

UNB not represented at Ottawa meeting of NUS

By BOB JOHNSON

The University of New Brunswick was not one of the Quebec Atlantic universities to walk out of the National Student Union organizational meeting.

According to SRC President Roy Neale the university was not represented at the three day Ottawa conference earlier this month.

He said we were in Ontario this summer to discuss financing of post secondary education and the union did not impress us.

"We will not be sending representation until the Ontario students take into consideration the wants and needs of the students in the Atlantic Provinces," he continued.

Neale indicated St. Thomas sent a delegation to the conference and they were among the representatives to walk out of the meeting.

Creation of the National Union of Students/Association Nationale des Etudiants (NUS/ANES) followed three days of protracted and sometimes tedious debate on a constitution proposed by a four-member steering committee, set up at a previous conference at Windsor last May.

The walkout resulted over methods of membership in the new union. The steering committee proposed representation from individual universities based on two

votes per institution.

Delegates from the west and Ontario were in agreement with this formula, however, the eastern provinces wanted representation from organizations with equal voting power.

They feared NUS would become controlled by Ontario and Quebec if the steering committee's proposal was accepted. The representatives from the Atlantic provinces feared that insufficient attention would be paid to the Atlantic region.

The Quebec representatives held another view and demanded representation based on region. Loyola was the leader in introducing this proposal, whereby NUS delegates would be appointed by regional student unions, with all five regions of Canada having equal voting power.

The Quebec delegates contended that their method prevents one power bloc from controlling the organization.

The Atlantic region's proposal was the first to be voted on last Friday night. Their proposal went down to defeat by a 73 vote against, 16 in favor and eight abstaining. This prompted the Atlantic provinces to throw their support to the Quebec proposal, but it was defeated Saturday morning by a margin of 27 votes.

Maritime and Quebec defeat in their proposals prompted attempts to come to a compromise.

Ontario and British Columbia students indicated that they would be willing to allow each province the right to appoint its delegates as it chose.

The University of Guelph introduced a motion declaring that both institutional and regional appointment were valid methods of delegate selection. This brought about dissention among some of the representatives and in the interim Carleton University SRC President Bruce Cameron brought forward a compromise proposal.

Cameron's plan called for representation on a percentage basis as follows: six percent to each of the four Atlantic provinces, 20 percent to Quebec, 20 percent to Ontario, seven percent to each of the three Prairie provinces and 15 percent to British Columbia.

Many of the representatives felt that his plan gave over-representation to the Atlantic provinces.

"If the Maritime provinces are going to get 24 percent of the votes then I wonder if they are

willing to pay 24 percent of the fees," commented Susan Geason administrative assistant of the university of Toronto part-time student council.

The University of Alberta followed suit and threatened to withdraw if the proposal passed.

The prairie delegates then introduced a proposal calling for representation by population. They suggested one vote for every 5,000 students or fraction thereof in an institution.

The Atlantic delegates angrily rejected this plan and the proposals shifted back and forth from east to west with very little headway being made.

Dawson CEGEP from Montreal lead the way for the walkout. They were followed by the Atlantic delegates when the meeting accepted the prairie's representation by population proposal. The remaining Quebec representatives followed the Atlantic provinces including Chairman Dan Boisvert from Loyola. He was replaced by David Dick from UBC.

The remaining western representatives continued on with the formation of the organization and spent some five hours discussing amendments to the proposed constitution before it was finally adopted late Sunday morning.

The future of the National Union of Students still remains in doubt. The Atlantic provinces and Quebec have not indicated if and when they may return to the union, but it would seem highly unlikely until the union offers some compromise with the Atlantic and Quebec universities.

Vaccine test object of racism?

MONTREAL (CUPI) - Two members of the Friends of the North group have attacked federal government tests of a gonorrhoea vaccine on residents of northern Canada.

The tests are also being conducted in Uganda.

Mark Zannia and Robert Davis suggest in a soon-to-be-published book about genocide in the Canadian north, the possibility of racism in the choice of subjects for the test.

The controversial project will test a new gonorrhoea vaccine (developed at the Biologics Control Laboratories in Ottawa) in Inuvik, N.W.T. and in Uganda.

Although both Inuvik and Uganda are relatively isolated and rife with gonorrhoea, they also contain large non-white populations, giving rise to suspicions about racism and the possible genocidal result.

One month after the Inuvik test was announced, Dr. Ralph Persad, chief medical officer of the venereal disease branch of the Ontario department of health, disclosed that vaccines against syphilis and gonorrhoea would not be ready for several years in the United States.

While American scientists were still testing their vaccines on animals, Canadian researchers were ready to experiment on humans in areas with non-white populations.

Further information that makes the project even more suspect is contained in the correspondence between Mark Zannia and Dr. Aurice Leclair, Canadian deputy

minister of health. Zannia wrote Leclair, asking for:

"Any literature which may be used for information purposes for patients and doctors for this trial.

"Data on the previous tests which prove the vaccine to be safe.

"Information as to whether any of this research has been published in any journals, periodicals, etc.

"Information with regard to any previous tests carried out in that area and the controls employed to ensure cooperation and understanding of those tested.

"Information with regard to the apparent difference in the advance of the research of developing a gonorrhoea vaccine between the Atlanta project and the one being done in Ottawa and Inuvik.

"Information with regard to the method of selection of prospective patients.

"A comment as to whether the selected patients are to be remunerated."

Leclair sent a very patronizing reply, including the following:

"The vaccine in question has been under study for over three years. During this time its safety in experimental animals and in humans has been thoroughly established... There are strict protocols to be observed in any study dealing with humans, and great care has been taken to ensure that these have been met in the fullest sense... The vaccine has, of course, received clearance for trial by our food and drug

director. Such clearance is given only after thorough examination by scientists expert in this field... I do not consider it necessary, nor would I agree to providing you with all the data that was presented to the above..."

Leclair added that volunteers for the project will be from "high risk" groups, and that the Committee of Originating Peoples' Entitlement (COPE) has approved the trial and requested an early start.

On the question of published research on the vaccine, Leclair cited two articles. One was supposed to be in the November 1971 issue of the bulletin of the World Health Organization. The bulletin, however, does not list a publication date on any of its issues (as Leclair should know). There was no article on the subject in either number 5 or 6 of volume 45, (which were most likely September, October, November and December of 1971). Nor was any such article indexed anywhere.

Finally, Leclair said nothing of the information that will be supplied to the subjects in the program, implying that they might be told little or nothing. He also did not supply any data on the previous tests: he did not define what "high risk" groups are, and he did not comment on the remuneration, if any, involved.

In short, the interests of the patients and medical research subjects have been sacrificed and information about the medical experimentation on human beings is being kept from the public.

"World Plan" aim for SIMS

By FORREST ORSER

The goal of the Students' International Meditation Society of Fredericton is to make instruction in Transcendental Meditation available to all students on campus.

According to SIMS president Kenneth Daley, Transcendental Meditation is a natural technique which takes the mind from the conscious thinking level through a progressive refinement of thought until it reaches the source of thought, an area of energy and intelligence.

Daley describes Transcendental Meditation as a preparation for activity rather than an escape from it. By creating a state of deep rest it reduces stress and makes the individual feel more aware and more fulfilled.

Scientific research has found that the oxygen consumption of meditating subjects falls below that common in sleep. The electrical resistance of the skin rises at a faster rate than during sleep. Electroencephalograph readings show patterns different from those characteristic of waking, dreaming, or sleeping.

SIMS, founded by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, is active in sixty countries, and on most university campuses throughout North America. Presently they are working on the "World Plan," which calls for the training of one teacher of Transcendental Meditation for every thousand people on earth, making this teaching available to all.

SIMS was first organized on the UNB campus three years ago. Its main function is the teaching of Transcendental Meditation. This year roughly forty students have been taught this form of meditation.

Weekly meetings are held for those who have learned to meditate but wish to keep informed on the progress of the organization. A newsletter is also published from time to time.

Two series of introductory lectures have already been given this year. More are planned for after Christmas.

Daley suggests that anyone interested in Transcendental Meditation attend one of these lectures.

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