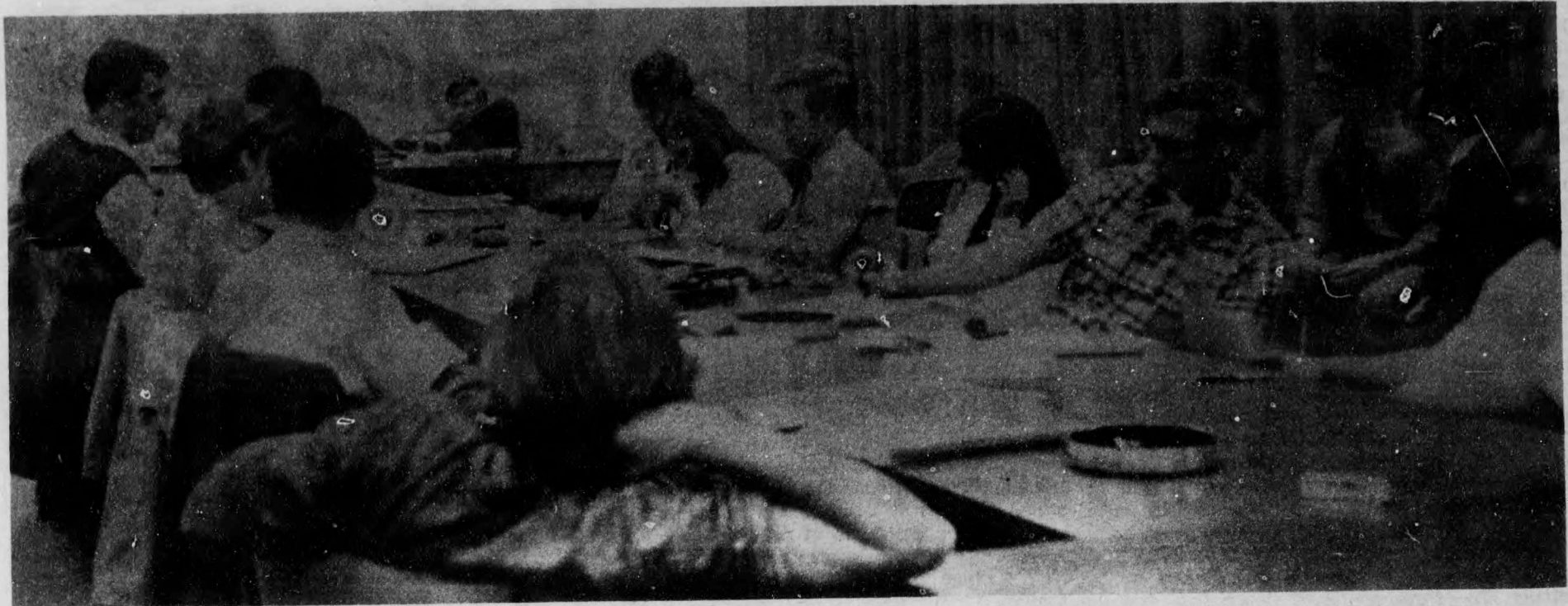


# A Critical Look At Your SRC:



**COUNCIL IN SESSION:** Council members lean, heads in hand, impatiently dragging resolutions through bureaucratic procedure followed more often by caprice than by law. Most meetings are taken up for the most part in hearing verbal hastily-prepared reports from committee chairman, who deliver no

written copies of their reports in most cases. Inadequate presentation, coupled with an almost total lack of research by members, mean an endless series of banal objections and questions of elementary detail. Then someone usually moves to close off debate or calls for the question, and council votes on issues they have learned little or nothing about.

## How Council Gets Around Procedure

The Students Representative Council assesses fairly little importance to their constitutional provision that students be informed in advance of its meetings.

When council agendas are posted, they find their way to the bulletin boards at best in the minimum time; they almost never reach the Brunswickan.

But council has set up a fairly convenient maneuver for evading this provision when their deficiency is pointed out. The first time this happened was their third week in office, last March 23.

Chairman Alistair Robertson pointed out that

their meeting was not constitutional because council had not publicized it. This fairly obvious ruling was not only challenged, but half of those voting wanted to overrule Robertson.

After this attempt to ignore the SRC constitution failed in a tie vote, President Mike Start offered a second tactic: they could call it a "special" meeting. Despite the chairman's insistence that this was no more legitimate than a regular meeting, councillors rallied behind Start and accepted his proposal unanimously.

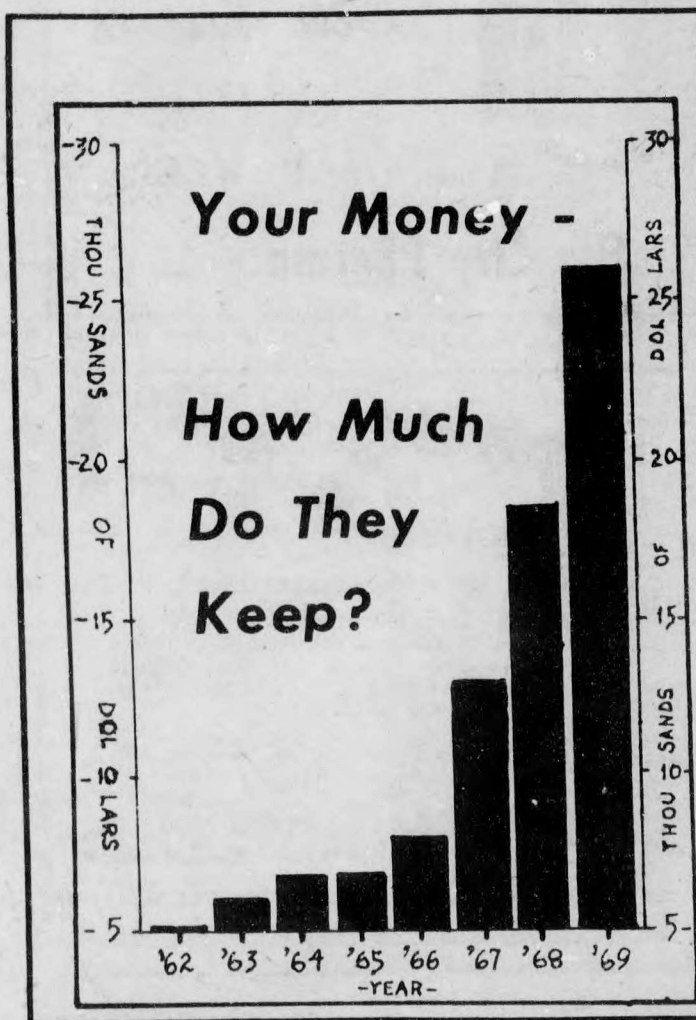
At this particular meeting council discussed the

University Senate, amended its constitution (unconstitutionally) and declared on a technical formality that the recent election for SRC vice-president was invalid.

Next week, President Start and Comptroller Sullivan, still worried about the legality of what they had done at their last meeting, moved that "the meeting of March 23, 1969, be adopted as a duly constituted meeting."

Councillors, feeling that even though there may be some question about their last meeting, decided that this motion could make up for the whole thing, so they ratified it unanimously.

So the precedent was set: regardless of how illegally any council meets, no matter how secretly, the SRC simply has to wait for a legal meeting to rubberstamp the proceedings. No publicity, no information, no quorum, no guilt.



**ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS** have skyrocketed with recent councils. Much of this taken up in salaries for full-time employees and for students in executive positions - who set their own salaries. The graph would show an even steeper climb if costs for the same services were included for the whole decade. But through the years, council has either cancelled or turned over the other groups many of the duties they originally performed. The fact is that more cash became available so more of it was delegated to the SRC.

## A Case Study - The SDC - What Does Council Want?

The Student Discipline Committee, the judicial body set up by the SRC to pass judgement on "conduct unbecoming a student", cannot provide equal justice for all.

Why? Because the SRC is incapable of deciding just what the SDC is. At Council's first meeting this year the Constitution Committee promised a new SDC constitution to replace the old "unworkable" one. They didn't make it next meeting, but the one after that Law rep Bob Peters introduced the new document.

Council passed it unanimously, then

immediately decided to throw in an amendment.

They then dropped in a new amendment to the amendment.

Three weeks later, on October 19, they decided to replace the section on "regulations". No opposition, only one abstention.

On October 26, eight new councillors took office, six of them by acclamation.

They held out for two weeks until Peters brought in a new raft of proposals for the SDC. A new section of Article VIII were rewritten, and two new ones added. This, too, was accepted unanimously.

Then a new Article XI was added because, apparently, they forgot through all this to specify who paid for the SDC's expenses.

Then came a report on the SDC itself. Not surprisingly, not enough people had been interested in sitting on the August body, so after six weeks there still remained a vacancy. Despite a heavy caseload, the SDC hadn't even met yet.

Jim Muir, who had been on Council since all this started, managed to wait until new business to mention to Council that perhaps this document should be updated. He had voted for an entirely new constitution just six

weeks earlier and had supported all the measures which rewrote a large portion of the constitutions since then.

Then, two weeks ago, Bob Peters (remember him?) moved that since the regulations he had written in October and rewritten as an amendment two weeks earlier "defy interpretation", that they go back to his committee so he could write them again.

Student Discipline Committee Chairman Doug Mathews cancelled its meeting set for Tuesday, December 2 after he was informed that his procedure in summoning students

contradicted the SDC constitution.

According to Mathews, the SDC constitution provides that a student must be given a letter containing full details of the charge against him as soon as possible after the alleged violation.

"I didn't even know it was in our constitution," Mathews said. He informed one of the students scheduled to appear before the committee that another hearing would be scheduled after Christmas.

"They keep changing the constitution on us," Mathews said. "That section about the letter will probably be out in a couple of weeks."