



Canada's oldest college newspaper. Member of Canadian University Press. Opinions expressed editorially are not the official opinion of the Council of Students. Official publication of Students of Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S.

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NCCUC RESOLUTIONS, 1961

(The National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges was held in Ottawa Nov. 13 to 15, 1961. The report of the conference has just been published and reprinted below are some of the resolutions adopted by the conference. It should be noted that the federal government has taken action on the first resolution and raised the federal grant from \$1.50 to \$2 per capita.)

WHEREAS the representatives of the universities and colleges of Canada, meeting at a Special Conference in Ottawa five years after the similar meeting in 1956, consider it a serious obligation to the people of Canada that the crisis in higher education in Canada which was then predicted and which has been only in part resolved, as it has developed from year to year, with the co-operation of public and private assistance, still continues and deepens, and that there is every prospect that it will grow more acute during the next decade;

AND WHEREAS it is their strong conviction that a greater investment in higher education in Canada is of vital importance to the development of this country and to the future of its young people, as well as a prerequisite for survival in an age of intense international pressures;

AND WHEREAS with the increase in the population of Canada the enrolment in Canadian universities has almost doubled in the past seven years, and further, is expected, even with exacting standards of admission, almost to triple during the next ten years from a figure of 114,000 last year to an estimate of 312,000 by 1970, with the inevitable result that all Canadian universities and colleges will be under extreme pressure and will encounter great difficulty in securing sufficient financial resources for the necessary staff, buildings and equipment;

AND WHEREAS to meet the demands of the age there is need in Canada for further rapid development of advanced teaching and research in many fields of knowledge, the delegates to the Special Conference as an urgent responsibility, do hereby RESOLVE

(1) that, as essential assistance in meeting the critical financial problem, the Government of Canada be again urged to increase the present federal grant from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per capita, and that in order to meet exceptionally high costs in certain professional and graduate courses it provide to the universities of Canada an additional supplement of \$500 for every student registered in medical, dental, and graduate studies;

(2) that, since Canadian universities are finding increasing difficulty in supplying the necessary new buildings for teaching and research in the sciences, the Government of Canada be urged to recognize that the national interest is here essentially involved, and that it provide a sum of \$50 million for such construction during the next five years, to be distributed under a formula of matching grants supervised by the National Research Council or alternately by the Canadian Universities Foundation!;

(3) that the Government of Canada be requested to make possible an extension in the admirable programme of the Canada Council by an addition to the endowment or by the provision of additional sums, annually provided, for an increase in the number of fellowships required by the growth in the population of Canada and the rise in university enrolment;

(4) that, since much attention will inevitably be given to the crisis in higher education as it is illustrated in some of our larger universities located in metropolitan areas, it is particularly desirable to re-affirm the value of the contribution of the smaller universities and colleges, many of them of long establishment, to the welfare of the nation and to recommend to local, provincial and federal governments and to private donors, both individual and corporate, the necessity of maintaining our smaller universities and colleges with adequate staff and financial support;

(5) that, since many young Canadians encounter serious or insuperable difficulty in financing a university course, private donors, local, provincial and national authorities be strongly urged to increase the sums now provided for scholarships, bursaries and loan funds;

(6) that special approval and thanks be extended to the Government of Canada for its assistance to overseas students under such schemes as the Colombo Plan and the Commonwealth Scholarships, and that particular satisfaction be expressed concerning the recent establishment of the External Aid Office, and that it be strongly recommended that there be an expansion of assistance for overseas students, particularly in favor of students from those areas of Africa with insufficient provision for higher education — an appropriate plan for Canada since many of these students will come from regions in which French is the language of instruction;

(7) that, since our universities have not only a national but an international service to perform, increasing attention be given in Canada to the development of international studies and to the languages, history and philosophy of foreign countries, particularly those outside the Western European tradition.

PRIZES FOR ESSAYS AND POEMS

The Gazette is initiating a poetry and prose contest in an effort to stimulate budding writing on campus. Two prizes of \$10 each will be awarded for the best poetry and prose submission. Two contests will be held, one this term and the other in the spring. Deadline for the first contest is Nov. 28, 1962. Poems should be of reasonable length while essays and short stories should not exceed 2,000 words.

Entries should be sent to The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette. Do not sign the entry, but enclose your name and address in a sealed envelope with the submission. The winning submission will be printed in The Gazette supplement.

DIRECTORY

The Student Directory is late again! Three weeks ago we were assured the Directory would be out within a week. We are still waiting.

At a largely non-residential university the Directory becomes indispensable if students are to remain in contact with each other off campus. Members of The Gazette know only too well how frustrating it is to want to get in touch with someone as the deadline looms closer and closer, but to be unable to do so because he has moved to a different rooming house, or because we never knew where he lived anyway.

The Handbook section of the Directory came out in good time. This is of value to freshmen who must find something to occupy their minds for the year now that Christmas exams have been abolished. It is of some value to upperclassmen. But its value is negligible compared to the Directory which we don't have.

Every registration students fill out forms giving their name, address, telephone number, faculty and home address. What happens to all this information between the time it leaves our hands to the time it enters them again as part of the Directory? With a good staff surely it should be possible for the editor of the Directory to assemble all this information within the first 10 days and have the pages printed up within three weeks of registration at the latest.

It has been suggested that the printer is at fault. In that case warn the firm that if the job is not completed in good time we will take our business elsewhere in the future.

A QUORUM?

The Student Council needs five members other than the president present at a meeting for a quorum. Last Thursday Council president Al Robertson was almost forced to close the meeting for lack of a quorum. Almost, though not quite.

Mr. Robertson told students' representatives that if this were to happen again he would cancel the meeting. We are in complete agreement. If student councillors are unable to attend Council meetings they should resign.

Some of the 'problems' facing Council members have been voiced in the past. Of the two members who wandered in over an hour late Thursday, one excused himself by saying he had had to attend a fraternity meeting, while the other said he had company at home. We appreciate their 'problems', but they are still dully elected members of the Council who have been placed in a position of trust and responsibility by the student body.

Two weeks ago there was a debate as to whether or not Council meetings should be moved from Tuesday to Thursday. The Gazette proposed this change so that students could receive news of the last Council meeting in the next Gazette, instead of reading of meetings already out of date. Opposition to the move was voiced by some fraternity members on the grounds that it would interfere with their schedule of meetings. We are happy the change in lay was finally made.

If a student running for Council is not prepared to carry out his responsibilities he should state this before his or her election. He has an obligation either to perform his duties or to resign his place to someone who is willing to do so.

MORE COMMENT

(From The Ubysey)

A hastily painted sign in the Brock Tuesday proclaimed: "World War Three, coming soon . . . see, hear, participate; a cast of billions."

And around the campus, other hollow jokes were told. One line, "The safest place to be right now is Cuba," usually got a good laugh.

But the jokes were not really funny, and the cynics who told them were not really laughing.

The jokes, instead, expressed the frustration of a society which has lost control over where it is going.

We cannot cope with the possibility of nuclear war because — democratic principles be damned — our fate lies in the hands of one man and his advisors.

John Kennedy on Monday took not only his own people, but the people of the Western bloc nations and the people of the rest of the world, to the brink of war. The action can only be described as reckless and unlawful.

Our fates are in the hands of a man who many U.S. government officials admit has made the move partly to mollify the militant U.S. right wing.

Our world is a plaything of the leader of a peace-loving nation who willfully breaks the laws of the only organization which can preserve world peace — the United Nations.

Let us ignore for a moment our blind unquestioning support of the U.S. and consider the facts surrounding the action.

President Kennedy announced that the U.S. has "reliable" evidence that Cuba is assembling Soviet-made intermediate range missiles — and aiming them at the United States. We will ignore the fact that this information has probably been gathered by the same intelligence agency which predicted the people of Cuba would rise up in support of an invasion of the island. We will acknowledge that there is a missile buildup in Cuba.

Does it mean that because one country is supplying missiles to another country that an attack is imminent? Or does it constitute an aggressive action?

If it does, then how does the U.S. justify the ring of missile bases which surround the Soviet Union . . . or for that matter the island of Cuba?

Do we have one set of rules for one player in this game of international roulette and another set for the other?

At the same time, has the U.S. not said it will go to war to defend Berlin should it be blockaded by the Soviets? So, then, is war not justified upon the U.S. and upon us, for this quarantine on Castro?

The U.S., says it will sink ships which do not allow themselves to be searched by self-appointed American protectors of the world good. But what would be the reaction to a blockaded Berlin?

If we assess the action of the United States, we are hardpressed to find reasons to justify them.

But what can we do but follow along in the footsteps of the giant who has made a wrong turn?

Britain was first to fall into line. Then the other Commonwealth countries began dutifully supporting the move that the president took.

Canada, of course, eventually tagged along.

But the countries of the Western bloc, just as the man on the street and the student on campus are saying: "What can I do?" And they are left with the obvious answer: nothing. So they go along without protest.