



COUNCIL SNOW job was provided by Gateway Tuesday. See all that paper on the floor? Reserving the traditional journalistic right to throw council's words back at them, a herd of Gatewayites armed with full waste paper baskets stormed into Tuesday night's students' council meeting and tossed armloads of torn old Gateways into legislative laps. Photo by G.H.H.

featurette

AUTOMATION

by Adolf N. D. P. Buse
Barring a nuclear catastrophe or major economic depression, the consequences of automation will eventually force the industrially advanced nations of the world to make fundamental decisions which at present they find rather unpalatable. The radical transformation of society which automation will bring about will most likely lead to a form of socialism which is hardly the intent of most advocates of automation.

This was the essence of a recent discussion with Dr. David Winch, assistant professor of economics in the department of political economy. Dr. Winch received his doctorate from the London School of Economics and has worked at Yale, Toronto and the University of Saskatchewan before his coming to Alberta in 1960.

Our discussion of automation was not restricted to purely economic considerations. In fact, it was in the realms of politics and culture the Dr. Winch posed some rather startling conclusions and dilemmas.

According to Dr. Winch, automation, the substitution of capital for labor, has had and will probably in the future have its greatest impact in the displacement of semi-skilled labor. To find a satisfactory solution to the solution of excess labor will be difficult.

Winch suggests that we have a number of alternatives. We could of course oppose automation but history suggests that had we opposed the industrial revolution "we would still be peasants today." A high rate of economic growth to absorb the surplus labor could solve the problem of unemployment. But

there are definite limits to economic growth and growth only alleviates the problem, it does not solve it.

The most likely source of employment would be a large expansion in secondary and service industries. However, such an expansion involves us in a number of predicaments. The number of workers that can be absorbed in technical areas is limited. The rest could conceivably be employed in menial tasks such as domestic service, janitorial and public attendantship. It would be the function of the state to provide the majority of such positions. Yet our present society attaches a stigma to such work and it is unlikely that a semi-skilled laborer would accept such an alternative. Thus the state may have to resort to arbitrary allocation of labor or reduce welfare payments to such an extent that such work becomes attractive. "Neither alternative is likely to get political support," Dr. Winch commented.

There are more radical solutions to our dilemma. The direct and arbitrary allocation of manpower in a communist society solves the problem of automation, though not in a way acceptable to our society.

Yet unfettered nineteenth century capitalism is a workable alternative. For, given a flexible wage structure in which wages are determined by supply and demand, full employment could be maintained by an ever falling wage rate as automation increased. When the wage level reaches the subsistence level and since state interference is ruled out by assumption, man suffers the same fate that befell the horse when the internal combustion engine was introduced.

That such a solution would ever be adopted seems unlikely since we have definitely rejected the nineteenth century style capitalism in which the economy was driven forward by dangling a carrot in front and using a whip from behind.

"Today," Dr. Winch points out, "we have taken the juice out of the carrot by progressive taxation and the sting out of the whip by welfare payment."

That we should consciously embrace Communism to solve the problem of automation is rather unlikely. In Dr. Winch's opinion what will most likely happen is that we will accept a form of socialism in which the state participates more and more extensively in the provision of employment.

However, even if we accept socialism, our troubles are not over. The displacement of semi-skilled labor by automation will create two classes of workers, the highly skilled and the unskilled. That such sharp class distinctions are incompatible with our concepts of social equality is fairly obvious.

The frictions between these two classes could probably be considerable. As the complexity of the automated economy grows, fewer and fewer people would be able to comprehend it fully. The necessary decisions and their implications are understood by only a few. Since the functioning of the economy depends on their services, must we let the few rule by virtue of superior knowledge or do we permit the uncomprehending masses to make the incorrect decision? As the "menial" class grows, and the one man one vote democracy is retained, the highly productive elite would find themselves ruled by a majority whose goals would in all likelihood differ from their own. Under such conditions the system could break down.

As an alternative, fascism would resolve this dilemma by rejecting democracy. The highly skilled elite would control the economy, providing the menial class with the necessities of life but no political voice. Should the menial class revolt, and destroy the elite "you kill the geese that lay the golden eggs," Dr. Winch stated.

These are the alternatives which Dr. Winch outlined to me. All of them implications which lead us into basic difficulties. Yet present day society is hardly aware of the implications of automation much less the possible social dilemmas. Concern for these problems and perhaps solution can come only if we adopt a more critical and broader social unconsciousness.

As an after thought, Dr. Winch suggested that automation would provide a most fertile ground for political debate. It would be interesting to hear the answer which the various political parties of this country would provide if faced with any one of the dilemmas discussed above.

U of m not cooperative

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The University of Manitoba may not get back into the Western Collegiate Inter-Athletic Union (WCIAU) just by fielding a football team.

Dr. Murray Van Vliet, past director of the WCIAU, has suggested that Manitoba's ejection from the league may have had deeper causes.

"Football is not really the issue," he said in a recorded interview "though many people think it is. The purpose of the WCIAU is to encourage, promote and control inter-collegiate sport. The University of Manitoba was not as co-operative as the rest of us felt they should be. They were arrogant about what they would enter. They didn't have teams in swimming or wrestling, or in two or three other activities."

Fifty students go to nigeria

By Violet Vlehek

Fifty Canadian university students will be sent to Nigeria this year in answer to a request made through the Canadian University Services Overseas organization.

The Nigerian federal government has asked that CUSO help find qualified university graduates for teaching positions in secondary schools.

This is the first definite demand for Canadians made by a foreign government through the recently formed CUSO organization. The request is for the teachers of English, physical sciences, mathematics and French. Applicants with degrees in these subjects are preferred. While a teaching diploma is an advantage, it is not a necessity. Persons who are fluent in French are in great demand regardless of the pattern in which their degree is obtained.

The Nigerian Ministry of Education plans to place the students in private and mission schools for two-year terms. Housing, salary, and round-trip transportation are provided by the Nigerian government.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The 50 students will be selected from over 30 Canadian universities in which CUSO is active. R. B. Wishart, CUSO representative at U of A said recently he had received "eight or ten applications so far."

He reported that a Nigerian recruiting mission is expected to visit Canada toward the end of March. However, this is not definite, and "we may have to do the selecting by our own local committee."

In commenting on the purpose of CUSO, Mr. Wishart said it is not a "recruiting organization" for overseas workers.

GO-BETWEEN

"Our purpose is to act as a body of liaison between countries which want Canadian students, and Canadian students who wish to go to other countries." CUSO deals mainly with under-developed countries. "The demand for Canadians is greatest in Asia and Africa," but applications taken now will be considered to meet any further requests which may come.

CUSO was formed in June, 1961 by representatives of 21 Canadian universities and 22 other organizations. It is a coordinating body to promote and develop schemes to send young Canadians to serve abroad. By bringing together the various similar organizations which have been operating independently, CUSO hopes to improve the effectiveness of overseas exchange programs.

CUSO is at present being administered by the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO. It is being financed by Canadian universities and various member organizations, until additional support can be secured from other sources.

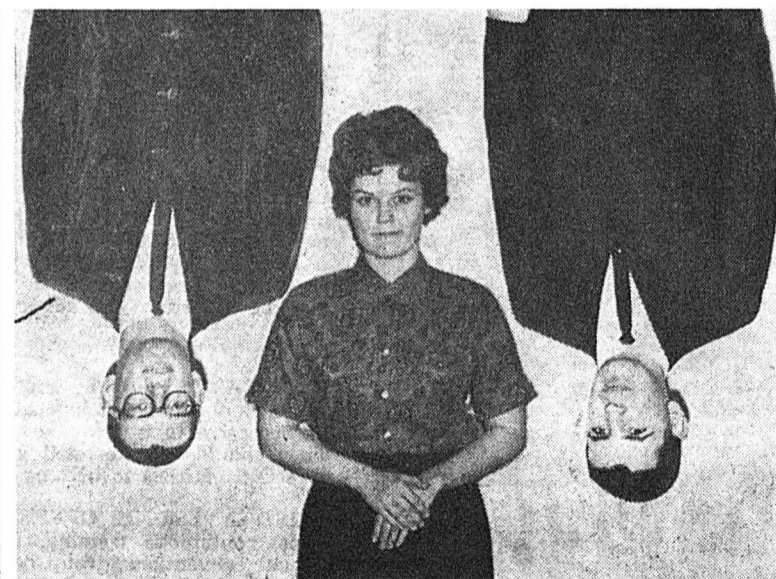
Students interested in the Nigerian project, or in work overseas of any kind, should apply to Mr. Wishart in the Administration building.

Grad committee planning

By Bernie Cartmell

Graduates who leave campus after finals and only return for Convocation have missed most of their graduation. Graduation exercises, which Chairman of the Graduation Committee Barry Schloss terms, "the highlights of a university career," last three days and includes two dances, a tea, a banquet and valedictory exercises, as well as Convocation itself.

The program opens this year on May 22 with an informal evening dance for graduates and their dates. Valedictory exercises are scheduled for the next day at 2 p.m. in West Lounge of SUB. Bob Church is valedictorian and Ken Glover, class historian. The event is open to graduates, other students and the public.



RELATIVE STATE of everything is proved by picture above. See what happens when a Varsity Graduation Class Committee gets really rolling? Left to right are Barry Schloss, Marilyn Anderson and Simon Fialkow. Actually, the two men aren't really upside-down—Marilyn is. It's the picture that's upside-down. Photo (?) by G. Hoyt-H. and Wm. Con S.

Also on May 23 will be a tree planting ceremony on SUB lawn at 3 p.m. There is a Wauneita Tea for graduates and their parents that day too. At 7 p.m. the Alumni Banquet in honor of graduating students and their parents will be held. In past years the banquet has been given at the Jubilee Auditorium.

Convocation will take place on Thursday, May 24, and the Graduation Formal Ball is scheduled for Thursday night at the Macdonald hotel for graduates and their dates only. Frank McCleavy's band will play for the ball.

Tickets to the social functions will be available at SUB soon after results of finals are announced.

Advisers to the Graduating Committee are Walter Dinwoodie, business manager for the Students' Union, and Mrs. J. Grant Sparling, dean of women. The Committee consists of Chairman Barry Schloss, Arts 3, Simon Fialkow, Arts 3, and Marilyn Anderson, Education 4.

The honorary class president is still to be chosen. More specific information on activities will be sent to graduates later in the year.