

Faculty feeling crunch

Dismissal attempts not limited to NS

by Joseph Southall

The recent dispute waged at Nova Scotia Technical College here in Halifax over faculty dismissals is one of many being waged at universities across the country.

In recent months, at several Canadian Universities, a growing number of professors and other faculty (lecturers, etc.) have not had their contracts renewed.

Students, as well as the

Canadian Association of University Teachers (C.A.U.T.), have raised a veritable hue and cry over administration hiring and firing practices.

At the University of Victoria (U. Vic.) in Victoria, British Columbia, a dispute is being waged between a part of the student body and the administration headed by President Bruce Partridge over the laying off of fourteen

faculty.

At a general meeting held Tuesday, January 12, U. Vic. students passed motions demanding that the fourteen faculty members be immediately put back to their respective positions.

Some students charged that the University administration was purging "progressive" faculty. Students further charged that many of the fourteen faculty had their tenure denied due to departmental clashes.

So far, President Partridge has not given any reasons for the dismissals and has refused to co-operate with the C.A.U.T. investigating committee. Meanwhile the controversy rages on.

At the University of Saskatchewan, however, Premier Ross Thatcher has given definite reasons why twenty faculty might lose their jobs. For economic reasons Premier Thatcher wants the student/faculty ratio raised from 12/1 to 15/1. Furthermore, he is asking that this be implemented as fast as possible.

According to the Canadian University Press, a National Student News Service, the government is probably doing this because of the poor financial situation of the province, and less importantly, due to lower enrollments. In contrast to other universities, there has been little response from either administration or student spokesmen.

At the University de Quebec a Montreal (U.Q.A.M.) twenty-nine faculty contracts will not be renewed. The faculty in

question are mainly members of the Philosophy and Modern Language Departments. There the C.A.U.T. Council censured U.Q.A.M. after receiving the report of its investigating committee. The committee's recommendations included the following:

1: that the duration of any appointment be two years (The faculty contracts were for only a year and the university did not have to renew them).

2: that teaching staff evaluation and appeal procedures be established and circulated.

Loss of revenue from government grants and reduced enrollments on some campuses will mean a possible 164 faculty in Montreal might be out of a job next year. University of Montreal officials have said that they will save one million dollars by laying off twenty-eight faculty.

McGill University might lay off as many as ninety faculty in an effort to save money and Loyola will probably lay off seventeen.

At Dalhousie, there have been no large scale tenure denials reported as yet. However, a

controversy is going on over the dismissal of Dr. Lawrence Lawvere, a math professor. Dr. Lawvere was officially given no reasons for his dismissal. However, it is said that he used his classroom as a political forum. Some students charge that he was fired because of his politics.

Although, it seems that the main reason for the large number of lay-offs is economic, much of the controversy is due to the manner in which the faculty is being laid off and the scale of the lay-offs. C.A.U.T. has proposed a formula for hiring and firing practices, but so far it has not been accepted by the large majority of universities.

Universities are maintaining their right of hire or fire, but C.A.U.T. would like a share in these decisions.

So far it looks like C.A.U.T. is not meeting with much success in this field. In the past two years C.A.U.T. motions of censure against Mt. Allison University, the University of New Brunswick, and Simon Fraser University have been largely ineffective.

Struggle . . .

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Director of the Action Committee in 1966 for the FLQ and who has also been the Crown's chief witness in many of the recent FLQ trials. Police used what Larue-Langlois termed "extortion" to draw certain desired information from him. But when in court, Demers did not say the things that he said in his "declaration".

Thus the judge asked the jury to not consider his testimony but only his previous declaration. And, according to Larue-Langlois, in order to sustain this, nineteen charges of purgery were laid on Demers, and he was held for 18 months. This past February 8, all charges of purgery were dropped because another Judge decided that the extortion of a declaration is illegal. "There," says Larue-Langlois, "goes down the drain the only evidence that was ever held against Vallieres and Gagnon."

Larue-Langlois sees only one solution, and that solution has already begun. "We are engaged in a revolution — a radical change of the economic, political, and cultural systems.

It's made by the majority of the people.

"The small group of intellectuals and activists are only good to help the population become conscious of the degree of alienation and colonialism to which we've been maintained for so long."

The two main ingredients that would make a new independent Quebec feasible are already quite abundant. "Quebec has the resources and the manpower, so it is not impossible," says Larue-Langlois. But the people must be able to control their lives. "I am no more interested in being exploited by a French bourgeoisie than by an English bourgeoisie. I just want to stop being exploited, that's all."

The important thing right now is to convince the majority of people that they are going to have to make the revolution. Larue-Langlois firmly believes that total liberation can not come without a struggle.

"We think that there can be no struggle without risk or sacrifice. Such is the price of freedom and we're ready to pay for it."

Double-Talk

The US command has stopped just short of acknowledging what has been known for years — that small US units, often Green Berets, are operating in Laos.

But when asked about this, the US command says: "There are no US ground combat troops operating in Laos."

Asked if long-range patrols could be considered in the category of US ground combat troops, a spokesman said "They could be".

This might also indicate that they could be considered 'intelligence gathering units' as well. But when asked about this, spokesmen for the command say, "We do not discuss any intelligence gathering" and then repeated, "There are no US ground combat troops operating in Laos."



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"Many in institutions of higher learning are prepared to scrutinize almost everything — the natural environment, government and industry, all manner of other institutions foreign and domestic — but they are loathe to scrutinize themselves and the institutions they inhabit. If reform is not to be mindless, knowledge and data are needed on the character and effects of present educational and research programs."