and faculty on departmental committees. A departmental chairman was chosen by such a committee, and Mrs. Hoffer described the sense of liberation felt by the students under this arrangement.

Mr. Leggett then got up and spoke for a short while on the history of the PSA department's struggles. He began by describing the power structure in SFU, which was set up by the Social Credit government of W.A.C. Bennet. He told of the political favoritism that went into the choosing of university officials. As an example it was stated that the Chancellor of the university also held a very prominent position in B.C. Hydro, which is also government operated.

Professor Leggett went on to describe the actions of President Strang which led up to the setting up of a trusteeship system to run the PSA Department, replacing the 'chairmanship' system which had given the students an equal say in departmental affairs. This action by Strang led the PSA department to start action. Informational teach-ins and 'counter courses' designed to present the department's side of the issue were held. When these did not have the desired effect informational picketing was carried on. This still had no effect, so a strike vote was called. 700 students voted for the strike with about twenty voting against it. Leggett emphasized that the strike was an action taken as a last resort, when all other methods of resolving the differences had failed.

In closing, Professor Leggett stated the basic demands of the PSA department. They are as follows: (1) The trusteeship system must be dropped, (2) tenure decisions on eleven faculty members must be recinded since the



dismissal of professors for purely political reasons was an irresponsible action, (3) the acceptance of PSA recommendations by the administration, (4) the acknowledgement of the need for experimentation and diversity in the university.

Leggett expressed his desire for PSA to "work with the working class, and with the oppressed minorities..." He urged students on other campuses to protest against the "neo Joe McCarthyism" in SFU.

A short question and answer period followed in which it was stated that organizations such as CUS, the Canadian Union of Students, and the New Democratic Party were in support of the PSA Department, although the NDP supports the department on an unofficial basis only.

After the meeting in the McInnes Room broke up, Professor Leggett, Mrs. Hoffer, and interested students retired to the Student Council chambers where the discussion was continued.

## DEMOCRACY DEVASTATED: A CHRONOLOGY

At a meeting held Tuesday Professor John Leggett of the faculty of the Simon Fraser University PSA Department gave a brief outline of the events which led to the strike of the PSA Department. The strike vote was held on Monday, with 700 voting for the strike and approximately 20 students voting against it. Here we present the events in approximate chronological order:

The PSA Department is demanding an end to the five man trusteeship placed over it by the university administration. The trustees who took over operation of the department, have an indefinite term of office.

The PSA students had been granted parity with faculty in all departmental decision making. Students and faculty supported the structure throughout the summer despite the opposition of the administration and President Kenneth Strand.

This summer, the administration focussed its opposition to PSA on the question of student parity in decisions involving hiring and firing of faculty.

Four PSA faculty members prepared a document criticizing the department's operation and blaming prevailing tension on the administration. They proposed a compromise formula which amounted to parity in words but not in fact. Student parity in tenure decisions was not formally provided for. Parity was regarded as a morally binding process of consultation.

This compromise was rejected by the faculty. The PSA Student Union adopted a modified version of the compromise solution.

Meanwhile, Bob Wyllie, acting chairman of the PSA department had resigned over the refusal of the faculty to accept the compromise proposal. The faculty never had the opportunity to consider the modified proposal adopted by the student body.

At this point the Dean of Arts, Dale Sullivan, stepped in. He refused to ratify the election of Mordecai Breimberg to the chairmanship of the PSA department although Breimberg had been acclaimed by both faculty and students. At a meeting of faculty and students Sullivan demanded the elimination of the students from tenure decisions, and said that no compromise decision was possible.

On July 11, Sullivan issued an ultimatum: the PSA faculty and students must elect a chairman in whom Sul-

livan had confidence, or submit to a trusteeship over the department. The department sent Sullivan a memo asking him to clarify certain points in the ultimatum. Sullivan ignored the memo and on July 15 the department was informed that the trusteeship would begin on July 18. The PSA department was asked to appoint two members to a five man trusteeship committee.

Since clarification of the questions they had raised had not been given, and the implications and meaning of "trusteeship" were not clear, the department did not name any representatives.

The administration then named all five members. The chairman was Dean Sullivan. Three of the other four

members represented the faculties of English, Economics and History. The fourth member was the former head of PSA, T.B. Bottomore. Bottomore, however, has been in England since his appointment and seems to have every intention of staying there. Like all the other members of the trusteeship except Sullivan, he has avoided making any public statement.

The trusteeship has been in operation for nine weeks without the support or cooperation of the PSA faculty and students.

The strike will eventually determine whether or not the SFU administration will be successful in eliminating democracy from the PSA department.

### GAZETTE STAFF

**Meeting:** Wednesday, October 8th  
11:30, Gazette Office.

**Martock Seminar:** October 10-12 Seminar, Workshops, Policy Discussion, Intellectual & Spiritual Comfort.  
Sign up in the office.

**Deadline for copy**

**Saturday before publication.**