

Meeting decides

Literature Can Be Sold

The students have decided, and sale of literature in the lobby of the SUB will be allowed. This decision from a heated meeting of the Dalhousie Student body Tuesday afternoon affirmed the official stand taken by Students' Council Sunday night. Dissemination of information, including sale at cost, is an essential part of freedom of speech, and on this ground, Council and the student body have supported the right of groups to sell material in the SUB lobby.

The decision made at the student body meeting was not so much in support of the right of students to sell literature as opposition to a motion presented by Council President Bruce Gillis. His motion however, would have effectively banned the sale of literature in the lobby.

The sometimes raucous meeting was chaired by Council's permanent Chairman Dennis Perlin, who prior to the meeting said: "I'll run the meeting if I can." He was forced on countless occasions to call for order as shouting and heckling erupted in the audience. The motion presented by Gillis claimed that the Building might lose its tax exempt status if students were allowed to sell in the building. However Student Union General Manager, John Graham, in an interview with the Gazette, while agreeing that it was a potential problem, doubted that the issue would arise. Grad student Kim Cameron went further. He termed the tax exemption issue "a red herring".

Debate centred mainly on the right of students to sell literature in the SUB and on the question of rules and regulations in the Building. The audience polarized and both sides were well represented in numbers. Several speakers castigated an unsigned pamphlet run off in the Commerce House which spoke of "non-Canadians" in their arguments against the DSM in what was termed an appeal to blind prejudice.

As the call for the vote arose, supporters of the Gillis faction shouted that I.D. cards should be shown to vote. Mr. Perlin, however ruled against this asking, "Can't we trust people at least that far?" He was also jeered when he ruled against a vote by ballot, saying it was not feasible. Results of the head-count vote declared Gillis' motion defeated by a 260-176 margin. Amid cries of "illegal", the meeting was adjourned. However President Gillis, then under his authority as President called another meeting immediately, declaring that in spite of the vote: "This issue has not been resolved."



Right caucus at Student Body Meeting

The battle was on again with another motion to adjourn this second meeting without discussing the issue again. "We voted on it already," lamented one student, "what's the point?" Two other students, including Student Council Rep., Liz Cusack, called on Gillis to resign. Gillis remained adamant. "I get my mandate from the students, not from Council," he declared, and warned that if this meeting was adjourned, he would call another one right away anyway. "And I'll go on calling them until this issue is resolved."

The meeting began to degenerate into a morass of charges and countercharges, as both the left-liberal coalition and the right-wing faction resorted to name-calling. Chairman Perlin then called for the vote on adjournment which was carried.

The results of the votes served to confirm a Council decision of Sunday night to permit selling on the building by student organizations, and ran counter to regulations set forth earlier by SUB Affairs Secretary Dave Stephenson.



Police Need Support

By Dorothy Wigmore

The Campus Police will no longer patrol the SUB during the day.

"On my own initiative, I've pulled all the Campus Police out until the situation is clarified for events of this nature," said Dave Bright, the head of the force Tuesday night, in reference to a recent confrontation between campus police and students over SUB regulations. They will still be in the building during their regular evening hours, but none of them were in uniform at the student body meeting Tuesday.

Bright says he is not getting support from Students' Council. "I'm employed by Students' Council and it's only fair to me to expect Students' Council to give me certain directions, i.e. should I enforce this rule, should I not enforce this rule. Is Students' Council willing to stand behind me if they tell me to enforce it? Apparently, it seems they're not."

Sunday night the Council voted to permit selling of literature at tables in the SUB foyer, overruling a decision Thursday by SUB Affairs Secretary, Dave Stephenson, that literature could not be sold in the SUB. The Campus Police have to enforce rules in the building, and the two different decisions have created an impossible situation, says Bright.

There are alternatives, he suggested. Hiring security people, bringing in the police if an incident occurs, or having nothing and leaving it up to individual responsible students, are possibilities.

"Or, you could have the Campus Police, respecting and carrying out the wishes of Council," he said. "If Council requests Campus Police be present to maintain order, the Campus Police will be present."