



STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT BRANNY SCHEPANOVICH ARGUES FOR WITHDRAWAL

... not left versus right, but a matter of principle

'an electric and unique meeting'

U of A withdrew from CUS in what can only be described as an electric and unique council meeting. Tempers and voices rose to fever pitch before a large number of observers. The following are the impressions of four Gateway staff members.

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"I rise on a point of information . . ."

"For your information there is no such thing as a point of information. You can only speak on a point of personal privilege."

"I've had about enough from the back-benchers for one night . . ."

"If council passes the motion now before it, I will con-

"You can't decide this issue tonight . . . you have to hear from other sides . . . Don't destroy Second Century Week . . ."

—Estrin

sider that action to be hypocritical."

"Do you want your statement recorded?"

"You can do with my statement what you want," he said, storming out of council chambers.

Typically, no one wanted to chair the meeting, as both the president and vice-president indicated their desire to enter into the debate. Glenn Sinclair, co-ordinator of student activities, solved the problem by telling council they could shut him up and give him the gavel.

They didn't, though, as he valiantly tried to pound and shout order into the meeting. And remarks like "Mr. Estrin, I didn't know you knew there was a limit to your capabilities" didn't make his task any easier.

In his report to council, CUS chairman Owen Anderson was profoundly philosophical, quoting Nietzsche, Bertrand Russell, and Winston Churchill. He listed the purpose of CUS from the constitution drawn up at the founding meeting

in 1926, and, in the process, drowned out the greedy slurps from a group of observers munching on fried chicken in one corner of the chamber.

Anderson, as well as the rest of the executive, presented his argument in a calm, deliberative man-

"Members of the students' council are exceeding their rights and responsibilities by attempting to express views of the student body without going directly to that student body."

—Connell

ner, as opposed to the emotional and sometimes hysterical mannerisms of the motion's opponents.

At times, the executive asked council to act in a manner similar to theirs, to keep the debate from degenerating into a screaming match or into a series of personal attacks.

There was no stage fright as council performed before the most distinguished gallery in recent years.

Bruce Olsen, last year's CUS chairman, Yvonne Walmsley, last year's Wauneita president, and a collection of the grand old men (and women) from the involved set were there.

They suffered in debate since they had been away from CUS during the summer and had to accept the executive's interpretation of the Dalhousie congress.

Their frustration began to show early in the meeting and continued to build as the meeting reached an expected climax.

David Estrin was lead-off batter for the opposition and spent 20 minutes trying to sum up his view of withdrawal.

Second Century Week would suffer, he said. He meant it, but he went on to answer challenges outside the meeting regarding his poli-

tical ambitions after the \$280,000 project is over.

He said the council was schizophrenic since many of the executive were "wafflers" and had changed their positions on withdrawal more than once.

"Point of personal privilege," and Miss Pilkington and Owen Anderson were on their feet in the first of a series of interruptions which eventually dragged constructive discussion to a halt.

"If I may quote Winston Churchill—"There is no particular virtue in consistency," said Anderson.

And so on into the mire. Each point of personal privilege was a five-minute vindication, plus another five-minute counter vindication.

The speakers' list was closed and debate finally reached a climax at 11:25 and after voting on an amendment, they took real action—they tabled the motion.

The room cleared as distressed idealists went wherever distressed idealists go at that time of night.

Only the hard core remained.

And council moved on to normal business—but not for long.

A shock ran around the dozen or more people still on the second

"Withdrawing from CUS does not mean that we end co-operation with other universities . . . we do not want an isolationist policy."

—Pilkington

floor—"The motion is off the table!"

And this time it wasn't a sloppy kill. The vote came so quickly, several councillors were caught in the "facilities."

Leslie Windsor, Wauneita president, told council "they'd better know what they are doing when they take the motion off the table in two weeks, by cracky." Even the silent six, who said nothing all evening, voted with only one abstention.

All that remained was for Patrick Connell to denounce the action from the floor as "undemocratic", say he wasn't going to pay his students' union fees, tell council they could do what they wanted with his statement, and leave in a rush.

David Estrin brought up Second Century Week again, and then the meeting ground to a close.

But no one brought up Owen Anderson—the man with a title and no job to go with it.

MARILYN PILKINGTON
... CUS overextendedDAVID ESTRIN
... pleads his case

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