

Hertzog Attacks Education Minister

By Janet Orzech

Raymond Hertzog, suspended Strathcona County high school teacher, will not know until Jan. 15 whether he can return to the classroom.

Strathcona County Council, meeting Wednesday night, decided to reserve its decision on whether to reinstate the teacher, who was suspended Nov. 12 for alleged atheistic beliefs and use of the controversial publication *Edge* in the classroom.

The council met to determine whether it would reinstate Mr. Hertzog after Hon.

R. H. McKinnon, minister of education, ruled on findings of an *in camera* hearing conducted into the charges by H. E. Panabaker, former assistant superintendent of the Calgary Public School Board.

Mr. McKinnon upheld the county's suspension, but recommended "immediate reinstatement" for Mr. Hertzog.

County education committee chairman Gordon Moyer has indicated he does not want Mr. Hertzog back in the classroom.

County Reeve Roger Parker said Mr. McKinnon's



RAYMOND HERTZOG
... "McKinnon failed"

recommendation for reinstatement is "certainly not binding."

Mr. Hertzog previously attacked Mr. McKinnon for what he termed a "failure" to rule on the validity of the Strathcona County Council's action in suspending him.

It was the minister's obligation under Section 350A of the Alberta Act to do this, he said.

Mr. McKinnon merely gave a personal opinion in a letter to the Council upholding the suspension but recommending his reinstatement, Mr. Hertzog charged.

"As minister of education, he had no right to pass personal opinion other than that of reversing or upholding suspension," said the 26-year-old teacher.

Mr. McKinnon's letter is a "masterpiece of verbal nothingness — insufferable, intolerable and impudent," Mr. Hertzog said.

"Mr. McKinnon states that the school commission should have undertaken a more extensive investigation. I maintain that they should have investigated."

Mr. Hertzog quoted the education minister's letter as saying the school commission had cause for concern.

"This is erroneous for a number of reasons," he said.

He charged:

- complaints came from only two sets of parents representing three students out of 470, and

- one set of parents involved was aware of happenings in class for six weeks before taking action against his religious beliefs.

He went on to say Mr. McKin-

non's letter contains "a number of facetious statements'.

"He says I have committed 'a grave error in judgement' in my actions in the classroom, but he does not define just what this means."

The graduate student also said there were implications in the letter supporting suspension of a teacher before facts to support suspension are gathered.

"This is contrary to usual jurisprudence procedure," he said.

Mr. Hertzog believes the school committee's intent to suspend and then establish the facts has never been carried out.

He said if the intent had been established, the council would still be acting contrary to usual investigation procedures.

"Contrary to Mr. McKinnon, I believe the investigation was an unsuitable administrative procedure," he said.

The masters graduate from Vancouver also denounced the minister's recommendation to use only material authorized by the department of education as "stultifying and nauseating."

"His reference to items in *Edge* as 'vulgar and indecent' shows a remarkable ability to overlook essentials and to illuminate the fact that Alberta is bogged down by intellectual pettifoggery."

Mr. Hertzog expressed agreement with one word of Mr. McKinnon's letter to the county council.

This was with reference to Mr. McKinnon's suggestion that "immediate" reinstatement SHOULD follow.

The Gateway

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Lupul Recommends Dep't Of Religion

By Hans Smits

U of A needs a department of religion, says Dr. M. R. Lupul, associate professor of educational foundations.

Dr. Lupul, who in November attacked the Manning government's policy of financial support to junior religious colleges, says such a department could offer courses in comparative religion, philosophy, psychology and sociology of religion.

A course in religion for first-year students, especially those in such faculties as science, agriculture, engineering and commerce, would be more beneficial in most cases than the present compulsory English courses, he adds.

Courses in religion could be organized on a semester basis to facilitate greater study.

Instead of the present full-year course in English, he suggests a half-year course in English and a half-year course in religion.

"The study of philosophical, psychological and sociological phenomena can be liberalizing providing religion is not conceived of as just Christianity," he told *The Gateway*.

This is in keeping with the concept of a "neutral" university, said Dr. Lupul.

"I think a university should be completely neutral where religion and philosophy are concerned."

"A university should not teach commitment to any one religion and philosophy, except a commitment to the importance of having as many views represented as possible," he said.

"This is a commitment in a sense to the democratic tenet of freedom of expression and belief, but it doesn't say what one should express or believe in," he said.

No Action Taken Against Publication

The editor of *Commonsense* says University President Dr. Walter Johns "contacted" him about the publication's production but that no action has been taken against him.

"There is no truth to rumours that I have been dismissed, brought before the Dean's Council or severely warned," says Professor Colwyn Williamson of the philosophy department.

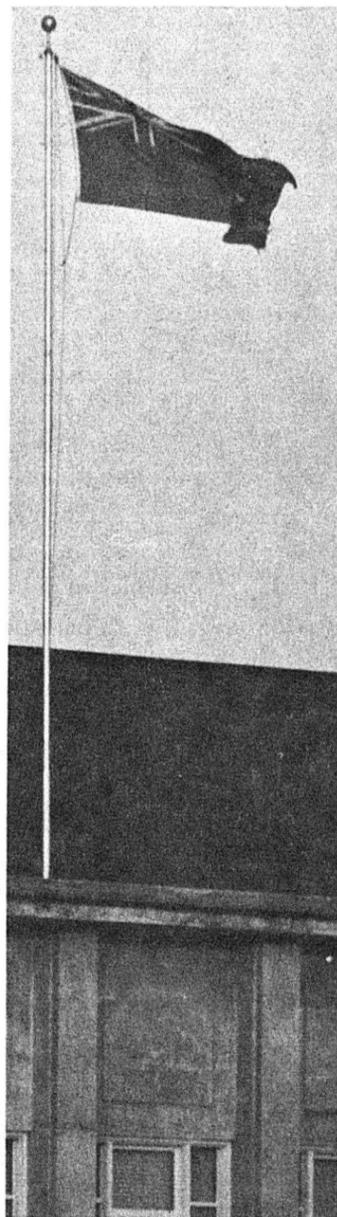
"At no time during the conversation did the president say he intended to bring about my dismissal," he told *The Gateway*.

If there was any intimidation involved it would be "inherent in the situation of the President of the University telephoning a junior professor," says Mr. Williamson.

Dr. Johns has declined to comment on the issue, feeling he "cannot comment" on relations between himself and staff members.

According to Mr. Williamson, the publication is designed to criticize Social Credit in Alberta and wants to know "why 50 per cent of Albertans disapprove of the government" but Social Credit holds 60 out of 63 legislative seats.

Some 10,000 copies of the first issue, financed by private donations from on and off campus have been printed. A second issue is expected in January.



NEW FLAG—Early Tuesday, the House of Commons decided it will be the maple leaf forever. Later in the day, the red ensign presided over the Administration Building, as it will until the new flag is law.

Provincial Government Aids French Canada Week

The provincial government will officially support the French Canada Week on campus, says Hon. R. H. McKinnon, minister of education.

The cabinet decided Tuesday to grant the French Canada Week committee \$1,000 for promotion of the venture.

"Our major concern is to give support to a responsible group of students who are promoting understanding between French and English Canadians at this critical time," said Mr. McKinnon.

The decision was lauded by Dave Estrin, chairman of CUS committee on campus.

"We are elated with the cabinet decision, which is surely the only justifiable move in view of the nature of the issue," Estrin commented.

Estrin expects the Quebec government to match or exceed the contribution of the Alberta government.

"With the support of the government, the administration and the student government we can contact the Quebec cabinet with complete confidence in their reciprocal support."

LESAGE INVITED

Quebec Premier Jean Lesage has been invited to come to French Canada Week.

The invitation was a direct result of a recent editorial in the *Edmonton Journal*, recommending such a

move, Estrin told *The Gateway*.

"We are gratified by the Journal's remarkable transformation in policy and we have sent a copy of the editorial along with our letter to the Premier," said Estrin.

"We consider ourselves very fortunate to have a promise from the Quebec Cultural Affairs Minister, Pierre Laporte, to attend the event, but the Premier will be a great addition to the guest list."

Monday night Students' Council approved a further grant of \$500 for the week, bringing council's total contribution to \$1,000.

Short Shorts For Next Month Due Jan. 5

This is the last *Gateway* for 1964.

Next deadline for Short Shorts is Tuesday, January 5, 1965, 7 p.m.

Short Shorts for that issue should include all events up to Sunday, January 24, 1965, when an exam-riddled *Gateway* staff produces another newspaper.

Confusing, isn't it?