

3 CUS Referendums this week in Halifax

By MAUREEN PHINNEY

On January 24 three local universities will decide whether or not to stay in CUS.

St. Mary's, Mount Saint Vincent, and University of Kings College are all holding referendums. Since many students in these universities feel that CUS and its policies do not represent their views they want to get out.

Bill Bryant, Kings Student Council President spoke about his views on CUS and the referendum.

"We're having a Council meeting on the 18th in which we'll work out our policy and vote to see whether or not the council will recommend to the student body whether or not we'll stay in. I think what I say about it will have weight on Council. Personally, I want to get out."

"CUS is not a national union and it certainly doesn't represent the views of the majority of Canadian students. In the first place it deals too much in politics which cause disagreement among its members. If students want to deal in political issues they can work through other channels. CUS has no right to take political stands. I see CUS's role essentially of that of a service union. It should only deal with problems which directly affect Canadian students. When CUS goes around making political statements on international affairs it only serves to alienate the federal government when we're

trying to lobby with them up in Ottawa."

We've tried in the past to bring about changes in CUS, changes which we felt would make it more democratic, more representative, but we've gotten nowhere. We feel therefore, that we're not getting anything out of CUS by staying in. "I don't think that getting out of CUS precludes the possibility of changing it. It doesn't stop us from going to their conferences and making our views felt." If the referendum were right now instead of next week, I think Kings would drop out of CUS. But after they hear really eloquent people like Wayne Hankey (former Kings Council President) speaking on this issue, in favour of CUS, I'm not so sure - because he's one of the most eloquent speakers in Canada. I know they'll try to use the 'we need a national union' bit and they'll try to make it sound good. I wouldn't like to predict which way the referendum at Kings will go but either way it'll be very close. Marilyn Hutchins, Council President at the Mount, believes her Council is pro-CUS and is doing her best to get the student body to vote to stay in.

"We're presenting the issue with an emphasis on the business of the necessity of having a national union of our own to represent us. Most of the people at the Mount don't know much about CUS - they know it exists and that's all. They haven't been educated about it and that's our fault."

"If the motion to stay in CUS doesn't go through, there'll be little or no reaction here. So what we're trying to do in the little time we've got left before the referendum is to educate the students as much as possible about CUS and how it can affect them and they can affect it. We're holding small meetings and discussions on CUS and are having speakers tell us more about it. The most we can do is to give everyone a fair chance to learn about the union and hope that as many as possible will take advantage of it."

Mike O'Sullivan, Student Council President at St. Mary's spoke about what is being done there in preparation for the referendum.

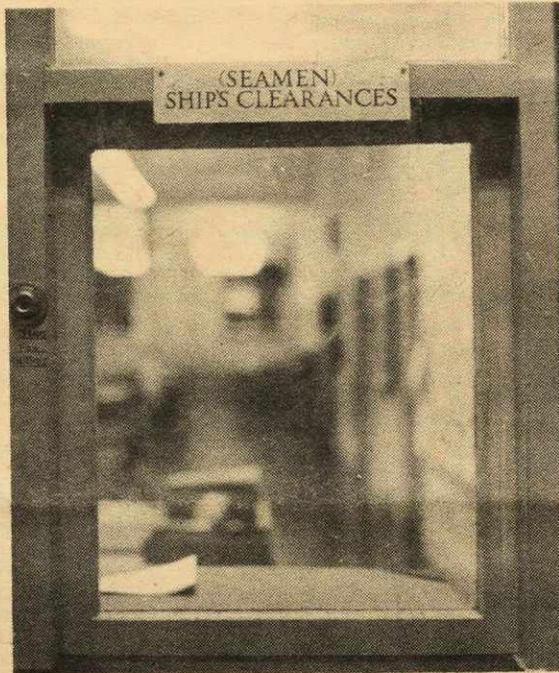
"At a Council meeting last Wednesday night the Council passed a recommendation 10-1 in favour of staying in CUS. Most students here agree with the concept of a national union but there's a lot of criticism of CUS and we want to take a look at what's wrong; for instance, how representative of the opinions of the student body are the delegates sent to the CUS congress."

"This weekend we're having a leadership seminar, and hopefully we'll be having someone from CUS speak at the Student Body Meeting we're having - and have him take away some of the misconceptions students have about CUS. All we can do then is wait and see how it turns out."

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The immigration department last week granted a rehearing in the case of nine Polish seamen who were previously scheduled to be deported back to Poland this month, after having been refused entry into Canada.

The board will review the case early next month, it was learned.

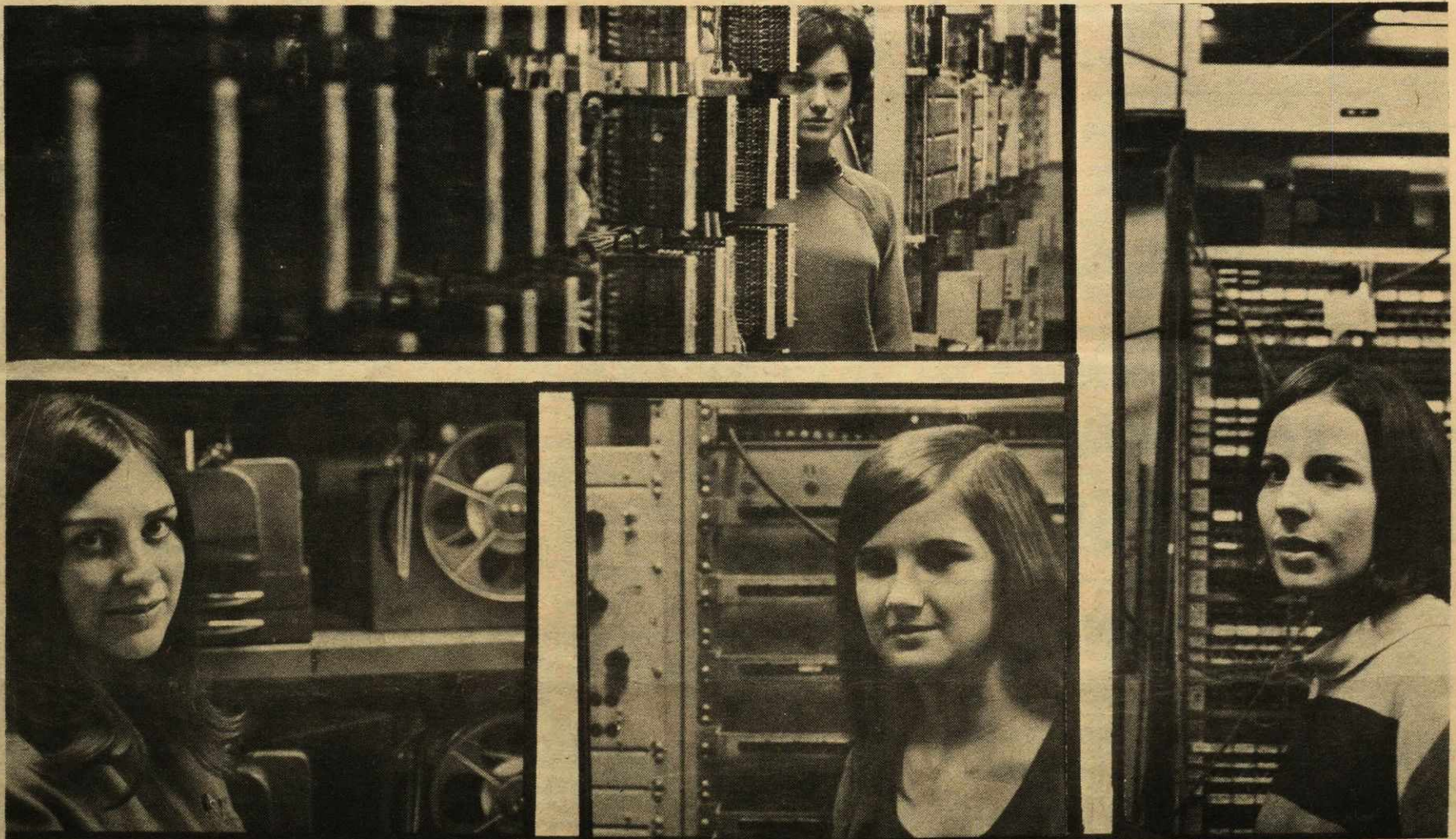
In the second week of January a petition was organized by several Dalhousie students, and collected more than 3400 signatures. A spokesman from the Dalhousie Committee for Political Action spent several days in Ottawa last week, meeting with government and opposition leaders to discuss the case.

On Wednesday he met with the minister, Mr. Allen McEachen, and received assurances that the case would be reopened.

On Friday, a member of the Committee for Political Action told the GAZETTE, "we are satisfied that the government is aware of, and will consider, the position held by the 3400 persons who signed the petition dealing in the case of the nine Polish seamen."

Now that the re-hearing has been granted, we feel certain that the immigration department's counsel to the appeals board will bring the case into line with government policy.

"The CPA is sending letters of thanks to Dr. Haidasz, Liberal M.P. from Toronto, Conservative M.P. Michael Forrestal of Dartmouth, and the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, for their advice and assistance in bringing the case before the government."



Winter Carnival Princesses: Susan Longmire, Dolores Mitchell, Jean Maddox, and Heather Cuthbert.