

Police Chief Claims Action In Best Interests Of Town

# EXTRA



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## S R C DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OVER BROWN CASE

### WILL APPROACH ATTORNEY-GENERAL & POLICE COMMISSION 200 STUDENTS ATTEND S.R.C. MEETING

Nearly 200 students attended what may be the biggest SRC meeting of the year. Oratory, condemnation of the local police force, criticism of certain officials, and general interest, all high-lighted the special meeting called by Prexy Fanjoy. An investigation by the Police Commission and the Attorney-General's Department of the Provincial Government is going to be pressed by a four-man committee headed by Fanjoy.

The whole investigation results from the action of the police force accorded to a Senior student, Al Brown. (Brown's story appears elsewhere in this issue.)

President A. W. Trueman made his second appearance before the SRC and asked the Council and students to refrain from taking any drastic action on the issue. He also stated publicity on the matter should be avoided until the matter has been presented to the Fredericton Police Commission for a complete investigation. Dr. Trueman said that after the investigation was carried out and results noted, then the SRC could carry out the proper action. In summing up his remarks Dr. Trueman commented that as a result of a conversation with Police Chief O'Connell nobody was satisfied with the explanation.

In speaking, Dr. Trueman maintained that the main question involved concerned the intention of the authorities not to permit Mr. Brown to phone his wife of his whereabouts, or to contact Dean Parr of Alexander College.

After Dr. Trueman had concluded his remarks and left the well-attended meeting, a "hot" discussion ensued.

Almost the first remark made came from the back of the room: "... Suggest we collect at the Legion and

go down and burn the City Hall." In adding to the remarks Al Brown the victim of the incident, said that two years ago he had mailed a letter to the Police Commission concerning a person he had seen knocked about and dragged to the police station by the police. A reply to the letter stated that he was to mind his own business.

When considering the possibility of action against the police one voice from the back of the room remarked: "If there is sufficient grounds for action the litigation would be very small because they pay them (the police) in accord with what they know".

Gerry Bell, Junior Class President maintained that the SRC should go after the top man, the police chief. "We should go after the man who is running the force," said Bell.

One fellow remarked that "we don't want to blow off too much steam. We just want to arouse public opinion."

Concerning Dr. Trueman's remarks Lorne Gardiner said "With all due respects to what Dr. Trueman has said I don't think he has been in Fredericton long enough."

Vernon Mullen commented "It is not only Al Brown's case which we are fighting, the English people have been fighting for freedom from such arbitrary treatment for centuries."

Finally after considerable discussion with many curt remarks, amusing and otherwise, making the rounds, a committee of four with Ed Fanjoy as chairman was set up. The other members are Les D'Arcy, Hugh Church, and Hugh Whalen. Immediate action is being taken by this committee to inform the Attorney-General's Department of the Council's demands

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## YOU MAY BE NEXT AL BROWN'S STORY . . .

It is regrettable that the relations between the University students and the local constabulary have been further strained. We hoped that as a result of the incident two years ago the police force would have been aroused to a sense of greater responsibility. However the recent and bitter experience suffered by one of our most respected and well liked classmates can hardly be overlooked.

We believe an efficient Police Department can and should carry out even unpleasant duties in a manner that will merit a degree of respect and confidence from all people. The innocent wives, mothers, and daughters of even convicted law breakers, should not be subjected to unnecessary cruelty and suffering, through callous police procedure.

Serious consequences might have resulted from what we feel are the unjustified actions taken by the police. The student's wife, who is in a very delicate condition, was extremely worried over the continued and unexplained absence of her husband. This might have resulted in a very serious, possibly a disastrous situation.

This action may have been justified by the police. However, as we have been able to determine the facts of the case so far we are inclined to think that the police acted quite hastily in arresting Mr. Brown. Furthermore, we feel that it must be a repetition of the incident of two years ago where the police had not allowed the arrested person to communicate with University authorities or his relatives.

In our opinion the arrested person is innocent until proven guilty.

And being innocent, he should receive the treatment usually accorded a gentleman. In this case Mr. Brown was apparently informed that he could not contact his wife until the policeman in charge came in. (The Policeman in charge was supposed to come to the station in ten minutes time. However he did not return for a considerable time . . . something like three or four hours.

The SRC has taken the right course in this respect! An investigation will clear up the case considerably. At the present time most of the students feel that the police force is using dictatorial methods and methods which are never used in a free and democratic country. This may not be so. A thorough investigation will clear the air. If it is found that the Fredericton Police Force was wrong in making the arrest then we would suggest that severe reprimands if not discharges would be in order. If the Police Force is found to have exercised its authority in a proper manner then the student body will have that much more faith in it.

We should reiterate, that from the facts that we have received, we could only expect such an incident to have taken place in Russia or Germany. But never in Canada!

Most of the students, quite frankly, feel they are living in a state of fear. The case has cast considerable ill feeling towards the Police Force. Some students even feel they might be next!

Besides approaching the Attorney-General's Department for an investi-

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## AL BROWN'S STORY . . .

I think the facts, cold and bare, speak very well for themselves. For that reason, I'd like to ask for as moderate as possible a policy in the matter of editorials, etc. I've been bombarded with suggestions more or less violent that ranged downward from marching down to the city hall with a legion of students, burning the place down, and throwing the whole police force into the flames. On a question such as the recent incident about the local barbershops, I think it is a good idea for those interested to get as angry as possible to balance the apathy of the general public. In my case however, I think the more cold-blooded approach, the the better the results.

After that short sermon, here is what happened. I was having an all-night study session, and about 3.15 a. m. decided to go out for some fresh air. I walked down Charlotte Street to Regent to see if the Cafe there was open, then quite airlessly continued down Regent Street to George, and turned right. The police prowler saw me and picked me up about fifteen yards from the corner. They questioned me as to who I was and where I came from, then said that I would have to go with them to the station.

After we arrived there, I was searched and asked for identification. I had nothing on me, so I suggested that they call Dean Parr and have him O. K. me. They didn't pay

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