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OTTAWA.—The Twenty-second Congress of the National Federation of Canadian University Students was held here last week. This was my second National Congress and after the smoke had cleared, I concluded that once again NFCUS had proved its value to the Canadian student. News stories elsewhere in the Gazette will bring you complete coverage and it is my intention to comment briefly on some of the highlights.

The campaign for 10,000 entrance scholarships, valued at \$550.00 each, will continue with more vigor in the next twelve months. The campaign reached a high point last spring with the presentation of a detailed brief to the Prime Minister. The brief was well-received but as yet there has been no definite action taken. Several of the thirty-member universities at the Congress felt that the approach should be revamped but following a lengthy debate the Congress unanimously agreed to continue as in the past year. The Congress adopted in principle the idea of a National Student Day, which, if it comes about, would greatly publicize the needs of university students.

For the first time the Canadian Association of Medical Students and Internes was represented by an observer at the Congress. Jules Harris, a fourth-year Med from Toronto, did an excellent job. Closer liason between the two organizations is expected and some of the common goals sought will receive the co-operation of both groups — an example, increased income tax exemptions.

Speaking of the Meds I must mention how impressed I was with the participation of Medical students in the affairs of NFCUS on other camps. Bob Lee, a third-year Med, is NFCUS Chairman at Toronto and several others managed to take a week off classes to attend the Congress. Meds at Dalhousie could contribute much to NFCUS but so far very few know it exists.

One of the most interesting hours spent by yours truly was a lunch with JAIRUS MUTAMBIKWA of Rhodesia. Jarius is taking his M.A. in Sociology at UBC and this year is vice-president of the Student Council. What makes this amazing is that he has only spent one year at the west coast college. We spent the best part of the hour discussing segregation, the role of the foreign student in a Canadian University, and the reception given foreign students in Canada generally. I was greatly impressed with Jarius. He stands

as an example to foreign students not only at UBC but also at Dalhousie. I might mention that UBC inquired as to the whereabouts of Alade Akesode and were greatly interested in his debating post here.

Two highlights of the Conference were the Symposiums. The first had the explosive title "Is Free Higher Education Desirable in Canada" and featured such distinguished Canadians as Dr. Eugene Forsey and Monsieur J. L. Pepin. "The Rights and Obligations of a Student" were discussed by a student panel, which included Ed Harris, a graduate of Dalhousie Law School.

Speakers included the Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, who popped in between courses to welcome us in rousing fashion, Federal Minister, J. M. Macdonnell, the Hon. Brooke Claxton, and the Most Rev. H. Legare.

A few odds and ends . . . No one could admit that the Congress was all work. His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, C.H. Governor General, tendered a reception at Rideau Hall which was one of the social high points. . . The Students' Union at Carleton University threw a dance and many students took advantage of the date bureau which was set up for the occasion. . . The University of Ottawa gave a Vin d'Honneur. The "Vin" was tres bon . . . Commissions met every evening but one until 11 o'clock, but there were a few hours left for informal get-togethers. . . One morning at 3 a.m. the elevator in the hotel ground to a halt between two floors. The suggested capacity had been doubled and unfortunately the added weight could not be coped with. There sat the elevator with sixteen ardent delegates waiting for the end. At the same time a visitor (we hope) pulled the fire alarm on the fifth floor. Needless to say the commotion was of the greatest sort as aged ladies in aged nightgowns scurried to the street. The elevator finally became dislodged and the occupants escaped. Police and fire officials arrived on the scene and NFCUS delegates suddenly were no

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam:

It has long been a Dalhousie cry that our rivals to the northeast produce athletic teams chock-full of professionals. We claim that we can't compete with a group of students on the football field who are students merely because the field is there.

This is nonsense.

If a certain university will grant a group of young men a college education in exchange for their prowess on the athletic field, it is its own business entirely, and none of ours.

We are entered in the same league and compete against their teams and so it is up to us to lift our sports to their level, and not to beg them to lower theirs to ours. The reason that we can't compete on an athletic basis with that college lies in the lap of all Dal students. If we could get behind our own teams, not merely by yelling our brains out for them Saturday afternoons, but rather by getting out and playing for the lesser teams around the campus, thus getting the experience which will make a good pack of Tigers in years to come. An example of apathy on the part of Dalhousie students is the fact that when Junior Varsity football practises were first announced, not even enough students for a first line showed up for the first few practises. Now, however, we see that there is a good crowd out and some of the JV players will undoubtedly go on to bigger and better things on the Dal football field. This is only a start, but it admittedly is a start.

Dal students, get behind all your teams on the interfaculty and junior varsity levels.

Signed A FOOTBALL FAN.

where to be seen. The incident was closed with a stiff reprimand from the executive next morning. . . Without a doubt one of the most popular University Presidents in Canada is N. A. M. MacKenzie, Dal grad, now at U.B.C. . . Dalhousie were runners-up in the Georgian Trophy competition, awarded for the outstanding NFCUS committee. Western won this year with an excellent showing. Lew Matheson, Dal's Chairman last year is to be congratulated for a fine job on our behalf. . . We had an all night drive to and from the Congress, through the States and via Montreal. Dalhousians in Montreal are many. We saw Carrier Ann Matheson, Andy Burns and Ann Rayworth. . . Council Pres. Dave Matheson was tickled pink by a red feather in Ottawa. . . Dal's freshman and sophomore observers, Pete Green and Gregor Murray, were the youngest at the Congress and contributed substantially to its success. . . Home again and back to the Law Library.

Little Rock Justified?

Explosive reactions to school integration attempts in the southern United States have helped to obscure the fact that there is a motive not malicious in character behind some segregationist thought. It is the desire to maintain a separate identity of race and color, a desire which may be felt with equal intensity by Negro and Caucasian. Whatever the foundation of this desire, be it the racial purity mythes or simply some sort of quack biology, in many people it is not an uncharitable or demeaning desire.

What great numbers fear, that the result of mixture is a physical and intellectual weakening, has of course never been conclusively demonstrated. Defeated on this front, the defender of separatedness retreats immediately to an aesthetic line of defence. If there is no racial purity, there are nevertheless degrees of homogeneity, especially when the imagination is busily doing its work, and the closer one imagines his peculiar strain to be the ideal homogeneous state, the more validity one sees in the aesthetic argument. Valid or not, it is an argument of which all social thinking on the segregation question must take account. There is probably no sector of the inhabited globe where it would fail to be applied.

Our profoundest sentiment about the troubles of the "deep south" should be gratitude that the same problem does not exist even potentially among us in Canada. There are just not enough non-Caucasians in any large Canadian community to make it vitally concerned about whether the law should sanction racial segregation. If there were, we would undoubtedly face the issue in as much confusion as our republican neighbors.

It is not immoral to wish for some sense of separate racial identity, even if that does amount to chasing a will o' the wisp. Only when arrogance and violence are present in establishing and preserving this sense, does a conflict arise with the Christian doctrine of the brotherhood of man. That was the crime of Little Rock. After all, why is it less dreadful to oblige communities to mingle than it is to compel them to remain apart?

Of course it is not altogether realistic to consider the American problem in such an abstract way. The history of the United States being what it is, segregation cannot be taken to imply only separateness. Because Negro society in that country began its existence in slavery, it lived for a couple of centuries in an arid lowland and has only recently begun to climb an uphill route which is very steep indeed. Only where they have been able to smash legal or conventional barriers and see their society coalesce with the Caucasian, as in big-league baseball and other areas of the entertainment world, have American Negroes been able to avoid the imputation of social and material inferiority. "Separate but equal" is a phrase left without meaning. It could not be expected to have any in a society which not only has a history of slavery to live down but also exerts tremendous unifying pressure on its members.

Came the dawn, came the sun, came the Them

