

Too Much Of John's Bull

by SCOTT WADE

The President of our University, Dr. Colin B. Mackay has expressed concern regarding the number of students that attended the Convocation Ceremonies.

There is no doubt that the students were aware of the Convocation Ceremonies. Classes were cancelled; the library and bookstore were closed; seniors were encouraged to march in the academic procession and articles through all press media discussed specific aspects of the occasion.

The fact that many people went disguised as empty seats is, however, understandable.

The Convocation Ceremony is notoriously long and boring.

Commencing the program last Thursday was a lengthy prayer from the Archbishop of Fredericton, who proceeded to ask the Lord's blessing for all and sundry. His prayer of Invocation could have been successfully abbreviated.

Immediately following, the President and Vice-Chancellor took his place at the lectern. Whether at a sod turning, cornerstone laying, banquet, ribbon-cutting, or graduation, Dr. Mackay seems to give approximately the same speech. His remarks could have been just as successfully shortened.

The Honourable Louis J. Robichaud was to install Sir Max Aitken as Chancellor. Prior to this, however, Mr. Robichaud had many words to say. It is indeed unfortunate that the Premier spoke in English as this seemed to restrict him to a dull and monotone reading from his prepared script. His part in the ceremony, and the ceremony itself, would have been strengthened if he had read in French.

Sir Max Aitken was the most welcome speaker of the afternoon. It was indeed a pleasure to listen to a few well chosen and well delivered words. We can look forward to his part in future ceremonies.

University Orator, Professor R. E. D. Cattle presented the candidates for their Honourary degrees. It is worth attending to hear him. His wit and colourful manner are refreshing.

The established tradition at this University is an address from a prominent Briton. This practise was introduced by Lord Beaverbrook and is apparently being continued by Sir Max Aitken, his son. This practise is of questionable value. The address this year, following the pattern of previous addresses, was largely ponderous platitudes of British bull. Dr. Gordon was partially better when he spoke to small groups of students during the two days previous to Convocation. Unfortunately these discussions were kept hush-hush and very few had the opportunity to attend. When a prominent person is at this University as a guest of the entire University body, no one or two departments should be allowed to believe that he is theirs for restricted gatherings.

It seems logical that in the future, if a large student turnout is desired then the speaker must be a person whose name is familiar to a young crowd. Secondly the ceremony must be shortened.

Dr. Mackay has also stated that it is important that students attend to show our Chancellor we are indeed grateful for his interest in this campus and our hopes that his concern will continue.

This is, perhaps, the stronger argument for a student appearance. Lord Beaverbrook, and now the Beaverbrook foundation under Sir Max Aitken, his son, have shown unprecedented interest in this University and our gratitude is at times not visible. His Lordship used to become very angry when a student turnout at the Rink was low.

Again there are many reasons for lack of student concern. To ask an undergraduate to attend out of interest for continued financial support of this institution is valid, but in vain. Students, generally, are not aware of the vital role which is played by the fund raising campaign.

Neither are we aware of the part of the Chancellor accepts. Large gifts are accepted as the norm. We don't realize that these grants are few and far between. Neither is the desperate financial situation at this University understood by the students.

To ask an undergraduate to attend out of respect is also demanding much. At the University of New Brunswick students even have disrespect for their own student government. Somehow we have not

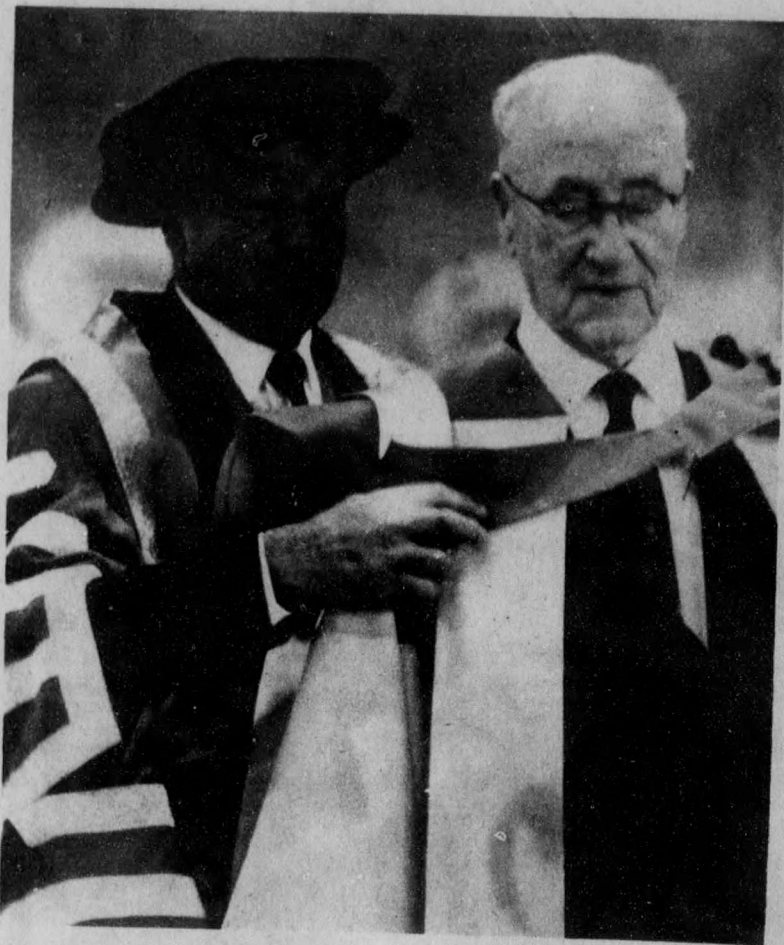
the respect for our faculty that exists elsewhere and there is a predominant feeling that the University of New Brunswick is a second-rate place.

The faculty often speak ill of each other and of the President. "He should delegate more authority." or "Why does he concern himself with the milk-containers at McConnell Hall?" How can we expect students to develop respect for those in authority above us when this respect is lacking at the faculty level.

To this must be added the student and faculty attitudes towards the Senate. There aren't a dozen students on this campus who could name six Senate members and over fifty per cent could not name more than one. A total ignorance of the role of the Senate is predominant.

Basically the spirit and ethic of deserved respect is sadly lacking at this University and it must be built. This was blatantly obvious when Sir Max Aitken attended dinner at McConnell Hall. The students did not stand. Nor have we stood when the President has arrived for a meal. At McGill and Queens they stand when a Dean appears. This is the type of attitude which, I believe, we must sincerely try to establish.

This effort must come from at least two levels. On the one hand an attempt must be made to acquaint the students with the members, obligations and concerns of the faculty, alumni, Board of Deans, President, Senate and Chancellor. On the other hand we, as students, must show respect for those in authority above us.



SIR MAX AITKEN and DR. JOHN RUTHERFORD GORDON.



Leaving the McLaren Gates are Sir Max Aitken, Dr. Colin B. Mackay, Chief Justice Bridges, Premier Robichaud, Dr. Cyrus Eaton, Premier Bennett, Dr. Philip Sherlock, and Dr. John Rutherford Gordon.



DR. CYRUS EATON