

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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## What Price Freedom?

They say the best way to get even with an enemy these days in Quebec province is to plant a pound of margarine in his car and then phone the nearest cop. If you happen to have the wrong political leanings in that province you'd better watch out.

We are not surprised that this should be so in view of the latest turn of events in the Quebec labour field. If you have been keeping up with the news from Quebec province you have probably noticed that an old law has been brought to the fore prohibiting more than 12 persons to gather together. If they do they are hustled off to jail in the name of provincial safety. This sounds an awful lot like Mr. Duplessis' padlock law of a number of years ago during the big communist spy scare in the country then.

Now the significance of this law prohibiting gatherings of more than twelve becomes apparent if we consider what would happen to anyone who might want to run against Mr. Duplessis on a political basis or any other basis for that matter. Which brings us to Mr. Duplessis' masterpiece of political chicanery known as "Provincial Autonomy."

It is felt that the Provincial Autonomy government of Mr. Duplessis affords the Canadian voter a good chance to see the pattern used by glory-seekers in government who are not interested in the welfare of the nation as a whole as avidly as they are concerned with their own personal success. Unfortunately Canadians are not the only people with this trouble in their backyards. The Argentinians, regardless of the progress made in their country, are forced to realize they have a dictator on their hands. Marshal Tito, while an excellent leader, is not interested in anyone's success but his own. Canada as an integrated group of provinces working together for progress does not appear to interest Mr. Duplessis.

Fortunately for Mr. Duplessis he has inherited a province that is psychologically ripe for any champion of its imagined injustices and oppression. Personally we doubt if Mr. Duplessis cares a fig for the province's health; any other province would suit his desires equally well if he were able to find it.

If Mr. Duplessis' administration were truly democratic we wonder if the University presses would be muzzled, whether religious freedom would be a reality, or whether such theatrical ballyhoo as "Provincial Autonomy" would continue to deal injustice to the freedom loving citizens of Quebec Province.

—(Contributed)

## Rover's Report

"Higher education is rapidly becoming a luxury unattainable by the average Canadian boy or girl. This is the conclusion shown in the brief presented in June, 1950 by N'CUS to the Royal Commission on Arts, Letters and Sciences, which prepared the famous "Massey Report".

"This brief quotes figures from the Ontario Board of Education for 1945-46, showing that of 56,000 who left school in that year, only 3,900 (7%) entered university or nurses' training, although according to Harvard University studies, fully 17 to 25% of these were academically qualified.

"A survey of University costs made the reasons for this situation obvious. It was found that, on a national average, they totalled \$1,377 for a non-resident student, or \$1,036 for a resident student, per year. The income of the average student was \$283 from summer work and \$139 part-time work during the term. Thus there was a gap of \$600 between the average student's income, and his expenses. This is a financial gap which most families would find impossible to fill. On the other hand, federal aid to students was found to average \$80 a year to each of 2,400 students, or about one in twenty. This sum was supplemented by a \$100 grant per student from the provincial governments. The conclusion of the brief was inescapable: "Higher education for thousands of Canadian young people is an impossibility."

"Students' Plight Worsening: And yet, this situation is worsening. The brief points out that university fees across Canada have increased by about \$30 in the past two years. Since then, the rate in fee boosts has quickened. Last year the University of Toronto announced fees increases ranging from \$30 to \$200, depending on the faculty involved. The U of T fee increase was followed by a similar boost at other universities across Canada. U of T president, Sidney Smith has publicly announced that this part of a campaign to reduce University registrations in order to "raise standards."

We were rather surprised to learn the above startling facts on reading the latest edition of the "Defender", a publication issued monthly by an apparently pinkish group in Toronto. Long under the impression that the coming of the liquor laws in the Queen city would undermine these groups of wobblers, we hastened to make a tour of the campus and see for ourselves if education were, first, a luxury and, secondly, unattainable to anyone who really wanted it.

By way of our research we found that all is not luxury on the campus. The first student we encountered was carrying a large

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# Sask. Paper Hit By "Defender"

Editor's Note: A copy of a Communist paper, published by the Youth Friendship League, Toronto has been received by the Dal Gazette, containing certain comment about the Sheaf, student publication of University of Alberta. It is reprinted here for the edification of Gazette readers.

"The publicity for the International Rights of Youth Conference, which the "Defender" has been releasing, has had national repercussions. The paper of the University of Saskatchewan "The Sheaf" devoted an editorial to the contents of the "Defender" in its October 15th issue entitled "Tears From Toronto".

"The "Sheaf" editorial attempts to ridicule this forthcoming International gathering and does a distinct disservice to Canadian students and young people in general by mechanically dismissing their problems and legitimate grievances. However, the fact that the "Sheaf" saw fit to comment on the Conference and the contents of the "Defender" shows that the facts we are publicising, are causing some attention. For the information of the organizations, individuals, newspapers and news services that receive this bulletin we are printing the complete text of the official reply to the editors of the "Sheaf" by Jean Morrison, Secretary of the Youth Friendship League. We also include a few excerpts of the "Sheaf" editorial for the information of the reader. Below are the excerpts, followed by Jean Morrison's reply:

"A rather touching document (mimeographed) has reached the offices of the Sheaf. This two-page bulletin, which goes by the name of the Rights of Youth Defender, is issued by the Youth Friendship League of Toronto..."

"Referring to Canadian youth, the writer gasps in literary horror at the fact that a large number of Massey-Harris workers were laid off in recent months at the company's Toronto plant. He implies that rather than being laid off because of the shortage of steel from United States furnaces, the action was taken in direct discrimination against the workers' youth."

"Heart-rending comment is also made on the exploitation of youth in Brazil, Bihar, Italy and Iran."

The Editor,  
The Sheaf,  
University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Sir:  
Your October 15th editorial "Tears From Toronto" on the subject of our first "Rights of Youth Defender" warrants a public reply. We welcome the fact that The Sheaf has publicized the Rights of

Youth Conference in its pages. However, we are extremely surprised that responsible university students, who traditionally take world affairs and conditions seriously, can approach the subject of youth rights with such levity.

It is a fact that students and youth in some parts of the world are in a situation of semi-starvation. It is a fact that in many lands most young people do not receive an education because there are too few schools. It is a fact that most young workers and apprentices are underpaid. It is not only the Youth Friendship League which objects to the fact that so many Canadian youth and university graduates leave our country to seek more suitable and lucrative employment across the border.

One would expect the editors of the university paper of Canada's "wheat province" to know why there are layoffs at Massey Harris. Prairie farmers are dependent on the world market to sell their surplus wheat. Trade restrictions prevent that. Farmers get no money for stored wheat. They can't afford to buy tractors and combines. Therefore Massey-Harris can't sell them. Therefore, layoffs, and the young workers go first. If Canada could trade with, say China, which could use a sizeable amount of farm machinery, there would be no layoffs at Massey-Harris. Or if Canadian wheat could be sold to India, their students wouldn't go hungry, Massey-Harris could sell its products, and Saskatchewan farmers would be prosperous, and send more of their sons and daughters to university.

That the situation of Canadian youth is not as rosy as the Sheaf editors think it is, is not our opinion alone. The Canadian Youth Commission reports published after the war, made wide-sweeping criticisms and proposals on Youth and Jobs, Education, Recreation, Health, and other topics concerning youth rights. The YFL believes these criticisms and proposals valid to a large degree today.

We recommend that the Sheaf editors emerge from their Ivory Tower, and delve into the situation of Saskatchewan youth, that they find out what are their aspirations, and their possibilities of realizing them. We would be very pleased to include your findings in the Canadian report to the International Conference in Defense of the Rights of Youth. Or preferably, to see a member of the Sheaf editorial board give its report in person next February at the Conference in Vienna.

Sincerely yours,  
Jean Morrison.

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