

The role

of the CIA

# A challenge to council

By RICHARD PRICE

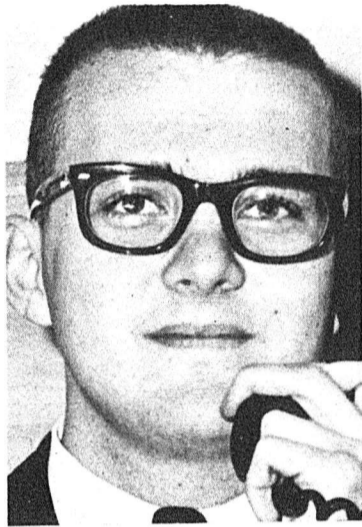
former students' union president  
After reading Marilyn Pilkington's article "Vice-president cuts CIA and 'activists,'" I feel compelled to write a reply.

Many of Miss Pilkington's statements are simply untrue.

I can only conclude that she has either misrepresented the facts or was misinformed about the situation.

I prefer to believe the latter. Marilyn's overall conclusion would appear to be that "the CIA, in their attempt to undermine the council is not working in the best interests of the students at the university." Earlier in the article she incorrectly explains the work done on certain projects by the 1965-66 council.

One of the principle cornerstones of democratic theory is the right of the minority in a society to organize and become the majority, by convincing people of the soundness of their political ideas.



RICHARD PRICE  
... outlines role of CIA

These rights of the minority are not permitted in fascist or communist states. There can be little doubt then, that the action taken by the Campus Involvement Association stands on firm ground.

Perhaps it would be useful to outline what I conceive to be the role of the CIA.

Our concern is not to undermine council—rather to challenge it. The following are some of our goals:

- to form study groups which will examine and discuss the pressing social issues in the spheres of: curriculum; university government; equality of educational opportunity; native Indian affairs; national affairs; and international affairs.

- arising from these study groups will be resolutions which hopefully will get to the heart of the central issues in these areas.

- these issues would then be presented to students' council, The Gateway, and the general student body, with the hope of effecting both discussion and action.

- insure that these issues play a vital role in determining the results of the next student elections or referendums.

Our overall goal is to effect some meaningful social change in these key areas and bring a real sense of "grass roots democracy" to this campus, by having the issues flowing up to students' council from the students, not having council defining what the issues shall be.

Why was the CIA formed? Why not work within the framework of the students' union?

The following are the reasons for our action:

- the CIA sees the scope of student concern and action in much broader terms than does students' council (e.g. the Ward-Schepanovich arguments).

- the CIA group, formerly the pro-CUS Committee, had attempted negotiations with the council executive and found them taking a hard, uncompromising, stance. The tendency was thus not to work with the council executive.

- in viewing the political situation, we felt the best chances for reform and presenting ideas was as part of political group on campus.

Students' council is far more likely to listen to and act on the ideas of a group which has a base of political power, than it is to the ideas of one of its committees.

- we were forced to conclude students' council was primarily interested in administration. Even in the areas which council said it was interested (university government, universal accessibility) we saw no policy statements in The Gateway and saw no evidence of direct action.

Thus the CIA was formed in the firm conviction that what we were doing was in the best interests of the student body. It should be noted that many members of the CIA, myself included, still work for

some union committees.

In the Casserole article, Miss Pilkington mentioned the following areas of student council concern; namely, "freshmen orientation seminars, high school visitation programs, Indian affairs activities, academic relations programs, university government programs, and co-operative housing."

Then came the most amazing statement of all.

"Since the last council made no headway on most of these items, we have had to develop these programs from nothing."

Perhaps we can deal with these items individually and briefly outline the work of the 1965-66 council:

- freshman orientation programs—discussions were initiated with Mr. Stoneham, then director of food services, and Prof. A. A. Ryan, with a tentative plan of action informally approved.

- high school visitation—a brief on the "education corps" concept was presented to the rural school superintendents, and it won immediate approval. Plans to effect this program were then begun with Dr. J. D. Freisen, director of the dept of education's guidance program.

- Indian affairs activities—a student committee worked in this area all last year and sponsored Canadian Native Week at the end of January.

- academic relations programs—this committee has been active for three years with a student questionnaire to evaluate courses the most effective results.

- university government programs—following a CUS seminar on democracy in the university community. A student committee drafted a brief which was presented to the general faculty council, the senate, the board of governors, and the provincial government.

- co-operative housing—students' council delegated this job to a Varsity Christian Fellowship committee, whose job it was to draft a recommendation for council action.

It is quite obvious that much had been done on these areas, and that students' council's job this year was to follow these projects through to completion or at least build on the work which had been done.

Why Marilyn chose to ignore these facts is not clear to me.

I am forced to conclude this outburst by our vice-president is primarily an attempt to discredit the CIA and those students working within it. Indeed it is very much easier to discredit a rival set of political ideas than to take them seriously.

Despite the real differences of opinion as to what should be the areas of student concern, I am still hopeful that progress can be made.

I would agree with Miss Pilkington that this can only take place if we stop bickering among ourselves and get on with the job.

## Vietnam war topic of bitch-in

"It may become necessary to replace the present government in Canada to get peace in Vietnam."

This was the view of Bernard Bloom, political science grad student. He was one of the speakers at the U of A Vietnam Action Committee bitch-in Friday.

He added he did not think Pearson, Diefenbaker or St. Laurent were personally to blame, but there must be something wrong with a system which permitted such atrocities as Vietnam to take place.

Bloom charged J. Blair Seabourne, Canada's member on the Vietnam truce supervisory commission with making confidential intelligence reports directly to the United States on Vietnam.

A variety of other views were also expressed at the bitch-in, especially by speakers from the floor:

—"East differs from West in that communists advocate revolution. It (communism) may help the underdeveloped countries, but consider the consequences to us."

—"It is dangerous to consider it ideologically and personally. What is important now is that people are dying."

—"If you can't win a war at a table, you win or lose it on the field. I'd like to win."

—"The peasants are not fighting for communism or socialism. This is secondary. They are fighting for a better way for themselves."

—"I feel sorry for the Vietnamese

suffering, but there are many Americans dying, and if we don't stop them (communists) our children will die."

Peace protestors at U of A are afflicted by a diarrhea of words.

This is the opinion of Rick Fielding and Buddy Walker, Toronto folk-singers who supplied musical entertainment for the bitch-in.

They have been doing the night-spots in Edmonton for several days. "This work (protests for peace) is the only sort of thing I do free," said Fielding.

"The group in Toronto is getting jaded," he added, and Edmonton may be just a "smaller, cleaner, duller Toronto."

"About the only good they (Toronto protestors for peace) are doing is helping draft-dodgers get into the village and giving them phony identification."

Fielding was evidently impressed when invited to perform at the bitch-in.

"Prior to this," he said, "I didn't think there was any opinion in Alberta." He admitted his impression may have been due to a lack of communication.

DR. P. J. GAUDET

DR. D. B. EAGLE

OPTOMETRISTS

Office Phone 439-2085

201 Strathcona Medical Dental Bldg.  
8225-105th Street, Edmonton, Alberta

"The place to shop for all your men's wear needs."

Phone 424-1371  
10125 - 102nd Street  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Edmonton's Style Center for Men

success suits you  
confirms it

THE all-male toiletry that interests women.  
AFTER SHAVE, COLOGNE, SOAP, DEODORANT, HAIR TONIC, TALC, SHAVING CREAM.

new / rebuilt / sales / service

IBM ELECTRIC  
REMINGTON ROYAL SMITH-CORONA  
UNDERWOOD HERMES  
VINCENT J. MAHONY / JACK MITCHELL

dial 424-0688

universal typewriter Ltd.  
10750 - JASPER AVENUE, EDMONTON