Bosnitch doesn't accept nomination for Chairman "There's no real power"

Bosnitch attends CFS conference

By
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The seventh semi-annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students met from November 4 - 10 in Ottawa. SRC president John Bosnitch attended as UNB's representative.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is a nationwide organization of university and college student unions which acts as a lobbying group in the legislature as well as providing services such as Travel Cuts, the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP), and discount cards tenable at local business.

The New Brunswick contingent was represented by Bosnitch, Bernard Lord from Université de Moncton, Renée and Louise Pelletier from U de M campus, Saint-Louis Maillet, in Edmundston. The CFS delegate from Mount Allison University, Andrew MacDonald, did not show up at the conference; Bosnitch and Lord voted to impeach MacDonald as the New Brunswick representative on the CFS national executive, and Bosnitch was named from the post. However the executive refused to accept John Bosnitch as the new representative, saying MacDonald was not given proper notice of impeachment and that he was not in atendance at the impeachment voting. Macdonald was indeed contacted at Mt. A. though did respond to messages left for him. Also, since his not attending the conference was the grounds for his impeachment, he obviously was not there to vote against his removal. In any event, he would have lost the vote, as the other three delegates voted against him.

Bosnitch did manage to be recognized by the chair long enough to introduce a resolution that was passed unanimously. The measure, a "National Student Housing Plan," is designed to locate, list, and buy more student housing.

The conference was originally expected to be newsworthy since John Bosnitch was hoping to be nominated for the chairmanship of CFS. The position is a full-time job and would have mean relocating to Ottawa where Bosnitch would have administered the Federation and have a lobbying voice in Parliament.

At the conference, Bosnitch decided not to accept a nomination if one was offered because he found the position of Chairman to be weak. The chairman and the National executive board, comprised of representatives from each of Canada's ten provinces, are unionized and have collective agreement. I As Bosnitch said, "There's no real power. I couldn't even get someone to type a letter. It's not in any job description." He also felt the Federation accomplished little, citing an instance where the whole congregation of delegates, 120 in all, debated whether to have a buffet-style or a waiter-served luncheon. In fact, Bosnitch is considering pulling UNB out of its membership in CFS.

Bosnitch also felt his first duty was to UNB, noting the problem at the SUB as deserving his attention. His plan is, if he is re-elected president of UNB's SRC, to remain to fight for student control of the SUB. As

SU President John Bosnitch checking to see if his shoes are tied.

Photo by Dave Maz.

President Bosnitch appeared at the meeting room, no-one was yet there. He left for awhile and when he returned, voting had started and Bosnitch and delegates from three other universities were refused entry becuase they were late. U de M and Sait-Louis threatened to pull out of the Federation

SU President John Bosnitch asking if a dessert will be served, among other vital ques tions.

Photo by Dave Maz.

well, his winning the chair could have been a major political tool against him. "If I ran I could win...but I'd go back to Fredericton and if I had won the chair in Ottawa, I would have had to resign in Fredericton in May." People would not be prone to vote for a president who would be resigning within 5 months.

The new CFS chair is Barb Donaldson from the University of Alberta. The voting took place on the final morning of the conference. Voting was scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, but when

because Bosnitch was not allowed to vote.

RESOLUTION:
That the Canadian Federation of Students endorse a "National Student Housing Plan", And that the plan include the following proposals:
1. That CFS recognize that the student movement must take the leading role in responding to the crisis caused by the shor-
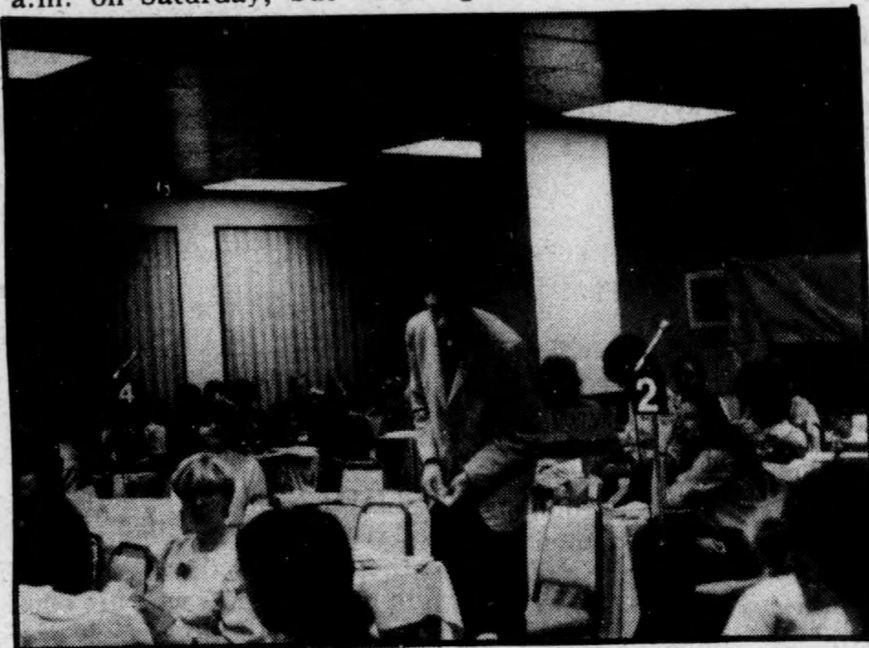
tage of student housing in many areas of the country.
2. That CFS formally request the federal and provincial governments the establishment

of a Mortgage Financing Fund for student housing which would make loans available to student unions for the express purpose of assisting in the downpayment required for the purchase of student housing.

3. That CFS enter into negotiations with the minister of Public Works to establish specific CMHC guidelines for mortgage guarantees for student housing, in the aim of facilitating the granting of such support.

4. That CFS Services be instructed to collect such information as is necessary to prepare an instructive guide to real estate (student housing) investments for use by all interested student organizations,

and that such a file be distributed as soon as possible.
5. That CFS contact the office of the Prime Minister to request his personal support for this "National Student Housing Plan".

6. That in cases where student unions are unable to independently undertake the purchase of student housing, they proceed to identify, research and prepare proposals for purchases for submission to University administrations and other interested groups for their consideration. Note: It should be understood that no school would be compelled to comply with this policy.

7. That CFS Services Information Service include a nationwide file on student housing initiatives, programs and results; making such information readily available to all student organizations.

Beastie, the unknown hitchhiker and the Bruns car, Bonzo.   Photo by Cal Rifkin

And that's the way
it is...and most of
the time we
hope it isn't

- *Walter Cronkite.*