

After Bookstore Picket

Comes Hick's promise to open university books

Textbook prices may soon be lowered.

As a result of action by concerned students called, The Committee on Fair Book Prices, action will be taken to reduce book costs in the future. The students, who picketed on September 12 and 13, in front of the bookstore, effectively stopped about sixty per cent of the potential customers from entering the store. Their demands were simple.

Stated briefly they are:

1.) "That the Dalhousie Administration recognize that the administration of a bookstore is an educational cost in the same sense that administration of a library is an educational cost, that overhead and employees' salaries must therefore be assumed by the university as a whole, as they are in the case of a library, and that the money required to accomplish this be found by adjustment of the university's financial priorities to recognize the real, not peripheral, matters of educational importance; and the result of this must be that books be sold at cost price, or lower."

2.) "that if for some reason such an adjustment is impossible, the university should explain its financial priorities to the students and the tax-payers, that it must publish a detailed and complete account of its budgets and expenditures for the mutual scrutiny of students and tax-payers, that it justify its policies on the bookstore with reference to such dubious practices and facilities as we have previously mentioned, and that President Hicks, as the representative of our university approach the government about the necessity of the adjustment of the problem, and inform both the students and the taxpayer of the outcome of his deliberations."

3.) "that the university bookstore be closed until the resolution of this problem."

The majority of the students who read this list of demands and who were aware of the bookstore picket action were sympathetic to it. Bookstore manager J.C. Malone had "no comment" to make on the action except to note that "some good may come of it."

Many students decided to wait for the outcome of the action before they purchased their books, or decided to buy them at stores where they are cheaper.

The majority of students who did not honour the picket line were Law and Medical students, who cannot purchase their textbooks anywhere in the city except at the Dalhousie Bookstore.

Several demands of the Committee for Fair Book Prices were met at a joint meeting of President Hicks, representatives of the Student Council, and the Committee itself.

The Student Council fully supported the Committee's criticism and proposals.



During the meeting, President Hicks offered that students could assume responsibility for the bookstore. This proposal was rejected by all student representatives on the grounds that the Bookstore is a necessary and important student service which should have its overhead assumed by the university as a whole.

It was also made clear that students were asking for an internal adjustment of financial priorities of the university in order to pay for their demands.

When President Hicks asked for suggestions as to what priorities were to be changed, it was explained that students could not possibly suggest financial priorities when they have no knowledge of what the financial priorities of the university are.

The President then offered to show the financial statement of the university to the student representatives, and that after its submission to the Board of Governors, it would be released for pub-

lications, providing that some attempt was made to keep it in context.

Randy Smith, Dal Student Council President, said he would, after examining the financial statements and consulting with his Council, make representation to the meeting of the Executive of the Board of the Governors, in order that the priorities of the university be changed to conform to at least some extent to student expectations.

Smith informed President Hicks that either vice-presidential elections or some other means would be used to demonstrate that students in fact supported the requested change in bookstore policy. He also made it clear that if the Board of Governors rejected student requests, mobilization of the student body as a whole might be necessary.

Student Council and Committee members agreed that bookstore customers should save their sales slips in order to obtain a retroactive discount.

U's of Alta., Lethbridge, Toronto

Three New Representivity Players

OTTAWA (CUP)— Three more campuses joined Canada's student representivity game over the summer. The players: The universities of Alberta, Lethbridge and Toronto.

In June, the board of governors at the University of Alberta announced "a new policy which will provide an opportunity for more direct communications with the student body." The board invited two members of the students council (or their nominees) to attend meetings of the board as "student consultants."

Marilyn Pilkington, president of the students union, called the move a "significant step forward in the movement to gain effective student influence in university government."

Last month Dr. Sam Smith, university president of Lethbridge, announced 25 students would be "directly involved in the administration of the university."

This total includes 11 representatives on the general faculty council and two on the university senate.

On August 10, the students administrative council at the University of Toronto voted to accept seats on the president's Council, the university's senior policy advisory body.

However, SAC set three conditions for acceptance of the seats: students have equal representation with faculty, council meet in public.

SAC be the body to decide on the manner of selection of student representatives.

University committee chairman Bob Rae told students that "it could be a great mistake to join the

council with any attitude but articulate anger."

Steve Langdon, SAC president, said, "We should accept, with skepticism, because we can get more

information about how the university operates and can confront the administration with our view of what the university and the society should be."

Canada and Quebec

Editor's Note: This is one of the resolutions passed at the CUS Congress this summer. Dalhousie voted against it.

The Canadian Union of Students recognizes the historical fact of two national communities within Canada. There are two dominant, distinct and persistent life styles in this country. Canada is bi-national. We further recognize that the English national community has continually exploited the French national community, which has been defended only by Quebec. The home of the French national community is Quebec; that of the English, the rest of Canada. Even the colonial British North America Act reflected the fact that Quebec is not a province just like the others.

Radical constitutional revision is required. The citizens of Quebec, so long subjected to second-class status in Canada, must have the right to decide whether they want to remain a part of the country in which they have felt and been considered foreign. They must have the right to national self-determination. This means we consider Quebec to be sovereign. Should Quebec as a sovereign nation, wish to establish a bi-

national government with English Canada, negotiations must be conducted on a basis of equality.

Meanwhile the fragmentation of English Canada into nine separate provinces must end. Our country is increasingly becoming a collection of city-states strung out along the American border. The crucial problems of democratic economic independence, urbanization and education cannot be dealt with by our small provinces. We need a strong central national government for English Canada. In addition, we need to free municipal governments from their present subservient position vis-a-vis the so-called 'senior' governments so that strengthened municipal governments can prevent over-centralization in English Canada. Only then will we Canadians enjoy governmental structures that will enable us to deal with our urgent problems. We recognize the existence within English Canada of a French minority which has fought for several generations to preserve itself. English Canada has a profound responsibility to assist this minority in maintaining its cultural heritage.