

Security bill threatens academics

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Academics and students will be fair game for investigations under the proposed Canadian security legislation, NDP justice critic Svend Robinson told a public meeting in Vancouver recently.

"We have a situation where academics and professionals are fair game," he said, referring to a section of the act that allows security agents to gather information in any way necessary about Canadian or foreign political, economic, or social conditions.

If an academic is knowledgeable about political conditions in Central America or Africa and the security service is interested, that person could be a potential target of the security service. The broad powers of the proposed legislation will mean the aca-

ademic or the professional could be subject to wiretapping, surreptitious break-ins, or any other activity the service thinks is necessary, Robinson said.

Critics of the bill say the definition of a threat to national security is so broad many Canadians will become subject to investigation. "When you add it all up, the potential targets are hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Canadians," Robinson said. Previously the RCMP has admitted to the opening of 800,000 files on Canadian citizens.

The proposed legislation will allow security agents to open first class mail, examine taxation and census records, and to look at the private records of academics, lawyers, and doctors, Robinson said.

"There is nothing sacred anymore. That is one of the reasons I refer to this bill as a piece of Orwellian legislation," he said.

Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan, who proposed the legislation on May 18, also said universities, along with RCMP members and members of other police forces will be major areas of recruitment for the service.

Reaction against the bill has been swift. And it has crossed all ideologies and political boundaries. "We have a situation of an unholy alliance of people opposed to this bill," Robinson said. The growing list of opponents includes labour leaders, judges, civil libertarians, the provincial attorney-generals and the increasingly vocal progressive community.



American bookstore vetoed

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Critics are looking to the Ontario Provincial government and the Foreign Investment Review Agency to prevent an American company from leasing the University of Ottawa's bookstore.

Canadian publishers and booksellers associations are concerned that Brennan College

Service Inc. of Massachusetts will sacrifice Canadian content and bypass books published in Canada.

The university decided in May to tender management of the bookstore because it was losing money. But Tim Evans, president of the students' union, said not enough time or consideration

was given to other proposals.

"The university didn't seem overly concerned that an American leasee was chosen to run a Canadian university bookstore, that the tendering time was five days, or that three out of four proposals were American companies."

Albert Roy, MPP, wants the provincial government to stop the university from leasing to Brennan. He doubts whether Brennan has the experience to meet the needs of the university's francophone students. Roy also feels that operation of the bookstore on a profit instead of break-even basis will hurt students' wallets.

FIRA was requested to look into the deal, and will examine Brennan's proposal to incorporate in Canada with 51 per cent Canadian ownership. A decision is still pending.

However, Brennan's director of marketing said the store will continue to hire bilingual employees and that it will be able to deal with French language publishers shortly.

Council loses members

It's early in the term but six council seats are already vacant. Craig Cornell, student representative to the Senate, is currently enrolled at SMU in a business program. Alyson Dysart, the VP

Academic, is attending McGill's medical school. Ivor Mackay cited heavy academic commitments as motivating his resignation. Tom Morrisson, the first to resign, did not return to school this term. Science rep Rez Rizvi has been forced to resign due to

his entrance into the business program at Dal. Glen Walton, grad studies rep, graduates this fall.

SU president Tim Hill is not alarmed. He views the resignations as based on reasonable considerations. He is also on record as preferring resignations to councillors unable to keep their commitments.

To date, only the Science rep position has an election slated. That should take place before October.

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