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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1964

Time For A Referendum

For some time now, there have been many mixed feelings regarding Students' Union Building Expansion—and out of this have come numerous signs of dissatisfaction.

We feel that the SUB Expansion committee has done an excellent job as student committees go. Indeed the committee chairman and committee members have sacrificed time and marks to do the good job.

But now that general plans have crystallized and predominant feelings of dissatisfaction have become more clear, it is apparent that more consideration must be given to the project in its present form.

We have concluded that there should be a referendum on SUB Expansion.

The question in a referendum must not be: "Should SUB Expansion be abolished?" We are probably all agreed that the present SUB is somewhat inadequate, and that some expansion is necessary, and that much of the planning has been good—though grandiose.

Rather the question must be along these lines: "Do you want SUB Expansion altered in form and reduced in cost?" And the answer is obvious, mainly because of the extravagance of the project in its present form.

There is another very important factor—namely that the students originally voting "yes" for a five-dollar annual levy for SUB Expansion were voting for something entirely different from the project as proposed in its present form.

When the levy was approved in 1961, the student body was told by the SUB Expansion publicity committee that each student's five dollars

per year would be used to expand the present SUB at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000.

But the original conception of SUB Expansion has been completely distorted. Instead of an extension to the present SUB at one and a half million dollars, we are told now that we will be getting an entirely new structure at a capital cost of \$4,167,000. And the latest financial report says the building will require repayment totalling \$9,680,000 over 31 years.

Whether SUB Expansion will consist of an extension to the present SUB or an entirely new SUB is not important. The issue at stake is the grandiose amount of money involved.

It would be very nice indeed to have the second Taj Mahal on our campus, but let's be practical—we don't need it and it is questionable whether we want it. Why, for example, do we need "hotel facilities" in the new SUB?

It is apparent to us that the cost of SUB Expansion must be reduced drastically, and the Students' Council must test the validity of this apparent by setting up a referendum before the extracurricular year is past.

As regards the "Report on Financial Feasibility of Proposed Expansion," dated January 28, 1964, the council should realize the old principle that once you have heard the experts you make your own decision using common sense.

If the Students' Council persists in its obstinacy as regards a referendum, members of the student body must organize a petition calling for a referendum.

Socreds Get Lowest Vote

Canada would still survive if the University of Alberta did not have a Model Parliament, but the model house has tremendous value in many respects.

One advantage of the annual vote for Model Parliament is that it gives a fair indication of student thought on some issues.

In Friday's vote, one issue at stake was the provincial government's policy on university residences specifically, and higher education generally.

When the student vote was tabulated Friday evening, the campus Social Credit group—led by the Premier's son, Preston Manning—polled only 12 per cent of the total, getting only eight seats out of a total of 65 in the model house.

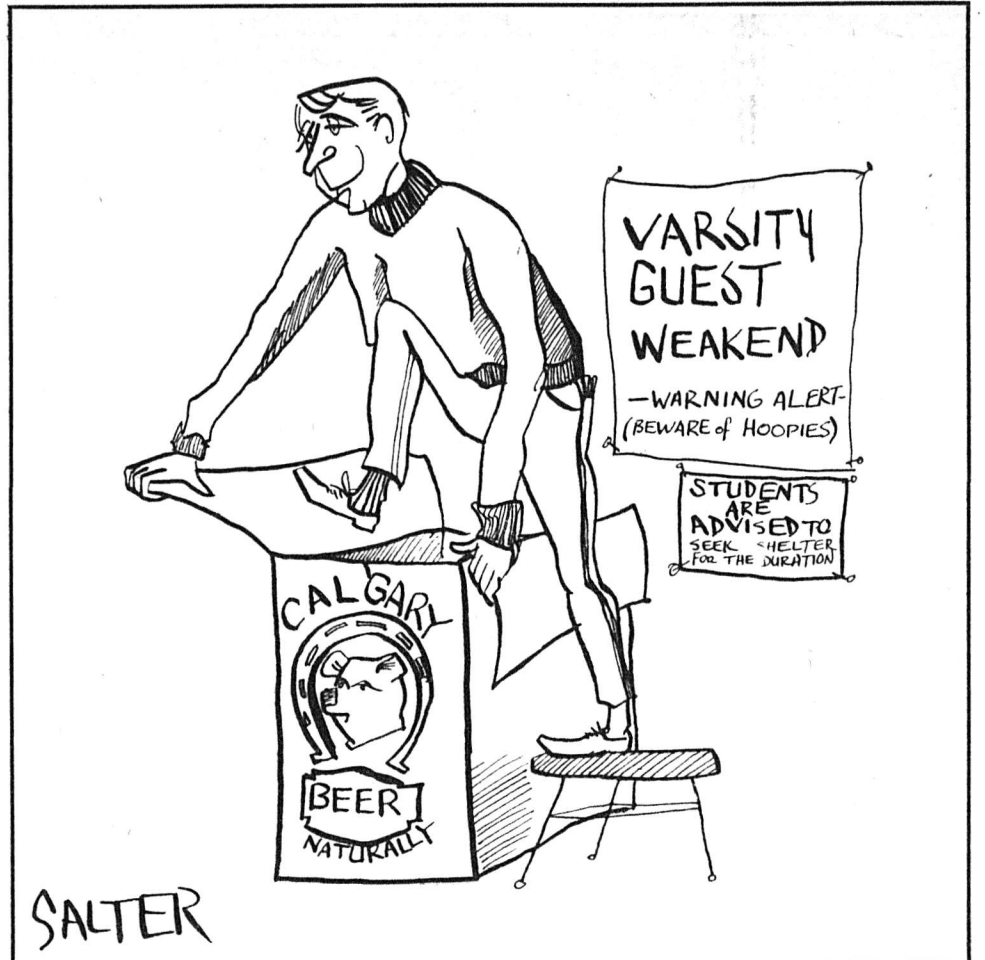
What this low Social Credit vote means—every other "party" got at least 11 seats—is that the provincial government's policy on higher education is unacceptable to the

university community.

But, the Socreds will say, they did get 265 votes. We must conclude that the majority of those voting for the Manning party were persons who almost blindly accept Social Credit doctrine as the gospel. (Indeed the premier seems to be inclined to preach the doctrine and the gospel.)

Yet some good can come of the low Socred vote—if the campus Social Credit Association is sincerely interested in representing student feelings to the provincial government. Preston Manning and his Social Crediters should draw up a resolution consisting of recommendations to the cabinet. The resolution should be aimed at correcting injustices concerning government policy on the university.

If campus Social Credit fails to do this, and persists in blindly following Social Credit doctrine, then it will be appropriate and just that the campus group gets a more embarrassingly lower vote each time.



"VARSITY GUEST WEEKEND APPROACHETH"

Spectrum

In The Best Of Traditions

A specter is haunting SUB Expansion—the specter of referendum. All the powers of Council have entered into a holy alliance to exercise this specter: President and Secretary Treasurer and Premier. Where is the party opposition that has not been decried as referendite by its opponents in power?

Two things result from this fact:
1. Referendum is already acknowledged by all students as a power unto itself.
2. It is high time that referendites published their views, and met any nursery tale of referendism with a manifesto:

Whereas the original referendum held on January 24, 1962 stated: "Are you in favour of increasing the Students' Union fees by the sum of \$5.00 commencing in the fall of 1962 in order that the present Students' Union Building facilities may be expanded? Yes..... No....."

and, Whereas the propagand& (publicity, advertising) sponsored by the Students' Union publicizing the said referendum read: "Designed to complement the Students' Union and Physical Education Buildings, an addition to the Students' Union Building would amend deficiencies in the present building and embrace many new features . . . larger cafeteria . . . conference rooms . . . etc., etc.,

and, Whereas the faculty lounge will be moved out of the present building, adding some office space, and Whereas, the proposed new building does not fit with the former building, the building committee even advocates the turning over to the administration of a building already ten years old,

and, Whereas the former fee increase was based on calculations for a one and one-half million dollar building,

and, Whereas SUB Expansion has been snowballed to the cost, *in toto*,

of 9.6 million, and, Whereas the whole question should be reviewed in the light of recent criticism (e.g. former Gateways), and, Whereas we believe in the expression of student views:

We the Referendites support every political and social movement against the existing order of things.

The Referendites disdain to conceal their views and aims . . . Let the ruling classes tremble at a referendum. The students have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world of rights to win.

'Referendites of the campus, unite!! (After a little-known tract)
K. de Boos

Our Backyard

The theme of Varsity Guest Weekend, "Discovery," is a challenge to all students on this campus. How many students can truthfully say they are aware of the diversity of studies engaged upon at this institution? How many are aware of the vast research facilities and projects? How many are willing to discover the extent and breadth of academic pursuits?

Not many, judging by the annual exodus of students from this campus around Varsity Guest Weekend. Perhaps it's time the "intellectuals" on this campus sacrificed a skiing weekend or a three day binge and actually explored their university.

Moreover, those professors, who day after day find bored eyes staring back at them, would be well advised to attend the sample lectures provided our guests. One of the most traumatic shocks a freshman experiences usually occurs quite early in his university career when he realizes the immense difference between the sample lectures he heard during VGW and the lectures to which he is daily subjected.