

Congress Loses Three Members: Quebecois Protest Loan Plan

by Janis Kostash

The Canadian Union of Students has lost part of itself.

At the recent 28th Congress at York University, Toronto, the three French-Canadian universities of Quebec—Sherbrooke, Laval and Montreal—withdraw from the organization.

"The stand CUS took on the federal loan scheme precipitated the issue," explained Francis Saville, who attended the congress as president of the University of Alberta students' council. "Although the organization previously recognized that education is strictly a provincial matter, it actively supported the government loan scheme."

PROVINCIAL MATTER

The French Canadians, who are vitally concerned that education be strictly a provincial matter, opposed this stand.

Saville also cited the recent march on the legislature by the students there as a precipitating factor. In demanding educational reform and provincial loans, "they were unsure of support from the west. The French-Canadian students did not feel CUS was behind them on the issue."

CUS has had a face chance once before; at the 1963 congress, held in Edmonton, 2 caucuses, French and English, were created to prevent French-Canadian students from quitting the union. The caucuses were given equal voting power in matters of education and language.

CHANGE FUTILE

But even that proved futile. Saville explained that a constitution had been drawn up since the Edmonton Congress, "but the French-Canadian withdrew before it had a chance to be tried." CUS structure is now back to a four-region set-up, of the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, and the west.

Behind them the French universities of Quebec leave their four English counterparts—McGill, Marianopolis, Bishop's, and Loyola College—still members of CUS. French-Canada is now represented by the universities of Bathurst and Moncton, and by the bilingual universities of New Brunswick and Ottawa.

And in a very awkward position, there is Jean Bazin of Laval, elected president of CUS at the last congress. He chose not to resign when his university quit the union, but he is left as the sole French-Canadian from Quebec in the organization.

The future of the three universities that withdrew from CUS now lies with the Union Generale des Etudiants de Quebec, the new provincial organization. UGEQ's membership also includes over 50 classical colleges, and possibly the English-speaking universities that remain in CUS.

Commenting on the positive aspects of the congress, Saville noted that with the structure problem out of the way, "CUS can now con-

centrate on program."

PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Significant CUS projects were described by David Estrin, arts 3, who also attended the congress as CUS chairman for U of A.

A student government research center, to centralize documentation, was approved. A nationwide submission to the Bladen commission on higher education will be undertaken by CUS, to compensate for the lack of student representation on the commission.

Internationally, CUS members agreed unanimously to lobby with all levels of the government and industry, to try to reduce trade with South Africa.

CUS SEMINAR

Also connected with the congress was the previously held annual CUS seminar in Quebec city. There, the 175 delegates analyzed the problems of confederation in plenary session and discussion groups.

Both Saville and Estrin attended the seminar as observers; "we were able to use the week's discussion as a basis for our work at the congress," Saville noted.

Saville accused the press of western Canada of inadequately covering, and therefore misrepresenting, the situation in Quebec. "It is the press' responsibility to pinpoint the true feeling of the Quebec people, and this is not being done."

Les McLeod Under the Gavel

For a long time I have been interested and fascinated by activities of Students' Council. And I've been to a few meetings to prove it. I'm going to try to pass on some of this fascination to you. It probably won't be easy—I hope it will be both enjoyable and controversial.

To begin, I'm a fairly rare bird at the U of A: I have a genuine respect for Students' Council. Sometime I am going to journey over to city hall, and compare our council with Julie's. I can guess which will come out on top.

There's another little known fact about the U of A—we have one of the most autonomous student bodies on the continent. The administration seems to believe that student government is responsible government, and the quality of our leaders has fully borne this out. I think of our last three presidents: Peter Hyndman, Dave Jenkins, and Wes Cragg, outstanding men all. We are also in the process of building our own Union building; this in itself is pretty unique.

With the above biases in mind, on with the job. As Council Shorts will tell you, Council at its last meeting passed the last few of seven motions suggested by the planning commission. There is no doubt the big issue with council, as with the rest of the students this year, will be our new Union building. Elsewhere in this issue and last week's, there are brief items about the project's course throughout the summer, but perhaps some background on the subject would not be amiss.

As upperclassmen know, and the frosh have probably been told, there was a ruckus galore about election time last spring, as Sub Expansion (then so-called) took its annual drubbing. At about the same time however, Iain MacDonald, then

planning commission chairman, was regrouping forces and intending to move ahead, albeit with a mite more attention to informing the student body. The "new" Planning Commission grew slowly till the middle of summer saw perhaps fifty people working. The idea was to review all previous planning, so that come fall or sooner, the project could proceed.

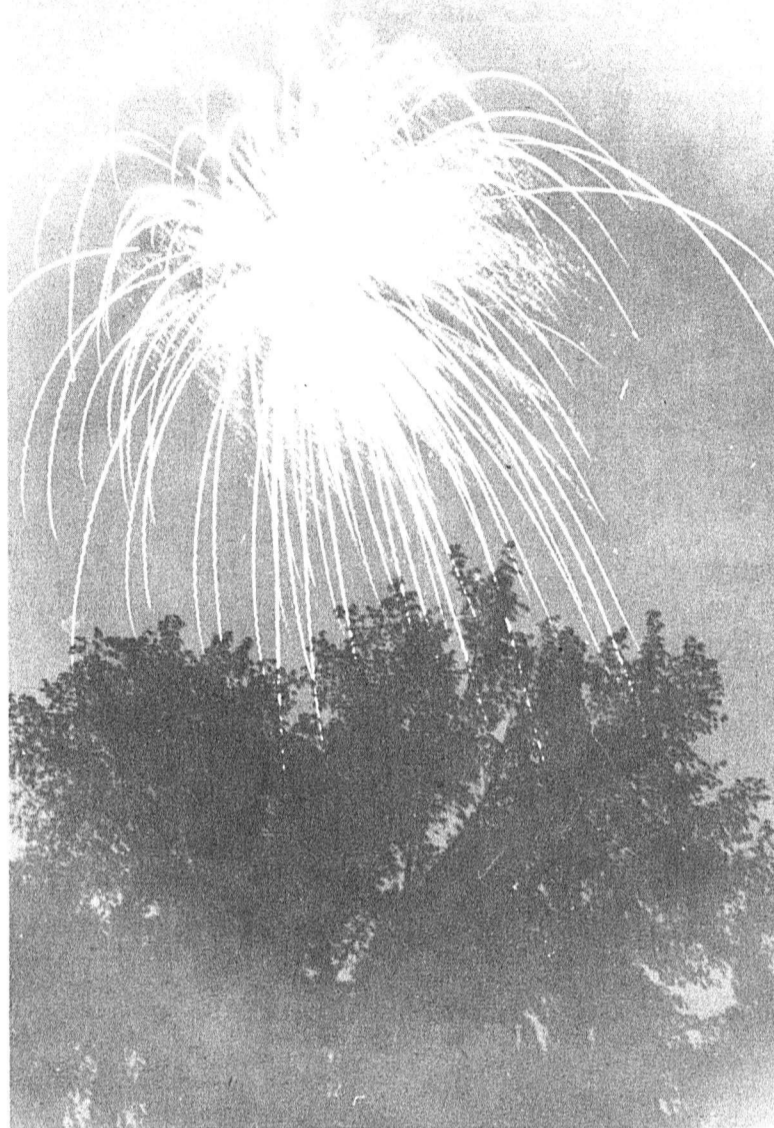
Now we must not forget the Board of Inquiry, the result of all the spring politicking, which was charged with examining the work of the Planning Commission and reporting to Council its findings. Far from working at loggerheads, as was direly predicted, the Planning Commission has assumed the Board would be a most useful group for pointing out planning flaws.

The Board report will be out in a couple of weeks, and my prediction is it will have much constructive content and little criticism of the project's basic assumptions.

YEARBOOK PHOTOS SUB 307 . . NOW

All students — please note that due to publication requirements and limited time the photo deadlines will be strictly enforced.

Pictures may be taken before the allotted dates for each faculty. BUT, no yearbook photos will be taken after the deadline.



BLAZE OF GLORY
... at the pep rally. A study by Stacey.

Forum Speaker Says Lawyers Are Humble

"Lawyers are humble creatures."

R. E. Megarry, Q.C., distinguished British counsel and barrister, addressed these words to the first session of the Law School Forum Friday.

"You will be publicly humbled in the courtroom," he told the 150 law students and interested people assembled. Lawyers constantly face public demonstration of error, he said, and must learn to bear defeat with humility and cheerfulness.

Dispelling illusions about the practicing lawyer, Mr. Megarry told students "You will be learning all your life."

"Law school is not the end of exams," he said. "You will be constantly examined in the court."

"But you will never have to read another lawbook," he added. "Instead, you will use the index to find specific information only."

Law students are presented with a clear, relevant, complete, logical set of facts and must point to the law in operation.

LAW IN PRACTICE

In practice, facts are uncertain, some are missing, and many are irrelevant. There are usually two versions of the facts, for and against, he said.

Lawyers face a process of cutting down from hundreds of facts, examining the few significant, and building up a case from these.

"In practice common sense keeps breaking in," he said. "Sometimes the law is twisted to produce a desired result."

CONSTANT DOUBT

He added, "constant doubt can carry a case to the highest court of

the land, and beyond if possible."

To put into practice theoretical classroom knowledge he recommended a six month course in professional skills, somewhat like a methods course.

"Read Encyclopedia Britannica," Mr. Megarry told a law student asking what courses apart from law school would be useful in practice.

Brilliance shows up in class when a student obtains 80 per cent, but he would be publicly humiliated in court for being 20 per cent wrong.

"No one will retain a lawyer who is wrong one out of five times," he added.

LAWYER'S CREED

Defending Britain's practice of separating the functions of barristers and solicitors, Mr. Megarry concluded with the lawyer's creed, "I may be wrong, but I have no doubts."

Author of "Miscellany-at-Law", dealing with the humorous side of law, and other books such as "Lawyer and Litigant", Mr. Megarry also edits the "Law Quarterly Review."

In Canada to deliver a series of lectures in Osgoode Hall, he is now touring Alberta and British Columbia.

"Jolly attractive location" was his first impression of the Edmonton campus.

HELP

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