

Manning, the model premier

To the co-ordinator of Model Parliament on this campus—from the office of Premier Ernest C. Manning—comes this word:—

"While wholeheartedly endorsing your aims and objectives, the Council does not feel that moving the Model Parliament from Convocation Hall to the Legislative Buildings would add sufficiently to its functions to warrant abandoning the long-standing tradition of restricting the use of the Legislative Chamber to the work of the Legislature and a few limited functions which have a definite relationship to the Crown."

In short, the answer is "no."

A brief presented to the Premier last December by the Political Science Club was only the latest of a series of attempts—over the past four years—to convince the powers-that-be of the proposition that Model Parliament in the provincial buildings would be advantageous not only to campus and provincial politics, but indirectly and inevitably, to national politics.

The brief enumerated as reasons for support of the move, among others:

1. The atmosphere of the legislative buildings would add an air of respect and realism to proceedings.
2. It would promote greater interest in Model Parliament on campus and throughout the province.
3. It would raise interest in politics in general to a more mature level.

The brief pointed out that in other provinces model parliaments use the legislative buildings, and in fact that in Alberta the legis-

lative buildings have been used by other groups (e.g. Boy Scouts).

Manning's reply lists arguments against the move; that many groups request the use of the legislative buildings and that to accede to Model Parliament while denying others is unfair, while to open the building to all groups would not be acceptable to the people of the province.

These may not be all of the factors affecting Mr. Manning's (and the Executive Council's) decision. In any case, it would seem that our Model Parliament is rated either too low or too high—maybe both. Model Parliament is a legislative body, specifically designed to equip university people for the job of running their nation's governments. In other words, its function is quite in line with the purposes for which government buildings exist—for government is a process of learning, as it is of legislating.

Perhaps the people of Alberta, recognizing the importance, in their future, of political awareness, would be quite happy to see their legislative buildings used by our Model Parliament. Perhaps we have been rated too low.

On the other hand, perhaps we are rated higher than we suppose in the practical calculations of the council across the river. It is likely that a party other than Social Credit will form the government in Model Parliament. It may be that the prospect of a government other than Social Credit sitting in a hall politically sanctified for twenty-five years would at this point seem politically inexpedient, perhaps even a bit impious. Which might be taking life a little too seriously.

Students don't matter a damn

Once again the university hockey rink has proved to be an excellent hockey rink. As an examination room it is impossible.

Sickly yellow lighting revealed shivering forms garbed in overcoats hunched over rickety tables. Whimpering from the victims of the Christmas examination session was punctuated by thumps of pens on desks, as students vainly tried to keep ink from freezing in their pens. Overhead, intermittent whooshings from the noisy fans served only to muffle the disrupting announcements of professors making last minute corrections and deletions for poorly proof read papers.

Later in the week, with the weather warmer, conditions improved—until the last day when an army of janitors proceeded to stack tables and chairs. At least one examination was still in progress when the deafening ruckus

took place.

Christmas examinations generally don't determine whether a student makes his year. However, they do count for some percentage of the total mark and deserve the same consideration and gravity given to a final.

Before construction of the ice arena, examinations were held in the old Varsity drill hall. While certainly not offering the best possible environment for examination writing, it was definitely superior to the present situation. Canvasses spread to protect the floor of the old drill hall must still exist. The use of these in the new gymnasium would at least offer a warm place in which to write.

Space on campus is scarce, but the use of the arena represents a gross injustice to the student upon whose career the examination may depend.

Vote "yes"

Canada now has 114,000 university students. In five years it is estimated there will be 182,900 and in ten years 311,600. To keep pace, the teaching body must be enlarged from 9,000 to 25,000. New universities must be founded, old ones enlarged.

At the local level, the University of Alberta can expect an enrolment of over 20,000 by the year 1980. A corresponding increase in teaching staff and physical facilities, will represent a significant transformation of the present campus.

Hand in hand with the construction of additional educational facilities must come a similar transformation in the area of extra-curricular activity. Maintenance of the status

quo in respect to Student Union facilities would mean decreasing percentages of the student body could avail themselves of the facilities and services paid for by every student on campus.

The passing of the referenda will not reap tangible benefits for all the present student body. It must be remembered, however, that the present Students' Union building exists because students in 1937 voted in favor of a fee increase. The actual building did not open until 1948. The present Gateway exists because long-gone students worked many hours to establish a sound foundation.

Present students are indebted to those in the past. The debt can't be repaid to the past. It is owed to the students of the future.



"... And So The Professor Has Volunteered To Start The New Year Off With Appropriate Celebration."



The goldwater line

One of the most alarming American political trends is the fast-growing extreme conservative movement, led by Barry Goldwater and supported by many politician and businessmen.

His recent best-selling book, *The Conscience of a Conservative*, (which I have not read) is regarded as very readable and very convincing by the reviewers, but the platform of the movement and several public statements made by him leaves this writer in doubt as to whether Mr. Goldwater has a conscience at all.

One plank is that the government should keep its welfare functions to a bare minimum, leaving the rest to private charity. For example, in a speech given in a New York city he stated private and religious charities should care for unwed mothers and that neither he nor any good American citizen should be required to pay tax money for such care. This would reduce the burden of government, lower taxes, and encourage rugged individualism. But in reality private charity simply cannot supply all the necessary funds and necessarily voluntary manpower to care for the unwed mothers, the aged, the disabled, etc., nor can it organize these functions on an efficiently large scale; only the government has the resources to do this.

SAME OLD LINE

These conservatives argue that government should not restrict or interfere with business, thus giving every individual the fullest opportunity for self-actualization and development. This is, of course, John Locke's idea of *laissez-faire*, and it makes as little sense now as it did in 1690. As the prevailing philosophy in Britain, Western Europe, and the United States in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it caused extreme inequalities of wealth for the few and poverty for the many, manifested in conditions of squalor, hunger, disease, and slum housing. Similar conditions could be the outcome of an extended return to *laissez-faire* policy in a rapidly expanding society.

An economic society such as this obviously cannot tolerate any Communist ideas or influence; Communism must therefore be destroyed at all costs—even at risk of an atomic war (I wonder how many of us really think Mr. Goldwater's values are worth an atomic war?). Failing this, Goldwater gives at least tacit support to the House of un-American Activities Committee and to his good friends—Robert Welsh and the John Birch Society.

PROMOTES PRESSURE GROUP

He believes in building a huge weapons stock, both nuclear and conventional, and in giving as much autonomy and independence as possible to the armed forces; he has no intentions of curbing the growing amount of biased

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