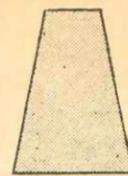


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Classroom Clamp-down

Quebec purges

On Friday, January 8, the Quebec Teachers Corporation has criticized the provincial education department for its handling of an investigation into alleged political indoctrination in classrooms.

In a statement on Friday, January 8, the 70,000-member teachers' union called the issue a "leaking political football," and said: "An administration which is not even capable of dealing with a few complaints in an organization of 100,000 teachers without resorting to publicity tricks is obviously in an alarming situation."

The day before, Education minister Guy St. Pierre was quoted as saying 50 teachers would be brought before a special committee investigating the political activity of teachers in classrooms. The setting up of this committee came about in December, when Education Minister Guy St. Pierre announced four measures designed to tighten the screws on radical teachers, in public schools and at the universities.

The four measures are:

1. nomination of a commissioner of inquiry whose job will be to receive complaints from parents and school administrators about teachers "abusing" their positions for the purposes of spreading "political propaganda" or "indoctrinating their students."

2. warnings to the rectors of universities, directors of CEGEPS (junior colleges) and school commissioners to stop these "abuses", and a threat that if they don't the minister will personally interfere.

3. institution of mechanisms to control the work of teachers to be sure they do not use their links with students to propagandize.

4. creation of a joint committee of representatives of the teachers, the school commissions and the minister to draw

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Math dept. moves to remove three

by Lloyd Buchinski

An internationally known researcher and professor in the field of mathematics, Dr. F. W. Lawvere, is being dismissed from Dalhousie "in a move which rings of McCarthyism" as The 4th Estate sees it. A graduate student and possibly a second math instructor will also go.

Academic ability is not being questioned and is not given as a reason for dismissal in any of the three cases.

No definite reasons were given for not renewing Lawvere's contract. Reasons discussed and discarded included the content of his Math 304 course. The general consensus of the department seemed to be that "the mathematical content of the course is sound." The disruption of a meeting on campus was also discussed, but Dr. A. J.

Tingley denied that this was the reason for the decision of the Appointments Committee.

Since no real reasons, academic or otherwise, have been given for Lawvere's dismissal, it seems to be based largely on personal prejudices. The fact that Lawvere has been labeled a Maoist may have influenced the decision.

In the minutes of the departmental meeting held on Dec. 14, Lawvere was told in a statement prepared by Tingley that "as far as I know, persons not offered further contracts in these circumstances need be given no reasons and have no basis for appeal."

Although there is no appeal, the math department was allowed to vote on the matter, and OKed the decision 18 to 13, with 2 abstentions.

Tingley was willing to give his reasons, which seem a little

vague. "The presence of Dr. Lawvere in the department causes stresses and strains to the detriment of its proper functioning." and "he has to some extent used a class for a political forum." The class referred to here is Math 304.

Although Tingley listed the class as one of his reasons for supporting Lawvere's dismissal, he makes other comments about the class during the discussion. The minutes record that "A. J. Tingley suggested that the discussion of Math 304 is irrelevant to the question concerned, as it had no real influence on the decision of the Appointments Committee." And later, "A. J. Tingley reiterated that discussion of Math 304 serves no useful purpose."

The fact that graduate and honors students of the Department of Mathematics passed a motion supporting Lawvere did not seem to influence the department or Dr. Tingley.

Last year, Dr. Lawvere accepted a \$60,000 grant from the National Research Council (the highest they can award) for three years of research at Dalhousie. The remaining \$40,000 will be transferred to any university at which Lawvere decides to teach if he stays in Canada, and will be entirely withheld if he leaves.

"Peanuts", according to Dean MacLean, in comparison to Dal's total budget, but a convenient if small monetary measure of what the university is willing to sacrifice in order to support its political stand.

Dr. Lawvere has won international recognition as a mathematician while still in his early thirties.

Many eminent mathematicians from around the world have come to Dalhousie to study with him and these too may be sacrificed with his firing.

Greg Neumann, who is a Maoist, has also run into trouble with the math department. A

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National protest Jan. 22

Poor people organize

by Brian Jamieson

"We, the delegates of the Poor Peoples Conference, call upon individuals and groups across the nation to join with us on January 25 in a day of national protest. We call upon welfare and working poor from coast to coast to join together to initiate a day of national solidarity to show their anger and disapproval of Trudeau's Unjust Society. Ministerial conferences and white papers are totally inadequate! ACT NOW."

This statement came out of the final session of the Poor Peoples Conference (PPC), held at the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto on Jan. 7, 8, 9, and 10. The purpose of the conference was to organize the various minority groups in Canada into a national unit, with common aims and action. It was felt that a large number of groups acting

together could perform more effectively than a number of smaller groups acting separately.

The theme of unity, although strained at times, was held throughout the conference. The Maritimes' delegation, for example, had a set of delegates representing all the minority groups in the region.

The PPC grew from discussions of the National Council of Welfare, a 21-person advisory board to the Minister of Health and Welfare. As a result of three meetings, it was decided to call for a four-day conference of "Representatives of low income and disadvantaged groups concerned with the problems of welfare, to discuss ways in which such groups can most effectively advance these concerns."

The budget went from \$50,000 to \$68,500 to allow for more

participation. Two hundred delegates were expected and 350 expressed a desire to attend.

The entire organization and planning was done by poor

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