

Campus editor indicted

Students re-act with major assault on Quebec justice

By JACQUES DE MONTIGNY
The Toronto Varsity

A massive assault on the administration of justice in Quebec is being launched by combined student and non-student groups in the province.

Sparked by the recent indictment of Roch Denis, managing editor of the University of Montreal newspaper *Le Quartier Latin*, for contempt of court, l'Union General des Etudiants de Quebec (UGEQ) and the student unions of Montreal and Laval universities are preparing demonstrations, legal and financial aid for his defence.

The accusation stems from a series of articles Denis wrote this summer in *L'Independence*, the newspaper published by the separatist *Rassemblement pour l'Independence Nationale*, attacking a decision rendered by Justice Philippe Lamarre of the Quebec Superior Court in which the court favored the Steinberg supermarket chain in a labor quarrel

against independent grocers in Quebec.

Controversy is being fanned by the memory of an earlier conviction of author Jacques Hebert for a biting attack on the Quebec judiciary in the famous Wilbur Coffin case.

As was the case for the strong support given to Mr. Hebert, the support given to Denis is based on the administration of justice rather than the accused's guilt or innocence.

When presented with an indictment for contempt of court, the accused has little if any recourse — he can present no defence, he is denied the right of offering the testimony of witnesses and can only try to explain to the judge why he should not be found guilty.

Freedom of speech is also a principle considered endangered by the judiciary, as Denis' articles all appeared after the court's decision had been rendered and cannot therefore be considered an intervention in the

Program changes advocated

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A change in the university programme has been advocated by Dr. Charles Hendry, Chairman of the National Committee of Canadian Schools of Social Work.

Hendry, attending the convention of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada here, said he would like to see the introduction of practical courses in the BA programme.

These courses would lead to a BA degree in social work, he said at a press conference.

"Science has created many problems through automation and speedier communications.

Hendry also supports the setting up of social welfare training programmes which do not lead to university degrees.

He said these would be part of a crash programme to provide more social workers which are needed if Canada's social programmes are to be fulfilled.

He said one of the major problems facing social workers is that the full dimensions of the manpower shortage in social work is not yet known.

"But we know there are not enough qualified people to man the essential existing services," said Hendry.

He said of seeking a remedy not for the policies of a public-opinion conscious government but for the established practices of a stratified bureaucracy.

processes of justice.

The whole incident is widely associated with Quebec Attorney-general Claude Wagner, who has been highly unpopular with students and student leaders in Quebec — as far back as the famous events of the Queen's visit to Quebec City last year.

Already demonstrations have been held to coincide with Denis' first appearance in court on the accusation.

To those who have often wondered what student syndicalism in Quebec means this can serve as a valuable example.

Students and student unions have not hesitated to come to the support of a student accused and endangered by what they consider an unjust administration of justice.

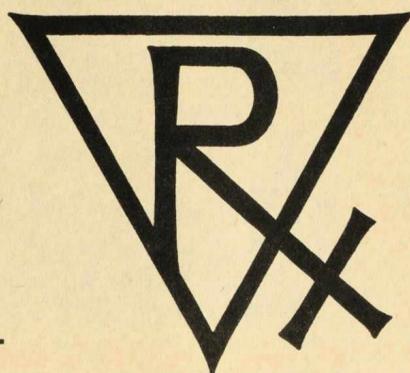
But it is not a simple question of protecting one's own. No one has claimed or even commented on Mr. Denis' innocence.

They see here a fault in the society they profess to feel responsible for and they seek to remedy the situation.

Significantly they have found growing public support in their fight and it can certainly not be considered or passed off as just another recrimination by students.

It matters that their fight be successful. It matters much more that they are not shying away from the frightening pros-

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