

our "university"?

The Student Council has undertaken mass publicity to educate all the students, as to the effects of the proposed CAUT censure, that will come before their National Council at a special meeting called for this Saturday, in Ottawa.

We are confronted with a serious problem, and at the moment there is nothing that we can do about it. The possible effects that such a censure could have on the future of the University are many, and are included in a special report that it reprinted in this issue. Both the short term effects that are listed as few, and the long term effects that are listed as many, should be considered very seriously by all the students on campus.

Students should act now. This is too serious a question. Not enough is known by the student body in general, nor have they shown any willingness to find anything about the question. Council finally acted in the true interest of all the students when they decided at last night's meeting to put into effect the mass publicity drive.

The question has already split the faculty, and the repercussions are obvious. In a meeting of the AUNBT on Saturday, the local association voted in favour of the administration. They decided that they would not go along with, or support the three demands that the CAUT presented the authorities. It is now evident that the local authorities will not budge from their previous position, that being that they will agree only to "non-binding arbitration", and that they do not wish to lift the injunction of Professor Strax. The CAUT will not budge either, and the results of the AUNBT vote will only cause them to pick up their defences. We're caught right in the middle. One could easily raise the question whether or not the students were considered at all during this duel. We are the ones that are going to suffer the most, so let's do something.

Nobody has suggested that the students come out in support of one side or the other, but we must take some stand on the issue. Now it is evident that the censure will be imposed, and there is nothing that can be done on our part that can prevent it. We can however take action that will lead to an early lifting of the censure. Since the short term effects have been listed as few as may still be able to come out of this unscarred. Whether we want to or not is yet to be decided. The SRC cannot speak, or act for the students without their full support and certainly this issue warrants the full support of each and every one of us.

The outcome of this crisis will be determined at the special forum to be held in the SUB ballroom next Thursday night. If it turns out that there is not enough interest on the part of the students, then we get it right in the ear. If the turnout is sufficient, and some good alternatives are provided then we can go ahead and act and possibly get rid of the shadow that has been cast over our heads.

No one has said that we must choose between the CAUT or the Administration, nor has any radical action been proposed. All that is being asked is that the implications be looked into, and that everyone realize that we are really being confronted with an issue. This issue cannot be put off, or left up to somebody else to decide. This is ours. Lets make it really ours.

Actions at faculty meeting make censure more serious

The special SRC committee investigating the effects of on UNB prepared a second report last night in light of the actions at a general meeting of the AUNBT Saturday. Committee members are Dave MacMullin, Bob Hess and Alistair Robertson.

In connection with the threat of censure by the CAUT, the AUNBT held a general meeting Saturday, Feb. 8, 1969. The special SRC Committee on censure received a verbal report of the meeting.

POSITION

At the meeting, a motion was defeated calling for support for the CAUT position. A subsequent motion calling for AUNBT withdrawal from CAUT was also defeated, and one reaffirming AUNBT's general support of CAUT was passed. Thus the position now is that the local faculty association, while retaining membership in the national body, has decided not to support its stand in this case. In the past AUNBT has passed motions condemning the administration for inaction, and calling for arbitration on CAUT lines.

Our committee has discussed the implications of this eleventh-hour lack of support for CAUT by AUNBT. The AUNBT stand is hard to understand in the light of President Mackay's letter of last week, the meaning of which was unclear. The AUNBT in effect, through defeat of the motion, has supported the stand of the Board of Governors, which is not itself really understood by anyone, with the possible exception of the Board itself and Dr. Mackay, who has declined to explain it.

There is some evidence that the failure of AUNBT to support CAUT has caused a dangerous polarization within AUNBT. The minority who supported CAUT now find themselves isolated. They know that they are in a minority among the faculty here. Censure, which seems almost certain to come, will mean that they can hope for no future increase in their number, since CAUT members will be urged not to accept positions here. Indeed, since incoming professors will in fact be non-CAUT, the minority situation of CAUT supporters here will most probably worsen.

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RESIGNATIONS

The CAUT delegation that visited UNB February 19-20 specifically urged faculty not to resign, but to remain, in the hope of achieving through pressure on the administration the improvements in the University that CAUT desires to see come about. (This, one must not forget, is the whole purpose of censure itself). Now, however, in the situation described above, it may well be that neither CAUT nor its supporters here will see much point in maintaining this position, since it may be felt that further action to resolve the disputes, when the majority of faculty here is not in support, is futile. In that case, the growing feeling of frustration expressed by many faculty who are not satisfied with the administration, may well lead to their resignation, when reasons against this are no longer applicable.

It is reliably reported to our committee that members of faculty here are receiving tentative offers from other universities. Those of our faculty who are in a position to command jobs elsewhere are the very people we could ill afford to lose; and they are the very ones too, for whom resignation is a practical proposition.

What has happened because of the AUNBT's decision is that much if not most of the hope for pressure on the administration resulting in a settlement of the dispute and avoidance of censure, has gone. The administration can now say quite justifiably that since the AUNBT has refused support to CAUT, things are not really so serious. There is, however, little likelihood that AUNBT's decision will cause CAUT to change its mind. Indeed, it may well strengthen it in its conviction that there is much wrong at this university, for it knows that there are faculty members here, even if a minority, who look to it for support, and can therefore hardly be ignored. The only weapon CAUT has is censure.

It is instructive to compare the situation here with that at Simon Fraser, when the latter university was censured. There, the faculty association was fully in support of CAUT. It was for this reason that faculty were urged not to resign, and that in fact, the day after

censure was officially announced, negotiations were begun between administration and faculty. The situation here, especially since Saturday, is quite different; and the outlook for an early end to censure, and resolution of the dispute, much less hopeful. One point to remember is that the suspension of the professor concerned took place on September 24, 1968 - almost six months ago. And the matter is still no nearer being settled.

As a result, then, of the AUNBT decision Saturday, the committee feels it necessary to revise its earlier opinion that the effects of censure would be mostly long-term. The possibility of resignation in the near future, of professors of the calibre we can ill afford to lose, is very real, and the problem therefore much more immediate. And once again, our committee feels obliged to emphasize that it is, in the short and in the long term, the students who will be the real losers in all of this. Those of the faculty who resign, painful as this step will be to them, will go to other jobs. Those who stay will be content to remain in a censured university, either because they remain hopeful of change for the better, or because they don't feel bothered by it. The student, however, is affected by any lessening of quality in the university, without (in most cases) having the alternative of going somewhere else. And so far, without having any way of influencing what does happen. Ultimately, censure can only have one effect, and that is to lower the standard of teachers coming to UNB; through good professors already here leaving, and the supply of replacements being restricted.

The quality of a university is judged on the quality of its teachers, and for those of high quality there is considerable competition among universities. UNB, censured, will be at a disadvantage in that competition. Inevitably, its prestige will decline. A student with a degree from a university which is at a disadvantage in competing for staff, will in turn be at a disadvantage in the competition for entry to graduate school or into top jobs, not because he is labelled "CENSURED" or anything so dramatic, but because his university did not find it easy to get the best staff.

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CENSURE

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