

# Johns favors gov't decision

## Interdenominational campus postponement gets backing

Two U of A administrators are in agreement with the decision to postpone action on an interdenominational university.

"I was somewhat relieved to note that the minister of education decided not to provide legislation at present on the question of an interdenominational university," said U of A president Dr. Walter H. Johns.

"It was becoming evident that a number of denominations had reservations about the feasibility of such a project," he said.

Dr. Johns said far more study is required.

"The establishment of such a university would require careful consultation with various denominations, the Universities Commission and with Alberta universities themselves."

The chairman of the Universities Commission, Dr. W. H. Swift, declined comment in detail on the question of an interdenominational university.

### FINAL SAY

"It's a government matter, and the government has made its decision," he said.

"There are many people who would be interested in an interdenominational university. Consequently, it might be good if such a venture be attempted, but I don't know whether or not it is feasible," he said.

Dr. Johns questioned how such a university would be set up.

"I don't see how you could have a central university run by various denominations."

"There have been many changes with the recent ecumenical movement, but I don't quite see how this could work at the moment," he said.

However, Dr. Johns pointed out he would very seldom want to condemn an idea at the start. He said there are many factors to be taken into consideration.

### NO NEED

"I personally don't see any need for an interdenominational university," he said.

"The objectives of church denominations on a university campus can be worked out in other ways."

"There are a number of religious influences on campus now, he said, but I think people tend to ignore them."

Commenting on the two religious colleges on campus, Dr. Johns said, "The two colleges here don't give so much in the way of arts courses as the religious colleges of such universities as the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto."

"St. Joe's offers only a few courses recognized by the U of A, and St. Steve's offers even fewer courses."

# Deans criticize quotas

Two faculty deans have voiced criticism of quotas on student enrollment.

Dean of engineering Dr. R. M. Hardy is opposed to the quota of 1,750 set on his faculty by the provincial government.

It will be reached by 1972, he said.

Dean of education Dr. H. T. Coutts said, "I am personally opposed to quotas imposed either externally or internally. I believe in students' having a free choice to follow their own course."

He claimed a quota of 3,900 students placed on his faculty will force him to begin placing limits on student admissions in 1968. Present enrolment is 3,200.

Dr. Coutts also accused the provincial government of not doing any long-range planning for university expansion.

University president Dr. Walter H. Johns said an academic plan based on 18,000 students with a 10 per cent leeway has been formed. It will be presented to the Universities Commission this week.

"The 18,000-student figure was originally proposed as the limit for accommodation on the present campus and in Garneau. It is not a limit on the total university," the president said.

Dr. Hardy suggested letting junior colleges handle first-year engineering students. "That could be done in six months as opposed to the five years needed to build a new engineering faculty."

According to Dr. Johns, however, it would be "uneconomical" to split professional faculties like engineering.

Dr. Hardy said the engineering faculty viewed the quotas as pushing qualified students out of engineering.

"The way the economy is developing, there is a greater and greater need for people with engineering training," he said.



—Iain Robertson photo

**THE BOOB OF THE TUBE**—Uncouth engineers mistakenly thought Gateway editor Bill Miller was a second-grade ham and painted him with purple meat dye, after storming his office and dragging him to their den of iniquity, then hauled him off to CFRN-TV. The engineers took the action after Miller censored a four-page engineers' section of *The Gateway* which was to appear Feb. 8.

## Social involvement

# McGill rejects CUS involvement in favor of UGEQ syndicalism

**MONTREAL (CUP)**—The Canadian Union of Students waved good-bye last Wednesday to its last Quebec stronghold, after McGill students voted 58 per cent to join Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec.

In the two-part referendum, McGill voted 3,618 to 924 in favor of joining a national union, then dumped its CUS ties 2,063 to 1,489.

The McGill withdrawal, eighth from CUS in the last five months, was no surprise to CUS president

Doug Ward, who called the move a "priority political decision."

Commented Ward: "If I had been a student on the McGill campus, I would have voted the same way."

"I was delighted that the McGill students voted so strongly to join a union knowing full well that both unions are getting involved in the society around them and in their university communities."

Ward's enthusiasm wasn't shared by McGill council president Jim McCoubrey, who said while re-

sults indicated McGill students wanted to leave CUS and join UGEQ, the vote was "extremely close".

Commented McCoubrey: "I think we can do a lot within UGEQ to stress the rights of the English minority, and these rights must be respected by UGEQ."

"Every effort possible will be made by the English universities and colleges to make the union bilingual as soon as possible," he warned.

"If our demands can make French-Canadian nationalism rear its ugly head and not get bilingualism, we still will have accomplished something."

Then he added: "I have strong reservations about almost all of UGEQ's policies."

Initial reaction from UGEQ over McGill's decision came quickly Wednesday night, and as expected, was favorable.

### BENEFICIAL

Said UGEQ president Roger Nelson: "Naturally we are very pleased McGill has finally decided to join UGEQ. Its membership will no doubt prove beneficial to the university and to the aims of UGEQ."

Doug Ward had supported this latest withdrawal from CUS all during the campaign preceding Wednesday's vote, but was quoted as saying McGill could choose one of the two and still "not do a bloody thing in either of them."

After the ballots were counted, he warned McGill has "a lot of building to do" now that it's in UGEQ. "It's in a big league now," he cautioned.

# Council cheerleaders praise McGill pull-out

Students' union president Branny Schepanovich is "pleased" with McGill University's recent CUS withdrawal.

"It will weaken CUS further, making it incur an even larger deficit. It's going to be interesting to see how the CUS directors solve the financial crisis," he commented.

Secretary-treasurer Al Anderson said, "McGill has made the point—CUS is not satisfactory."

"I am somewhat disappointed they found the Union Generale des Etudiants de Quebec the answer."

"I don't think the views of McGill and UGEQ toward student activism and the student in society are compatible."

"The provincial solidarity bit is what UGEQ was sold on. The Quebec government was being criti-

cized for its educational policy; UGEQ was the white knight standing up against injustice. McGill thought it had better get on the bandwagon," commented Anderson.

UGEQ recognizes only the French language. McGill is an English university in Montreal. UGEQ has become a synonym for student syndicalism and a loud voice in provincial affairs; McGill, at last fall's CUS congress, spoke against a policy of student political involvement.

"These incompatibilities could amount to a split," said Anderson.

### GO IT ALONE

Anderson expressed disappointment that McGill did not decide to go it alone.

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