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Unrealistic Clap Trap . . .

A letter elsewhere on this page expresses the feelings of some about the forthcoming WUSC-NFCUS plebiscite. The author proudly points out that he is the member of a minority; we certainly hope so. To envisage a large number of students sympathetic to these views, would be to watch the seeds of Western Democratic destruction grow in our own universities!

In essence, Mr. Mount advocates not that we help Canadian students at the same time we aid Europeans, but that we assure every Canadian youth a college education before even considering help to others.

This is a familiar argument. It was the basis of American isolationism; which the United States recognizes was detrimental to themselves and to the world. I would not compliment this minority by considering their ideas as important, or disastrous, as that of the United States in the first decades of our century. But I might point out that this belief is in every way opposed to the principles and ideals of Western Democracy.

Perhaps I had better explain in a more "utilitarian" manner, in case certain of us are unsure of the exact character of our principles. In 1957, the Western Democracies find themselves in a struggle; a struggle, not for some relatively unimportant territory, but for the world. In belief, in principle and in method, we are diametrically opposed to the Soviet Union. Our only hope is to persuade the peoples of the world, and more specifically, those in the Soviet Bloc, that our way of life is the only guide to free living and efficient government. If we can provide means whereby a few people can experience the freedoms and tolerance which we enjoy, then we have won still another victory in this seemingly endless struggle.

I hesitate to cite the fact that we are obliged, as citizens of the world, to help others less fortunate than ourselves; one would think that this is a fairly widely recognized principle. Yet it is apparent that a few of us have forgotten. It is not safe to forget. Once we forget that our duty to ourselves is duty to all, our battlements are down, our principles and beliefs discarded and our cause lost.

I would suggest that Mr. Mount and his minority inquire more closely than they apparently have, into the nature of this assistance. They will learn that the university, service clubs, individuals and the government are firmly convinced that aid of this kind is necessary. They will discover (to their amazement perhaps) that the Canada Council is designed in part to help Canadian Universities. Finally, it will be apparent that there are many scholarships annually offered to Canadians, which are not taken; not taken because they weren't applied for.

Incidentally, the definition cited for "expediency" is somewhat different from that found in the "Shorter Oxford". This authority claims "suitability to the conditions" as a meaning. In this case the conditions clearly warranted such action.

★ ★ ★

A Good House . . .

Congratulations are due the UNB PC's on the results of the Model Parliament Elections Friday. Keen interest and competition on the part of the three political clubs on the campus characterized the tilt, and judging by the voting turnout, a lot of this rubbed off on to the student body.

The voting has afforded the PC's a comfortable majority in the House—22 seats, to 15 for the Liberals and 3 for the Secreds—and recent rumour has it that the total seating in the house will be increased. Thus a considerable number of students will be provided with an opportunity to take part

(Continued on page 4)

HATS OFF!

Tomorrow, students of UNB go to the polls to elect their council. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have allowed their names to be entered on the roster. Surely these are the students who readily and willingly accept the responsibility they know is theirs! These are the few in whom we place our government. It is no mean responsibility. It is challenging; it is hard; but to many, it is rewarding!

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

As a member of a so called minority I have written this letter to protest an erroneous and presumptuous statement which appeared in a Brunswickan editorial of February 15 last. This statement was in the context under the heading "A Good Step". It seems that a feature of this "Good Step" is to "silence that energetic minority who stubbornly maintain that we should help our own students before Foreign students". The author of this quotation sounds reluctant to admit that we should aid Canadians first.

If there is anyone who persists in saying that Canadians should not be before foreigners, this same person will not silence this member of the so called minority, until tuition at Canadian Provincial Universities is free to the natives in their respective provinces. If this were the case, as it is in certain states in the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union then there would not be the grounds for complaining about helping foreign students pay their way through our Canadian universities. To illustrate what I mean, it is a fact that only "outsiders" pay tuition at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Natives of Arizona pay no tuition fee. Is this not reasonable? Is this not in the name of "Progress"?

The day of automation is coming when a university education will be just as much a necessity as grade school education is today; not a luxury for those who can afford it, or for those with outstanding ability who win the few meagre scholarships available.

I have heard the old story that anyone with a "will" can find a "way". But why in the name of all that is sensible should a Canadian have to look for a "way" while a Hungarian is given his "way"? If a Canadian with a "will" should literally work his way through college so should a Hungarian.

I have been told that what is to be done for the Hungarians is a matter of "expediency". I guess it is, for in my dictionary "expediency" means "fitness for bringing about action not founded on principle".

It is not my wish to find fault with the charitable deeds of the philanthropic who have given the Hungarian refugees the necessities of life. This is Charity. But why give financial assistance to Hungarians for a college education which at present is a luxury in Canada? This is not Charity. Quite

recently I was told that only 49 in every ten thousand Canadians have the privilege of attending university in Canada at present. No indeed, a Hungarian Scholarship scheme is not Charity, it is not even rational, it is merely "action not founded on principle".

You see, it is difficult to silence the stubborn, but it is even more difficult to silence the persevering "minority".

D. R. Mount.

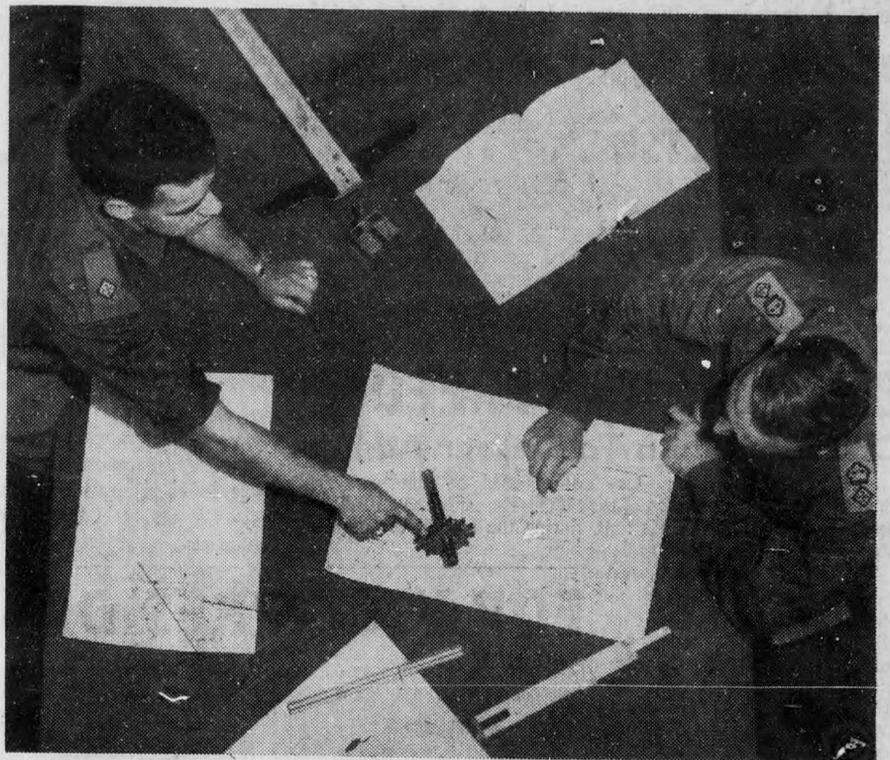
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