

English Defend, Explain French-Canadian Position

By Adriana Albi

Adriana Albi, 20-year old English major and veteran Gateway staffer was the only bi-lingual reporter to cover the behind-closed-doors caucus of Quebec delegates Monday night.

The public knows little about the behind-scenes infighting that has gone on between English and French-speaking delegations at the NFCUS Congress.

In this Gateway exclusive, Miss Albi records her impressions on the "strategy" talks she sat in on.

The English-speaking students of Quebec are in an awkward position.

Whether they like it or not, it has become their task to explain and often defend the position of their French-Canadian co-provincials to the remainder of the NFCUS delegates.

At the French regional caucus held in the Education Building Monday, Sept. 30, it appeared that the English-speaking students of Quebec alone have a working knowledge of the tense national situation in Quebec.

It appears that due to lack of interest or lack of press coverage the non-French NFCUS delegates do not have a true grasp of the situation.

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

It is now common knowledge that the University of Montreal said "no compromise" even before the NFCUS Conference began.

But all this ultimatum means to some NFCUS delegates is that they "might" lose the University of Montreal. The delegates from McGill, Bishops, Loyola, and Marianopolis feel that if the University of Montreal leaves NFCUS so will the remainder of the French-speaking universities of Quebec.

If this occurs, McGill, Bishops and other English-speaking universities of Quebec will have no choice but to follow suit. If they did not do this they would be committing political suicide in provincial affairs.

To prevent this tragic split and the inevitable end of NFCUS the English-speaking delegates from Quebec Monday night put forward the unofficial "McGill Proposal" at their caucus.

DIVIDED REGION

This proposal would have divided the Quebec region into an organization representing the English-speaking universities (McGill, Bishops, Loyola, Marianopolis) with an English vice-president, and an organization representing the French-speaking universities (Montreal, Sherbrooke, Laval) with a French vice-president.

These organizations would have worked together in complete cooperation. They would have dealt with problems of particular interest to each group. There would have been proportional voting. This plan

would not have changed the proposed super-structure.

Later the English-speaking students of Quebec decided not to present this plan at the Plenary Session.

The English-speaking students of Quebec are in a conciliatory mood. But they believe in the spirit of NFCUS and they will not rashly agree to anything that will appease the French-Canadians and yet will compromise the English-speaking students of Quebec. They will also refuse a solution which will destroy NFCUS.

CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS

These constructive ideas are all based upon the assumption that the French-Canadian delegates are at this conference in good faith; although it is hard to believe in the good faith of a person who is not here. (Pierre Marois, president of the students' association at the University of Montreal).

If the French-Canadian delegates came to this conference with the prefixed idea that they were leaving NFCUS, this conference will have been a very costly farce.

Compromise

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On the provincial level, equal votes will be given to the French and English groups in the NFCUS Congress on issues such as the establishment of the original structures and constitution of the provincial organization of students.

On the national level, the two groups will again receive equal votes on matters such as the establishment of the original structure and constitution of the "Canadian Union of Students."

The official name of the now bi-cultural union of Canadian students will be decided in this morning's plenary session.



DELEGATES WELCOMED—Dr. John Peterkin welcomes delegates to the NFCUS Congress. The university president warned the delegates not to worship conferences, machines and gibbness.

Chorus Here Again

Male Chorus is here again, under the directorship of Mr. David Peterkin, with a program for student participation and listening enjoyment.

Last term, Male Chorus was generally very well received and the year-end tour was a particular success. This year, several one-night out-of-town engagements and some high school concerts are planned.

"It's not too late to join," comments John McEwen, club president. Interested singers should phone: John McEwen 699-3050 or Dave Lee HO 6-3825.

Jenkins "Delighted" Congress Accepts Structure Changes

By David Estrin

David Jenkins, president of the National Federation of Canadian University Students was overwhelmed and delighted with the unanimous acceptance of the resolutions to restructure NFCUS by the 27th annual congress meeting here.

"There was no problem," Jenkins said, "in recognizing the two cultural groups—the French and English—as separate linguistic and cultural entities. This had been accepted Tuesday morning and was a revolutionary step."

He went on to say that there was no other organization in Canada which recognizes the two groups in the way NFCUS does. "The recognition of these groups is effected by holding two caucuses, in French and English, in two different rooms during some part of the annual congress."

These caucuses would be limited to dealing with items pertaining to the particular cultural or linguistic group.

FINAL HURDLE

The final hurdle to be attempted—the last and most difficult stumbling block—in the minds of the English-speaking students in Quebec, according to Jenkins, was the fate of the English-speaking students in that province.

A solution had to be reached which

would be popularly acceptable to the majority of French students and which would satisfy the English students.

The new basis of the federation provides for representation on a provincial level instead of present regional plans.

REGIONAL LINES VITAL

Jenkins maintains, however, that the regional lines are vital—for instance in dealing with education, which under the BNA Act, section 91, is a provincial responsibility. "Nevertheless, the two cultural groups," says Jenkins, "plan forced elimination of the regions such as the old NFCUS Quebec region."

"The solution arrived at provides for cooperation between the English and French university students in the province of Quebec during the approaches to the provincial government," Jenkins added. "This solution turned out to be desired by both French and English students."

LEADERS PRAISED

He praised the maturity and intelligence of the leaders from the University of Montreal, "who realized that if they couldn't work something out on a face to face basis, there would be a complete breakdown of negotiations and perhaps of the federation."

The resolutions when debated were greeted with such remarks as "an honest effort to meet our problems in a forthright way" and the "time has come when we cannot but entirely support the resolutions as a whole to ensure the viability of the future union of students."



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- Elastic with much muscle is striped to add strong color to the belt that secures men's trousers.
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