

MEMORIAL U. PRESIDENT THREATENS EXPULSION OF ENTIRE STUDENT COUNCIL

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP)—A boycott of the formal admission ceremony for freshmen at Memorial University has led administration president Lord Stephen Taylor to threaten all 16 members of the student council with the "gravest personal consequences" — interpreted by council members as expulsion.

Taylor made the threats Friday (Sept. 20) after council had told freshmen to boycott Saturday's admission ceremony to protest the university's arbitrary placement of students into a "foundation" year. The foundation program requires students who are weak in some subjects to take a term of remedial work before registering in first year courses.

Only 250 out of the 1500 students showed up at the formal ceremony. Normal attendance at the affair is about 50 per cent.

Council had asked that students be given the final choice of whether to take the foundation year. In a show of hands vote at a general meeting, the students supported this by a majority of 10 to 1.

Describing the council's actions as "wicked and evil", Taylor said: "Your fathers would be ashamed of you". Earlier this summer, Taylor told two student councillors that any leader of a campus demonstration would be expelled.

Taylor said, "When you reach the world of grown-ups, you will understand that you can't have everything your own way."

Student council president John Frecker and vice-president Gus Lilly met with administration vice-president M.O. Morgan Friday and reported that students need not fear retaliation for staging the boycott.

The difference between Morgan and Taylor's position apparently hinges on the definition of "disruption". Morgan says the boycott Saturday did not disrupt the university, while Taylor stated Friday night that it did constitute a disruption.

In a speech to freshmen, Taylor said, "In your students union you can be as bold, vigorous and enterprising as you like." But, he added, if the life of the university is disrupted, "you will have to leave whether you like it or not".

A review board has been established to hear the cases of students who are dissatisfied because they have been placed in the foundation program.

Student council has stated there will be further action if any student is still unhappy after meeting the review board. They have not stated what the form of action will be.



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