

Edmonton On Sabbatical

All 11,000 students at the University of Alberta at Edmonton are no longer members of the Canadian Union of Students. Edmonton council president Branny Schepanovich was elected on a platform of a possible CUS pull-out.

Schepanovich is an honorable man, and has spent the seven months since his March election carefully weighing CUS.

He thinks CUS does not represent Canadian Students, and has no business speaking to governments on behalf of students.

He therefore urges the union to pull back to campus service station policies and drop issues such as universal accessibility, academic freedom, and reform of education finance.

When he found little support for these ideas at this month's CUS congress in Halifax, he warned student leaders his school would probably leave the union.

And while we cannot agree with Schepanovich, we believe Edmonton's decision has been responsibly and carefully considered.

But in the past, Edmonton was always one of the silver-lined pockets which supported CUS in its usual times of duress.

A few years ago Edmonton's voluntary levy of 40 cents per student in addition to the compulsory levy of 60 cents was all that kept CUS in business.

A former Edmonton council president, David Jenkins, was CUS national president in 1964-65.

Under president Richard Prince, Edmonton last year became sponsor of CUS's \$300,000 centennial project, Second Century Week.

Schepanovich has said he will honour that commitment and the week will go on.

The withdrawal seems to be a passing crisis, a catharsis necessary to Alberta students — before they can confidently support the main block of Canadian students.

Call it sabbatical leave, if you will, and expect Edmonton back in a year or two.

There is no need to make an enemy of Edmonton.

There is a serious need to respect a hard decision, buoyed perhaps by the hope that when Edmonton returns, it will again take its leadership role in the union — with greater vigor and wisdom than ever before.

The Ubysey
Editor John Kelsey.

Students' Voice

At the time this paper was going to press, we were told that the President of the Students' Representative Council was to present a brief to the University Senate about Radio UNB.

Should Radio UNB go on the air? That is the subject of the brief. The Council President thinks it should.

But on whose authority will he make this statement? Has he consulted Council? Has he consulted any professional radio men? Has he consulted the student body?

Our Council President feels that he can speak to the Senate on only his own authority. This indicates his respect for the students. He will have only one chance as President to face the Senate on this issue. He does not care, apparently, to consult anyone on a matter as important as this. His action indicates that he feels the student voice ends with the counting of ballots.

Undoubtedly he will act with even less concern for student opinion on less expensive (and therefore less important) matters.

Brunswickan

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Letters To The Editor

COUNCIL MEMBER DEFENDS SRC'S EXISTENCE

Editor:

The whole point of the dramatic attack by Gary Davis at last week's SRC meeting (Oct. 2, 1966) is not whether the Council is valuable but whether the public meeting on Sunday evening is valuable. Mr. Davis does admit value to the Council — although only within a very narrow scope, i.e. as a financial source for campus activity. I believe he is stubbornly missing many other features of this body such as its being a source of leadership; a body of willing workers; a recognized communications unit between students and the administration, the government and the public; a financing source for major campus activities; plus a source of many other tangible benefits. The purpose of this letter is not to argue the benefits of the Council, for clearly Mr. Davis and I both accept this fact.

However, closing down the Council is a nonsensical suggestion because of reasons important to the concept and operation of any democratic government.

The Council meetings are open, public meetings, i.e. any and all students can attend. Such an arrangement allows for personal public evaluation, observation, criticism or support. If the Council chose to execute its action behind the doors of the two SRC offices, complete student involvement would be next to impossible. Students wanting to know what is happening and why would be constantly in the

offices. The members and Mrs. Peters could spend the majority of their time answering these queries; thus few of the council's objectives would be met. The public meeting, however, allows for these questions — truly it wants them. If the Campus shows interest, then the Council will be more aware of student views and more assured in its direction of travel. Any government consists of two groups — the actual government members and the people they represent. For really effective and optimum government action the communications between these two parties must be upheld to the maximum. Thus a public meeting which permits student involvement is simply one way of providing a clear, easy channel of communication for both parties.

Individuals or groups may find particular value from the public meetings. If each committee was an autonomous unit it could hand out decisions or ultimatums which were biased, unfair or non-beneficial to the students. Very little effective pressure could be brought to bear on these committees to change their viewpoint. However these committees are responsible to the Council which is in return responsible to the students. So by having a public meeting the committees must present their arguments and proposals to the full satisfaction of Council members, who in making their decision are committing themselves publicly to the wrath of student opinion, which can be, and sometimes is used skilfully to reproach Council and

correct erroneous or poor decisions. The fact that this action is public is vital because then each member displays his actions and views and can be held clearly responsible and accountable. This public aspect is so powerful that it is one of the prime punishments for SRC offenders, i.e. the offender and his charge can be published in the campus paper if he is found guilty.

Furthermore money is distributed for conferences and emergencies throughout the fiscal year, not just at Council budget meetings, so Council must come into session to do this function. Also delegates to these conferences must be approved and appointed at irregular intervals, so again Council must meet. For situations like these one could change the Constitution to make the particular committees autonomous, but such action would defeat a purpose of the Constitution, i.e. to keep the power in the whole Council's hand for a better guard against mismanagement.

Gary Davis said in the preamble to his brief that the Council wastes its time at the Sunday meetings because the students do not attend and are disinterested. Then he submits a brief calling for disbanding of the Council as if it were the Council's fault that no one was in the audience. To me a different viewpoint is justified and much more accurate. The Council should do the complaining ... members spend many hours doing its work — work that

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