

# Nifus Report

By Ross Hamilton

The following is a preliminary report by Ross Hamilton, President of the Students' Council and one of the two delegates to the N.F.C.U.S. conference at Winnipeg:

The conference opened Monday afternoon, Dec. 29, with an address of welcome given by Peyton Lyon, Student Council President at the U. of M. There followed greetings sent by the Governor-General, Prime-Minister and other distinguished personages. Maurice Sauve, President of the Federation then gave the President's report. He gave a short outline of the hectic history of the Federation bringing it up to the past successful year. N. A. MacKenzie, now President of the U. of B.C. then said when the Federation had its inception "The Federation can never be attained above or apart from the students." That statement has shown the truth that lies behind it as only when the students of Canada are solidly behind their common interests has the union prospered. The NFCUS is a national union of Canadian university students. Sauve calls it "the national syndicate of the Canadian University Students." As a syndicate it exists to serve the students and to awaken students to a consciousness of their duties. It cannot be static. The student syndicalism "has the essential task to increase the numbers of its common points on which a united stand can be taken and to create an atmosphere of confidence and friendship in stimulating efforts of intelligence and understanding." During the past year the President has travelled across the Dominion visiting all the major universities uniting the Union and seeing needs that Federation can tackle such as the question of the D.I.A.U., the national debate rules, regional conferences, transport to Europe, abolishment of student summer unemployment insurance, student exchanges, and various enquiries of general interest to all students.

At the plenary sessions of the meeting each university was allowed two delegates, but only the Student Council President was allowed to vote. Observers were also present but sat in the background being permitted to speak when asked although in the work of the Commissions they could discuss and vote.

There were over sixty-five at the Conference altogether representing in all twenty-one degree granting institutions. During the first day there was an item on the agenda called "Philosophy of NFCUS" which really turned out to be a discussion about who the Federation actually represents on the campus. The occasion of this has been the formation on most camps of local NFCUS Committees which are however all subservient to the Student Councils on each campus. After a great deal of trivial discussion it was decided that the Council on each campus was the final authority which may delegate the actual working and functioning on the local campus to a local committee. The NFCUS does of course represent all the students but as the Council is the chief student governing organization on it properly is a constituent member of the Federation and not the local NFCUS Committee.

On the agenda as well were other items that were briefly touched upon by the President. The National Film Board is making or to make a film dealing with the Canadian Universities. The Federation has had excellent relations with the National Conference of Canadian Universities especially perhaps in the past year regarding the formation of a Dominion Intercollegiate Athletic Union. The Conference dealt with this latter subject and more about it will be said. When the Canadian Government sets up a UNESCO Organization in Canada the NFCUS will be allowed a seat in that body. There are prospects of yet closer relations between the Student Veterans organization and the NFCUS. Mr. Sauve aided the recently formed United State National Student Association as it struggled to be born and we have a close relationship between the two national student unions. The relationship between the NFCUS and other world student groups deserves separate mention especially our attitude towards the ISS and the International Union of Students.

Relationship With The International Student Service shortly and remarked that our relationships here were friendly and that there was no friction

## U. N. B. BOYCOTT BARBERS

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reason for the discrimination," it declares, "seems to be that barbers are afraid of losing white customers if they see a colored person in the barber's chair. If there are any grounds to this fear the people of Fredericton are to blame."

The barbers are the scapegoats of society, they declared, and the Brunswick cries "Would that we could show up the Pharisees in our town as well who would say, 'I'm glad that I don't show racial discrimination like those poor publicans down there.'"

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between the two organizations. Dr. Marcus Long of the ISS spoke to the Conference after dinner one evening outlining the work and purpose and future projects of the Service. "Provincialism and educationalism" he said "are incompatible." Our great breadth of knowledge comes from many parts of the world and to the accumulation which has been built up and maintained over the centuries is not the possession or result of any one nation. We as students cannot be narrow in our views and especially in these days when we need an international outlook it behooves us to bend our efforts towards international co-operation. The ISS seeks to foster this breadth of outlook. As the conditions in many parts of the world demand that we spend great efforts and sums in relief projects the ISS seeks the co-operation of all students at this time as it seeks to alleviate in part the suffering of fellow-students in stricken lands. Dr. Long said that he sought (1)—closer co-operation between the NFCUS and the ISS, (2)—membership on the Canadian ISS Executive of the President and Secretary of NFCUS, (3)—a resolution of co-operation and support for the ISS from the NFCUS Conference. This spring there is to be a tremendous effort towards relief and we are asked to raise about \$15,000 for this campaign. ("We" means the national movement, not Dalhousie NFCUS).

At a plenary session Gordon MacLean of Toronto asked that the NFCUS set up a commission to prepare a report to the Conference to the ISS. This Commission was set up and the last day it brought in a report which was adopted.

In substance this report complied with the wishes of Dr. Long as stated. The NFCUS will work with and through ISS in relief and other international projects. The question is of course immediately raised "What implications does this have regarding the relationship with the IUS?" And the question was neither discussed nor asked so it remains to be seen what the solution will be.

## Dal Is Not Red

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lution that "Capitalism should be abolished at once." They had no speakers for the negative. Smiling to myself as I thought of how they would be to find that the Reds had lost, I walked out whistling Yankee Doodle very loud. Cries of "reactionary," "fascist" and "capitalist" pursued me. Grinning widely, I walked down the Senior walk, and leered at some little girls trying without success to string a hammer and sickle flag on the flagpole. They asked me what the joke was, and I told them that the place was definitely not going Red. Where-up they removed their flag, knowing me to be a man of integrity, and put back the old Union Jack, somewhat muddled, which was dragged out of retirement for the occasion. Oh, well. Boys will be boys, etc.

## CAMPUS ROUNDUP

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It is hoped that the new loud-speaker system installed in the Gym over the vacation will be noted and appreciated. There are two new speakers, each of the interior diaphragm type and they have eliminated deaf spots from the gym floor.

## WHAT IS I. S. S.

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### Relief

A necessity at present inseparable from the other functions of I.S.S. or any comparable organization, relief is carried on through World Student Relief, a joint body involving the World's Student Christian Federation, Pax Romana (the Roman Catholic international student organization), International Student Service, the World Union of Jewish Students, and the International Union of Students. Relief costs are contributed to by all five organizations, and relief is distributed to students of any race, creed, or political learning, on the principle of need. There is no so-called "merit" rating for eligibility for relief. The 1947-48 budget for relief, amounting to two million U.S. dollars, has been allocated as follows: Europe, 40%; China, 40%; South-East Asia, 20%. All relief funds obtained by I.S.S. come from interested private parties, institutions such as the Carnegie Corporation, and local campaigns, in the form of donations and grants. However, W.S.R. is a temporary expedient. As the need for it subsides it will reduce its programme accordingly. It is hoped that the time will soon come when W.S.R. may disband entirely, for then will I.S.S. be able to expand its programmes of International Education and University Research toward the unification and strengthening of the University Community in which it believes.

### U. N. and UNESCO

I.S.S. is recognized by the U.N. and UNESCO as an international educational organization. At the end of the I.S.S. year 1946-47, UNESCO expressed the intention of signing a working agreement with I.S.S.

## WELL DONE U. N. B.

Can you truthfully say, "I, because I was born to parents whose complexions happened to be a sort of pinkish shade (not white), do not feel superior to anyone whose exterior is of a different hue?" If you can we commend you. If you cannot, read on and examine yourself.

When the staff of the U.N.B. weekly, the BRUNSWICKAN, could have been doing a bit of last-minute 'cramming' for their Christmas exams they were busy editing and publishing a supplementary issue that served as a student notification of a boycott against four Fredericton barbers who have discriminated against Negroes. We heartily commend the admirable action of these students; and, lest any Dalhousians feel that their action does not apply to us, we suggest that an examination of the evils of racial discrimination is in order. We know of cases of discrimination at Dal and in Halifax but we can say that these cases, to our knowledge, are infrequent.

The BRUNSWICKAN editors were objective in their criticism realizing that the barbers were merely the 'goats' of society. To the barber a fifty cent piece remains nothing but a fifty-cent piece. He, however, realizes that were he to trim the head of a Negro or a Chinese he should lose the trade of the few loathsome 'pink' people who think themselves superior. The roots of this filthy cancer, the most despicable of all the diseases of so-called civilization, are deep, but not so deep that they cannot be removed. The action of the Brunswickers is a thoughtful step in the right direction.

We condemn the attitude of the editors or owners of the GLEANER, the Fredericton daily, who refused even to mention the fact that a boycott was declared by U.N.B. students. In a city the size of Fredericton the actions of over 1700 students certainly cannot be said to be not newsworthy. The GLEANER's attitude is, however, a manifestation of the very evil that the students have decided to fight. How can the word 'democracy' have any

significance if the Press hides such news? And if the Gleaner chooses to suppress this action what other important matters might they choose to hide?

At this point we feel that it is opportune to point out that the main cause of the trouble now occurring in the Holly Land is that of racial discrimination. How would you feel if you, by accident of birth, were born a person without a homeland, whose ancestors had been persecuted for centuries, whose relatives and friends had been slaughtered by the millions by the fiendish machines of Nazism, and who discovered that the very name of your race was used as a hateful epithet by unthinking, blindly intolerant people? — You would be forced to be clannish because you would be ostracized by the rest of society, and you would be hated by the rest of society because you were clannish. Ultimately you would develop a defence complex that would cause you to be more successful in this materialistic world than your neighbors, and then most of your neighbors would condemn you, likely through jealousy, for your very success. — Would you not, then, strive to possess a homeland where your name finally had the same significance as 'Canadian' has to most of us? Would you not fight for such a homeland if you felt that prejudices against you were on the increase? ..... It is not for us to say who is right or wrong in the present struggle, but we feel that we should not let blind prejudice sway our judgement. Wrongs have been committed by both sides, just as wrongs are always committed when a faction opposes a faction, but we feel that they are not so much to be blamed as the rest of the world which fosters the very cause of the strife-racial intolerance. We laugh at Hitler's theory of the master-race and yet we permit it to be believed by members of our own society.

To U. N. B., for launching a crusade in the Maritimes against racial discrimination, again we say, WELL DONE!