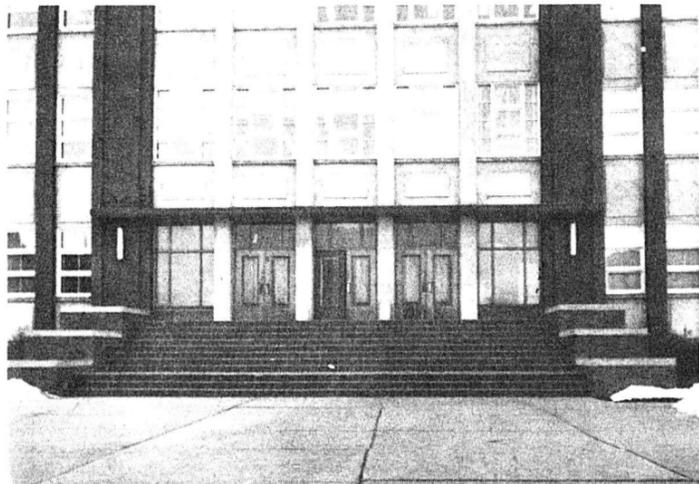
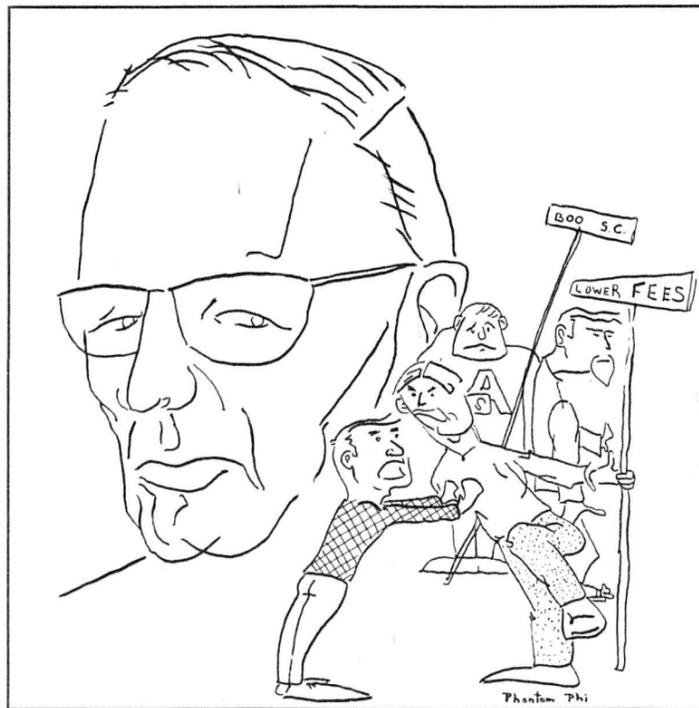


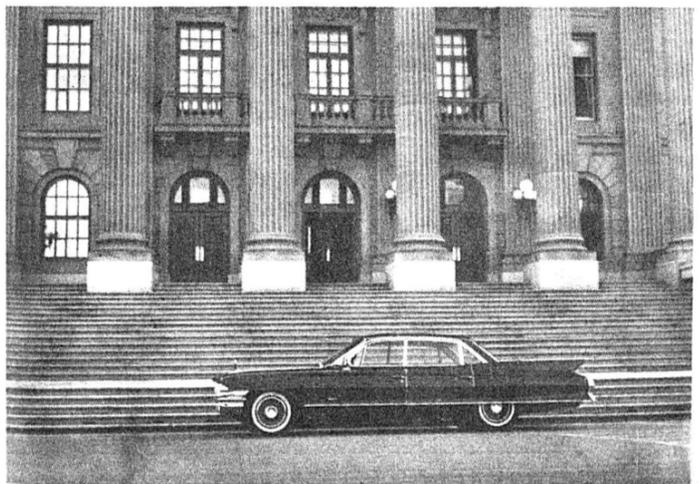
Manning Phones Dr. Johns; Major Demonstration Killed



ONE DEMONSTRATION SCENE, AFTER PHONE CALL.
photo by Heniz Moller



HOLD IT, FELLAS! BIG BROTHER'S WATCHING!



ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION SCENE. NO PHONE CALL.
photo by Con Stenton

By Gateway Staff Writers

The student march on the Provincial Legislature is dead. A telephone call from the Premier killed it.

The march was to have taken place Thursday. The leaders of the Residence Committee for Lower Rents had planned to lead several hundred students in a march across the High Level Bridge to the Legislative Assembly, which was opening.

Chances Prejudiced

The leaders called off the march Wednesday evening, after Premier Manning telephoned University President Walter H. Johns, and told him the march, if carried out, would prejudice the students' chances of getting government co-operation in the future.

Administration officials contacted Students' Union President Wes Cragg about 4 p.m. Wednesday, and relayed the message. At the same time, they called Dr. J. C. Morrison,

Assiniboia Hall Warden, and informed him of the developments. He gave student leaders the message.

Men's Residence House Committee Chairman Alan Meech called an emergency meeting of the leaders in his Assiniboia room for 6:30 p.m.

No Encouragement

When the student leaders met with President Cragg later, he gave them no encouragement.

He told them the demonstration would have to be called off, for fear of "jeopardizing our bargaining position."

He said Premier Manning had promised the students a one-hour Cabinet interview for Feb. 21 at 10 a.m.

Board to Decide

Dr. C. Malcolm McLeod, a member of the University Board of Governors, promised the Residence Committee for Lower Rents that the Board would reach a decision on the matter of the fee hike at its next

meeting Feb. 19.

The Board, he said, has been concerned until now with matters of UAC autonomy and SUB Expansion; it has not had time to give the matter of residence fees full consideration. The Board has discretionary powers to reach a decision, he said.

Provost A. A. Ryan, as a spokesman for President Johns, visited the Residence Committee about 9:45 p.m.

Administration Aware

He said the Administration was fully aware of student grievances. He added that a study of residence fee structure at other Canadian universities was under way, and that the situation here was "unique."

About 11 p.m. Wednesday, the directorate of the Residence Committee for Lower Rents decided to call off the march on the legislature.

"Political blackmail," one spokesman called it.

Students Stay Home To Roost While Premier Opens His House

Athabasca's pigeons watched Thursday while the student demonstrators stayed home to roost.

Fifty students, mostly news personnel, assembled woefully on SUB's front steps to witness a demonstration.

Not a single banner or placard was raised.

The demonstration was aborted.

Eleventh-Hour Decision

The decision to call off the demonstration—scheduled for the Provincial Legislature at 1:15 p.m. yesterday—was made by the Residence Committee for Lower Rents late Wednesday night.

The Committee issued the following statement in explanation of its decision:

"The Government, in the person of the Honourable E. C. Manning, has made intimations that a demonstration at the Legislature would definitely have the result of total rejection by the Legislature of any students' demands in the future regarding residences.

Embarrassment . . . Block!

"While the demonstration would be very effective in embarrassing the Premier, and indirectly the legislature as a whole, we are in the position of

having to gain the government's consent to our wishes. Premier Manning has shown clearly that he will block our efforts if we embarrass him.

"By not demonstrating we have created a situation showing our willingness to be reasonable. The onus is now on the authorities to show that they acted in good faith.

"If the authorities do not come to a satisfactory decision

by the weekend of Feb. 21, we can feel no further compulsion to co-operate with them and will no longer abstain from ANY form of influence in fighting for lower rates."

Raise Hell or Lower Fees?

Another said: "There is only one central issue at stake here: Do we want to raise hell at the Legislature or do we want to have the fees lowered?"

Residence Chairman Al Meech said, "I think we made a mistake in the first place in choosing the 13th."

He felt that embarrassing the Premier would not gain support for the rent campaign. Meech was angry, however, with the open political intervention of Premier Manning.

Everybody Pressured

He said, "... it is unfortunate that the Administration, student government, and the student body are so susceptible to political pressure."

The Residence Committee is continuing an open fight for low, competitive rates.

News articles submitted by the group to 12 major newspapers in Alberta are beginning to appear. The press releases urge parents of prospective residence students to boycott the new \$7 million complex and to put pressure on their MLA's until fair rates are set.

We Counted; Didn't Hatch

The demonstrators would have been "reasonable," they would have been "serious," and they would have been "orderly." And the number of demonstrators would have been "large."

But there was no demonstration yesterday—because Premier Manning killed it at the last moment by giving the word to President Johns. So our editorial "After the Demonstration," page four, loses some of its effect.

The facts are simply that the editorial was written Tuesday night—to conform with page four press deadlines—in anticipation of a demonstration yesterday.

Nevertheless, what the editorial says in regard to the rest of the fight to reduce the unjust residence fees still applies.

The Editors