

Framework for new student movement

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The framework of a new student movement in Canada was laid last weekend by delegates attending the National Union of Students (NUS) and Association of Student Councils (AOSC) joint conference in Winnipeg.

Delegates representing over 70 post-secondary institutions passed motions which will see the political-lobbying NUS merge with the service organization, AOSC, in an effort to provide students with a full range student movement, said Mike Miller, NUS fieldworker in British Columbia.

The new organization will

also create closer ties between provincial student organizations and the national student movement.

The founding convention for the new organization, which remains nameless, will probably be held within three years, Miller said.

Until then, NUS, AOSC and the provincial student organizations will continue operating as they are now. In the meantime, referendums are expected before May 1981.

A new feature of the proposed organization will be exclusive use of AOSC services by members. Student associations will have to be

members before they may receive the services of the organization, said Max Johnson, member of the board of directors of AOSC.

Currently, student associations can be members of either the AOSC or NUS, or both.

The new organization will also feature joint membership for students in both the provincial and national bodies. Only one referendum with one question will be needed to join both groups.

In the past, separate referendums were needed if a student association wished to join the provincial and national

bodies.

Both Johnson and Miller see the new organization as offering students a better run, higher profile, and beneficial student association. They feel it has a chance to "truly unite students in one organization."

The per capita fee for membership in the new organization will be \$3 higher than the current fee for members of NUS. With the larger resource base, Miller said the organization will be able to hire more staff to service the members. As well, the national component of the organization will be able to provide a "data bank" which

would provide councils with information "on everything from how to operate a student council, to preparing a brief for government, to holding a dance," said Miller.

The congruent membership of students in both the provincial and national components of the organization will eliminate the current overlap in work by the two groups, Miller said.

Structural details of the new organization will be worked out at the next NUS conference slated for Lethbridge, Alberta next May.

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Blakney talks conciliation

by Alan Christensen

Allan Blakney said his government "will swallow (its) pride" and accept Pierre Trudeau's proposed constitutional package, but only if "the content can be improved."

The premier of Saskatchewan made these statements in a speech before the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association last Monday night. He warned the audience, however, that his government had not come out in total opposition to the proposal because he feared that too much squabbling would threaten "the fabric of the nation." His government would renew its opposition, he said, if the constitutional package could not be improved.

Saskatchewan demands three basic changes to the package, he stated. First, they would like to see a change in the proposed amendment procedure for the use of a na-

tional referendum. Blakney objected to all aspects of any referendum being under federal control. Thus he said that any amendment could be debated in the national Parliament but not in the provincial legislatures. Also, he pointed out, the federal government would control the timing of a referendum and could use "public hype" to pass an "instant referendum" without adequate debate on the question.

Blakney further said he supports a more explicit reference to the principle of equalization which he called "one of the most crowning achievements" of Canada's postwar history.

The Premier also stated his concern over the resources question. He said that he was pleased by the promise by Trudeau that provisions would be added which would clarify the question of natural resources. Blakney also promised to look over the provisions "with more than a little

interest." He stated that the provisions do meet his concerns about indirect taxes and interprovincial trade and commerce.

Blakney also voiced his opposition to the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the constitution. This, he said, would give the courts, who are not elected, too much power over decisions "with broad social consequences," which could not then be easily reversed. He also pointed out that it is "unnecessary" since the federal government and most provinces (including Saskatchewan) have human rights legislation which is binding on ordinary laws.

Language rights do not fall under the category of human rights, he further stated, but rather they are a "part of the Confederation bargain." Therefore, he said, they should be guaranteed in the constitution.

Blakney further voiced his opposition to the process by which Trudeau is bringing in the changes. He said that Trudeau is staking the legality of his moves on the fact that the principle of provincial consent is a matter of custom and not law. Thus, he added, the courts would not enforce the principle of provincial consent. It might be challenged, he said, on the fact that by transmitting the request unilaterally to the British Parliament he is violating a convention "which has hardened into law."

All of the divisions caused by the disputes, warned Blakney, might cause permanent damage to Canadian unity. Thus he issued a call for moderation by both sides.



Rans resigns, but his memory rages on

by Paul Clark

Controversial Graduate rep Peter Rans' resignation was announced at Sunday's council meeting, renewing heated discussion about the role and state of Dalhousie's student council.

Rans had stirred up considerable attention to the previous council meeting with a motion to form a committee to investigate the various positions held by student union

general manager John Graham. The next week he printed a commentary in the Gazette and the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students' newsletter accusing the student council executive of "stifling discussion and investigation of important issues" and "failing to give the lead they should in external affairs."

In his letter of resignation to council, Rans said he was

leaving his post due to time and energy constraints which prevented him from doing an effective job. "It is not my nature to work in anything in a half-hearted fashion," he stated.

He went on to say that the purpose of his recent commentary was to raise discussion on the nature of council and its executive. Council's increasing preoccupations with services, he said, is destroying

interest in student politics and "turning the idea of a representative and active democracy into a sick joke."

If this imbalance in council's activities can be addressed, however, said Rans, "my resignation will have achieved something."

In a question and answer period shortly after the resignation was announced, Science rep Carolyn Zayid ask-

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