

Commission gov't puppet

BURNABY (CUP)—The chairperson of the royal commission on uranium mining in B.C. defended his commission Oct. 10 from allegations that it was being heavily influenced by corporations and provincial government.

David Bates, a former dean of medicine at the University of British Columbia, spoke at Simon Fraser University as part of a nuclear awareness week being held Oct. 13.

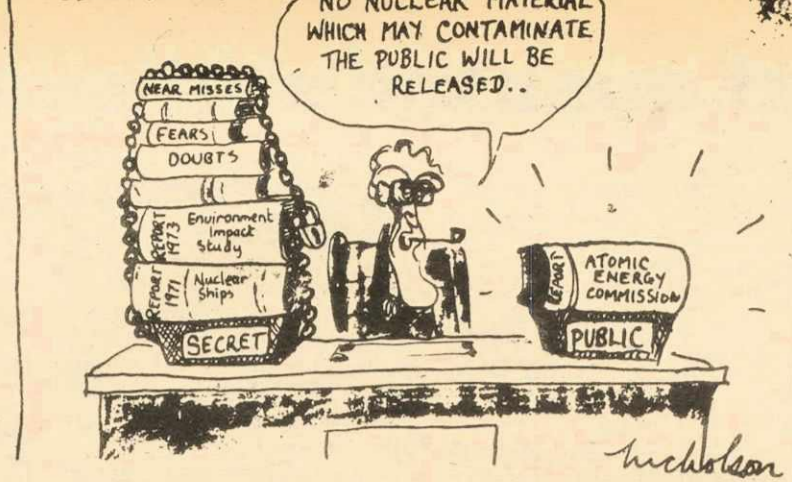
"The government does not influence a royal commission once it has been established," Bates said. "We consider

ourselves independent."

Bates was responding to statements made by members of the audience that the commission was a "puppet of the government and the corporations". A person from the American Indian movement also said he was denied the opportunity to ask questions of uranium companies, and that questions had to be approved by the commission.

Bates did not dispute his claim, but said the commission only approved questions during "technical hearings" dealing with exploration of

NUCLEAR SHIPS



uranium.

During the question period Bates was hit on the side of the head by a whipped cream pie, thrown by a woman who had apparently been in attendance at some of the commission hearings.

"I think this kind of protest does no good at all," Bates

said, and continued fielding questions.

Bates said his commission will visit Australia and Saskatchewan next spring to observe uranium mining practices in those areas.

"Like B.C., Australia is facing intense world demand for uranium," said Bates

"They are very proud of their health measures."

The open pit uranium mines in Cluff Lake and Rabbitt Lake, Sask., will also be visited.

The commission started technical hearings last week and will continue them until January 1980. Among the topics will be exploration, mining, waste disposal and health protection.

The commission was formed in January, 1978, and was asked to examine safety and health standards and make recommendations on them.

An interim report released September recommended a licensing procedure for uranium exploration that would include strict guidelines and regulations. The commission also suggested the development of a province-wide radiation observation network.

None of those proposals will be implemented until the commission completes its report, probably in Sept., 1980.

CUP Briefs

Declaration of women

REGINA (CUP)—Sexual harassment, discrimination against women and a declaration of women's rights were the main topics of discussion at the women's caucus of the national union of students (NUS) held Oct. 11 in Regina.

A steering committee was formed at the last NUS conference for the purpose of drafting a women's declaration and making recommendations about issues facing female students.

Discussion at the Regina caucus centred around student awareness of women's issues and how women's centres on campus can better fulfill the needs of women.

A definition of sexual harassment was presented and a survey to gather information about sexual harassment on campuses will be drafted and circulated.

It was suggested NUS lobby provincial governments to change sexual harassment laws.

Discrimination against women and ways to make people more aware of it centred around changing student aid programs which exclude part-time students who are mostly women returning to school. There is also a lack of women's programs which are designed to focus a greater attention on the roles and participation of women in all aspects of society.

It was decided that women must organize around issues facing them and student associations must support and work with women's centres.

Declaration of women will be presented to the final plenary for ratification Oct. 14.

Cocaine Anonymous

NEW YORK (ZNS)—In the wake of the success of groups such as "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "Pot-Smokers Anonymous", a New York drug counselor has launched (what else but?) "cocaine anonymous".

John Burrell says he has organized a special treatment group for coke users after finding that thousands of people fear they are abusing the drug, yet have nowhere to turn.

Burrell says he does not believe that the use of cocaine is addictive, but adds that—in his words—"psychologically it can be habit-forming and cause people a lot of trouble".

According to Burrell, the problems that arise from the excessive use of cocaine can be as simple as burning nostrils or as complex as complete psychological dependence.

Anti-riot disco

(ZNS)—Disco music may soon be used against rioters.

A South African firm has announced plans to market a special anti-riot vehicle which broadcasts disco music through powerful loudspeakers in order to soothe the emotions of demonstrators.

For rioters who do not appreciate the music, the dark-blue vehicle is also equipped with a water cannon and tear gas.

Another Quebec first

MONTREAL (CUP)—The Champlain Bugle has become the first incorporated student newspaper in Quebec.

The Champlain college publication is now a separate legal entity from the student council and is in a position to negotiate for complete financial and editorial autonomy.

Brian Topp, former editor of the Bugle said, "The newspaper can go to their council and negotiate for complete autonomy which safeguards the paper's editorial freedom and lets it take control of its own destiny."

The Bugle is hoping to finalize a contract with the student council which would guarantee their budget and ensure autonomy.

Negotiations began before the paper received the incorporation documents. The talks came to a halt last year when council became reluctant to discuss finances.

If negotiations are unsuccessful the Bugle may go directly to the students and ask for funds through a referendum. Editor Larry Ostola said the Bugle intends to pursue the contract as long as possible before holding a referendum.

The Bugle joins several campus newspapers across Canada who have become incorporated in the last year; the Gauntlet, University of Calgary, the Sheaf, University of Saskatchewan, the Varsity, University of Toronto and the Imprint, University of Waterloo. All are members of Canadian University Press (CUP), an organization of college and university newspapers, which launched a drive for campus paper autonomy two years ago.

Nuclear trash into cash

VANCOUVER (CUP)—UBC's nuclear research facility has found a way to turn nuclear "garbage" into money.

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. will soon be conducting a multi-million dollar commercial medical radioisotope business using radioactive proton beam waste from UBC's Tri-University Meson Facility (TRIUMF).

And TRIUMF is planning to get a piece of the corporate profits too.

Under the terms of an agreement between TRIUMF and the crown corporation, a specified percentage of profits

from isotope sales will be guaranteed to TRIUMF in the form of research grants.

TRIUMF director Jack Sample said the project is costing them nothing and provides an effective use for their excess energy from a radioactive proton beam, which is currently disposed of at a "beam dump"—a concrete container which absorbs the beam's energy.

"We're not taking any financial risk at all, our beam is essentially a waste product," he said.

The crown corporation fa-

cility is being built in front on one of the beam dumps and will make use of a large amount of its "waste energy".

"It will be a multi-million dollar industry and they (AECL) are going to be pouring money into research at TRIUMF," said UBC administration vice-president Erich Vogt.

He said the \$3.5 million isotope production facility, currently under construction adjacent to TRIUMF, will make medical radioisotopes for sale to pharmaceutical companies.

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