



We all need NFCUS . . .

. . . say marx and hyndman

Ignorance creates fear. Fear creates uneasiness. Uneasiness leads to criticism. It is far easier to criticize thoughtlessly than defend responsibly. Sycamore fits this classic mould of anti-NFCUS sentiment perfectly.

His comments of Oct. 27 show a blatant ignorance concerning NFCUS, a gross unfamiliarity with the operations of the Students' Union on our campus, and a pair of blinkers which make even the term "provincial" a liberal compliment to his character.

It is interesting to note that those who criticize NFCUS are those who have lacked the energy to study the subject of their attack; those who endeavor to defend it are invariably those who have studied or been a part of its operation.

The pseudonym Sycamore conjures the image of a tree; before replacing it with timber of more honest character I should like to clip its branches.

Among the most minor of NFCUS activities is the annual photography contest—an interesting reply to Sycamore who,

true to the classic mould has built his argument on an insignificant fact. The life insurance program costs NFCUS nothing and in fact provides the federation with net revenue; thus the program is a free service to the students. The National Seminar is supported entirely by contributions and donations to NFCUS whose function it is to garner these funds.

It is therefore curious that Sycamore—who attempts to champion the cause of intellectual endeavor—should criticize a free cost adventure in education, enjoyed annually by nine Alberta students. It is, however, true that the local NFCUS chairman and the Students' Union president enjoy an expenses-paid trip to the national NFCUS Congress.

Sycamore would suggest that at an excessive cost of five cents per student the concept of a national Students' Council should be abolished. His comment seems ludicrous when, if considered an average student on this campus (which is not a compliment) he will save more than five times his total NFCUS fee while at university by virtue of the tax deduct-

ibility of tuition fees this year. NFCUS is responsible for this exemption.

In the field of international affairs NFCUS acts with moderation and prudence in representing the views of Canadian students. However perhaps Sycamore—in a burst of intellectual brilliance—suggests a return to Canadian isolationism.

The suggestion that \$5,000.00 will be extracted from our campus when enrolment reaches 10,000 students is an excellent example of the ignorance of Sycamore. Had he taken the energy of studying NFCUS in even a perfunctory manner he would note that with a student enrolment of 12,000 there would be but little change in the amount now paid. A sliding scale explains this fact.

The suggestion that the University of Alberta would be wise to follow the action of Sir George Williams University and withdraw from NFCUS shows two facts. Sycamore is totally unaware of the postulated reasons expressed by Sir George for their withdrawal. Sycamore is also unaware of

the national university reaction to the withdrawal of Sir George Williams and the resulting increased erosion of an already much questioned Students' Union character.

The words of Sycamore—in his only piece of accurate commentary—will most definitely result in the raising of hue and cry that Alberta students are "provincial" and too shortsighted to see beyond the boundary or their own province. I wonder if Sycamore has ever raised his eyes from his desk.

Sycamore's suggestions of alternate uses of fees presently paid to NFCUS suggest that his academic domicile may be far removed from the University of Alberta. He appears to be one of the many who did not avail themselves of the Henry Marshall Tory Lectures. He is one of those who would legislate academic prestige. He is one of those who would advocate increased expenditures of public money without any regard for the relative benefits to be derived from alternative uses of such funds. He is one of those who would attempt to buy a solution to the problem of in-

creased Gateway publication. He is one of those who has not bothered to compare and contrast the World University Service and NFCUS.

For narrow-minded materialists such as Sycamore the pecuniary advantage stemming from tax deductibility of tuition fees should alone justify NFCUS. To those who are intellectual, who therefore can think, and who can therefore appreciate the benefits—both tangible and intangible—of a Students' Council or a United Nations of Students' Councils, NFCUS needs no justification.

We all need NFCUS because narrow-minded, short-sighted, petty isolationism will never build a strong Canada.

It is comments such as those of Sycamore which make the comments of Karl Marx which appeared immediately following Sycamore's article last Friday questionable.

"National one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more possible."

—Marx 1848

Peter S. Hyndman,
President,
Students' Union.

The beast at our back door

Recently, an announcement was made over the CBC that the RCMP had gone on record as having officially asked students of Canadian Universities to keep tabs on their fellow students and their activities, so those students who were suspects of Communist activity might be reported, and investigated. Surely an event such as this deserves the closest scrutiny and reflection by all university students, for in matters such as this, we cannot afford the price of ignorance.

Let me first of all say I am not out of sympathy with either the sentiments of the security branch of the RCMP, nor with the sentiments of honest patriots who regard it as their duty to see traitors and/or enemy sympathizers punished. The State, as such, has a right to protect itself from destructive internal elements, and when the views of the state correspond closely with the views of the mass of citizens, as they do in Canada, then the State is doubly justified. But might we not ask ourselves what will be the consequences of this policy be?

There are Communists on this campus, just as there are on any other; these people, or a great number of them, are surely engaged in disruptive infiltration, true to Communist form; they are, most assuredly, attempting to find their way to leadership and control of our key institutions, and to guide the actions and policies of these institutions in such a way as to divide

the nation, cause confusion and sow unrest. And we have a right to try and prevent this kind of activity from being carried on. With this no sane Canadian will argue.

But what of those people who, through personal error in judgment, moral weakness or intellectual depravity, are drawn into the Communist orbit? The Communists preach the highest kind of ideals. Are these confused, but well-meaning people to be punished for the rest of their lives for a mistake in judgment? This hardly seems just. You cannot punish a man for seeking after social justice, for attempting to see the lot of the oppressed lightened.

And what of the Socialist? Socialism is unquestionably a growing power in our way of political thinking. But there are a lot of ignorant people around, people who equate Socialism with Communism. The Socialist, and rightly so, claims the legacy of Karl Marx; the ignorant man equates Marxism and Communism. Is the doctrinaire Socialist, whose views clash widely with the practices of modern Communism, to be subjected to interrogation or public disapproval because of the actions of the well-meaning but uninformed bigot who turns him in?

Finally, what of the troublemaker? There are plenty of people in our society who would love to make trouble for personal enemies. What better way than to report the enemy to the RCMP as a Communist? The person accused has no way of discovering the identity of his accuser, nor will he be told by any official person. Surely this is a subversion of Anglo-saxon justice! We have been raised to believe justice cannot exist when the accused does not receive the benefit of the doubt, the opportunity to confront his accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, et cetera. It does no good to say the accused would never be put on trial

if he were innocent, although this in itself is undoubtedly true. He would be put on trial before public opinion the moment the big car with the familiar insignia pulled up before his house, the moment word got out he was "suspected" of "subversive" tendencies.

Would all this be worth the revealing of a few insignificant cogs in a subversion machine. Is the subversion machine really that big, that extensive? I doubt it. Certainly not big enough to risk ruining a man's life for a mistake in judgment, a mistake in the judgment of his friends, a callous frame-up by an enemy.

We can resist infiltration, we can admit of its existence. We can, indeed we should and must remain alert towards its threat. We can inform our friends of it; we can eject Communists from membership in our clubs and groups; and we can remain on the lookout for sabotage, spying, and all the other infamous activities the Reds are known for. And we can prosecute them under the appropriate laws, in a criminal court; a court in which they will be prosecuted for doing, not thinking; a court in which the innocent shall have every opportunity to show their innocence; a court in which the right offences, sabotage and treason, not gullibility to high ideals, shall be punished.

Aside from this — nothing. No smear campaigns; no anonymous letters "to the authorities."

Too long we have been able to laugh up our sleeves at our American cousins for their lamentable naivety; now the beast has come in through our back door, and we shall be obliged to deal with him in a civilized manner. On this matter, as on few others, the price of our ignorance as students may well be the cost of our freedom.

John Jay Barr,
Arts and Science 2.

Ezra floperooeed

In the recent visit of Ezra Taft Benson, the University of Alberta has been subjected to a "floperooee" of the first magnitude. Not since the fall of 1960 when Stan Kenton made his way down from the wilds of Beverly Hills, has the visit of any personage proved to be such a campus calamity.

Ezra, speaking for approximately 38 minutes, during each of the Henry Marshall Tory lectures prefaced both addresses with the statement that he didn't know much about either the comparative systems of Canadian and American agriculture or the comparative systems of Canadian and American government—the two subjects on which he was to speak. That he went on to prove this conclusively proved to be the highlight of both lectures.

On Wednesday evening, Ezra spent nearly 10 of the 38 minutes telling us about our great country; our great province of Alberta, our great university and our great president of our university. He told us of how he has on occasion written his wife to tell her that if he ever died, he would like her to bring the family and come to live in southern Alberta—and that this was the highest tribute anyone could possibly pay to Alberta. It is unfortunate that he didn't tell us anything about agriculture that one couldn't remember from their first year economics course and I can remember very little from my first year economics course.

DAUGHTER SANG

Thursday evening, the audience was first treated to the singing of two classical pieces by Ezra's daughter Barbara, imported especially for the occasion from Calgary. She sang adequately, was fairly attractive, and displayed good stage mannerisms, but would have been much more apropos at an Idaho political rally than at a Canadian university memorial lecture. Ezra went on to tell us of his six children

(four girls and two boys) his eight grand-children, the marriage dates of three of his daughters and that the fourth (Virginia) was 17 years old and still at home.

He told us about his church, their chapel on the campus and about the new plot of land they have just purchased, on which they were building a new chapel. Perhaps the tenor of both lectures was established when Ezra stated grandiosely, "I love America," paused nearly 10 seconds trying to establish why the crowd was not on its feet cheering and then added almost as an afterthought "I love Canada too".

In his address, Ezra did not tell us anything that could not be learned from four out of five issues of Time magazine and as on Wednesday, showed his lack of preparation by reading nearly all of the lecture from a previously written text.

SOMEBODY GOOFED

If nothing else, the visit of Mr. Benson served to illustrate that like students' council, members of the Administration are also capable of errors in judgment. What is required is that the "Friends of the University" who sponsor the lectures, establish a sub-committee of experienced and firm gentlemen.

They must be experienced in the matter of selecting lectures and firm enough to resist any pressures put on them by political or religious groups. The speakers must be famous, eloquent, current and preferably Canadian.

They must be such that while possessing certain political or re-

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