

IWA FORMED

The Second Annual World Affairs Conference was held at McGill University, November 12 to 15. Chosen to represent Dalhousie by a Council of Students committee composed of Judith Bennett, Jack Davidson, Professors MacLean and MacKay, were Judith Bell and Norm Rebin. It is of special interest to Dalhousians that both representatives were among the eight students selected to be interviewed on radio broadcasts at the Conference.



Canada is a great and compassionate country! To those who would doubt my reasoning may I say that I have based this sentiment on two recent events, both grossly dissimilar, and yet oddly united by a common theme—the personality of the Canadian people.

In many minds the Springhill disaster is a closed chapter. To the relatives of the men who perished though, and to those people whose livelihood is dependent upon the mining industry, Springhill shall live forever as a symbol of the diabolic tragedies that life and the nature of things occasionally wrecks us. There was practically nothing about Springhill to warm the heart of an ordinary mortal or, to give practically nothing, because I say practically nothing, because to me one thing stood out; something which I feel permeates the very policy of the Canadian government itself. This can be called the compassion of the Canadian personality.

From every area in Canada, every province and practically every city, from the universities and various organizations of our country, flooded money, supplies, telegrams of encouragement, letters of condolence, volunteer aid groups, to relieve the burden laid upon Springhill. Television, radio and the newspapers devoted time and energy in an effort to keep an anxious Canadian public informed of the hour by hour rescue operations taking place in the darkened mines. The Canadian populace wasn't CURIOUS, it was WORRIED. It didn't ask instinctively, "what happened," it asked before the circumstances were known, "Can we help?" This is compassion. This is also a characteristic of the truest form of citizenship, to feel so deeply for one's country, that every individual unit, every success and every failure, every joy and every tragedy becomes a throbbing issue of concern for all Canadians. This was the case in Springhill.

Although much more can still be done, financially and otherwise, to aid the victims, I am optimistic and proud of the fact that Canadian compassion has and will continue to prove itself.

The recent World Affairs Conference at McGill (at which 24 Canadian and 13 United States universities participated) exemplified the GREATNESS of the Canadian personality. In my opinion (and many undoubtedly disagree with me) greatness personifies a broad-minded approach to problems, a tolerant attitude toward conflicting ideas, and a sincere desire to resolve differences and present constructive solutions. To me the three days at McGill illustrated this and more. I saw at the conference, a solid respect which United States delegates had for Canadian domestic and international policy. I noticed also, the obvious surprise registered by our friends across the border at the keen knowledge and observation displayed by Canadians towards all aspects of the United States. This knowledge plus the sincere interest in learning and a desire to conciliate conflicting views displayed by Canadian and U.S. delegates alike is, to this editor, a true criterion for intellectual greatness.

A requirement for going to the Conference was the willingness of the representatives to form IWA—Institute of World Affairs. IWA is a subsidiary of WUSC. Norm Rebin was appointed last week Cultural and Educational Officer of the latter organization and has as his main function the sponsoring of IWA.

IWA has as Faculty Advisors Professor Aitchison, Professor MacKay, Professor Heasman and Professor MacLean. Along with Judith Bell and Norm Rebin; Moira Kerr, WUSC chairman, Herman Cohen, Janet Allen, Alroy Chow and Bill McCurdy are serving on the committee forming IWA.

IWA begins its meetings next term and has on its agenda, panels on world affairs, and speeches by eminent men. It is contemplating on bringing to Dalhousie the Russian Ambassador to Canada.

The following is an interview with Judith Bell and Norm Rebin: Question: What was the theme of the conference?

Answer: Canadian-U.S. relations in four major fields: political, economic, socio-cultural and military. Question: Who participated?

Answer: Delegates from 26 Canadian and 13 American universities. Question: What were the main political issues raised?

Answer: The maintenance of good relations between Canada and United States was discussed; the greatest reason for this maintenance being to preserve practically identical ideologies based on similar political systems. One issue showing dissimilarities between the systems received much attention from the delegates. This was the role of public opinion and its respective influence in each country on political policy. It was generally believed that U.S. policy was subjected to greater influence of public opinion. Canadian students asked if this were true and if so, if it were desirable.

Question: What economic issues were discussed?

Answer: The biggest issue was the desirability of U.S. control of Canadian industry. The Canadians maintained that although they appreciated U.S. capital in the expansion and development of Canadian industries, they would prefer to be able to exercise greater control.

Another point discussed was the fact that 75% of Canadian Trade Unions are subsidiaries of U.S. Trade Unions and have their head offices in the United States. The Canadian delegates believed that this situation should be rectified.

Question: What were the socio-cultural problems?

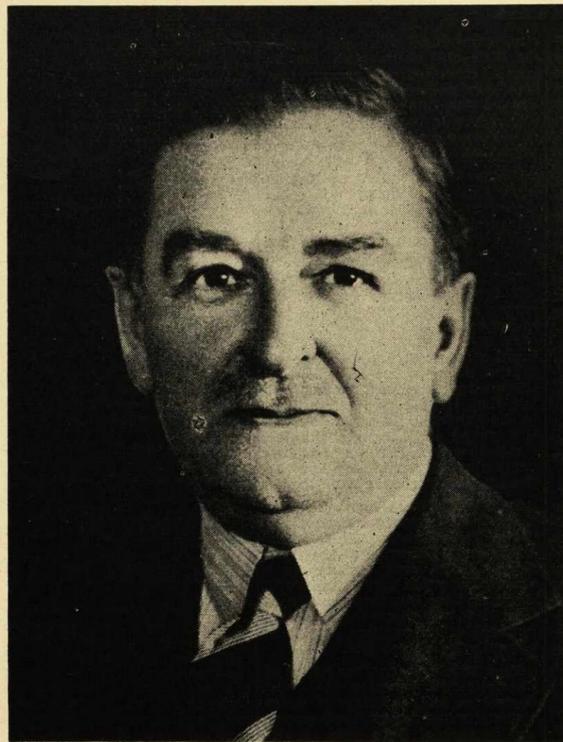
Answer: The main problem was that of whether or not Canada has a distinct culture of her own. When most Americans and some Canadians said that Canada has not, the rest, including both of us, protested vehemently. In this we were supported by the panel of experts discussing the French-Canadian position in Canada.

Question: What were the military issues?

Answer: The desirability of Canada's maintenance of an independent military policy was discussed. It was realized that though Canada should ultimately exert her own discretion, she is invariably influenced by U.S. policy.

Both Judith and Norm believed that the main value of the conference lay, not in the solving of problems but in the insight gained into the life, attitude, and policy of both countries.

THE FIGHT FOR RIGHT



Duplessis

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN QUEBEC

Various professional associations of the province of Quebec have lately called upon the public to ponder about the educational problems of their environment. It seems that everyone realized how momentous and topical those problems were. I shall try, for the benefit of those who would not grasp the fundamentals of the matter, to clarify the situation at the university level.

To start with, one should make a distinction from the pedagogical viewpoint. In the English-speaking universities of this country, no matter what their geographical location is, education and its structure are fairly identical. However, the French-speaking ones have one major difference. What you call "Arts Degree" is granted here in independent colleges, autonomous in their administrations, though dependent on one of the large universities so far as their academic standard is concerned. Universities proper grant honor bachelor's degrees, master's and doctors degrees. The problem of the "Colleges Classiques" would require an article of culture at the university level by itself. So far as the problems are concerned, they differ in nature from our present preoccupations, without being foreign to them.

We are mainly concerned with the financing of our universities. When one faces this problem, one should make out two major points: first, the financing of the university itself: buildings, professors' and staff's remunerations, laboratories, etc., and secondly the financing of the university student: tuition fees, room and board, etc.

The university itself can rely on three main sources of income. First, the collection of tuition fees. Although these fees, in our province, rank among the highest in Canada, they only make up for a precious little 25 percent of the budget. The second source of income is donations from individuals or companies, but except perhaps for McGill, they are negligible. The last possibility is government grants. Que-

bec's universities, needless to tell you, do not benefit from the federal grants, for many reasons. The provincial government seems to think that it can make up for them; if that were the case there would be no need for objections. Unfortunately the modalities of this assistance are archaic. The amount and the distribution of the grants are discretionary: it accounts for the great complexity of the administrative mechanism.

If the administration of the universities occupy a fragile position, the students are even more to be pitied. Their tuition fees are very high, as has been mentioned before, and there is an exorbitant average cost of living — \$1200 — which, as everyone knows, implies they should be able to rely on bursaries. Unfortunately they are very low — an average of \$350. . . and repayable in a proportion of 50%. Loans accessible, but they are few apart, and that is more often distributed in a discriminatory manner. The student and his parents must provide for the rest. Last year, NFCUS' brief has proven that the contribution of the latter is proportionally small and that the general economic situation holds little promise of improvement in that field. As for that student, he depend on summer work to fill the gap between his scholarship and his total expenses. Yet these earnings — averaging around \$400.00 — are still in many cases unsatisfactory. The difficult must then be overcome part time work during the academic year. The evil influence of this necessity on the intellectual output and the health of the stu-

In these two articles I have traced, first the outline of the Quebec university situation, and secondly a chronology of the students' efforts to remedy the situation. Evidently, much remains unsaid, and the outsider will probably still have many questions in mind. For the benefit of this outsider, I would just like to add two remarks so as to prevent certain misunderstandings that often occur.

First: The student movement in Quebec is not activated by a hatred for Duplessis. Much was said and done in reference with his refusal to receive the students, but the goal of our action remains the solution of university problems, and not the ousting of the Premier. It is as if, on a journey, we had met a wall. Much effort was made to break down or climb over this wall, but it did not make up for the entire voyage.

Secondly: Much interest has been shown by university students of other provinces towards the Quebec situation, and we are often asked what can be done to help. It seems to me quite important to understand that, though this interest is gratifying, it is not a question of helping a friend in a difficult position, but rather one of realizing the University situation: cultural and economic; wherever one may be, and of striving towards mass student participation in the solutions. That is the major means of rallying the work of Quebec University students.

EVELYN DUMAS,
Student at Laval University,
Quebec City.



Protest Sign

QUEBEC STUDENT MOVEMENT

Before the year '57-'58, the students associations of the province of Quebec were centered mostly on sports and social activities. They did not form a very strong pressure group within the whole society.

But in the last year, a new line of thought has emerged; the students have taken a firm stand on social questions of general interest and by so doing made possible an awareness of themselves as a social force and an emergence of collective action. In this article, I will attempt to trace a course of events of this evolution.

In September '57, the administration of the University of Montreal increased its tuition fees and the students threatened to walk out.

To prevent such drastic action, the university authorities organized a public panel, but the students were deprived of the very right to speak. Of course this was only a half measure which satisfied no one.

In October, the NFCUS convention studied the problem of university financing. By the "Montmorency Motion," it formally asked for increased financial assistance to universities and students. Soon after this NFCUS motion, the students of the Faculty of Social Science of Laval drafted and approved a comprehensive resolution, covering the whole range of the present university and students problems. This resolution was referred to the AGEL (the Laval Students Union) and once adopted by this body, it became the basis of subsequent action. It suggested ways and means of arriving at a solution and it favored a meeting of the students executive with the Board of Governors of the University and a meeting of the presidents of the six students' unions in the province. The movement was launched.

On December 14th, the six presidents met at Sir George Williams College, Montreal: they resolved to ask an interview with Premier Duplessis. January 8th: first letter addressed to the Premier. February first: meeting of the presidents to study the conclusions of a brief to be sent to the Premier. The first letter to the Premier being still unanswered, the presidents sent another letter, on February 9th, asking again for a meeting with the Premier. February 20th: receipt of an answer from the Premier, who refused to meet the presidents. A third letter was sent, still requesting an interview, and asking for an answer before February 28th. On February 27th, the Premier answered, refusing the interview once more.

Because of the stubbornness of the Premier, because of his continued refusal to meet the students' representatives, because all other means of making our voice heard had been exhausted, it was decided to alert public opinion by a symbolic walkout. The students were called upon to decide in a referendum on the issue of the proposed walkout. Proof that this popular consultation was real, and not fictitious, is that, though their president had rallied the general movement, the students of the University of Sherbrooke pulled out, under political pressures.

The walkout took place without any shocking incident. All our activities, picketing, pamphlet distribution, press "communiques," pep-talk meetings, were aimed to further our goal: the solution of university financing problems and the recognition of democratic liberties. To keep informing public opinion, three Montreal University students, representing Quebec's university students unions, started campaigning in front of Duplessis' office, asking an interview for the presidents.

When the holiday period forced the students to separate in different parts of the province for working purposes, thus interrupting mass action, Bruno Meloche, secretary of University presidents' committee, organized more than a dozen pep-talk meetings all through the province. These meetings were financed by the U. of Montreal's student union supported by non-political organizations, always aiming at informing public opinion of the present critical situation.

Near the end of the holiday period, a "social club" (the University Action League) was suddenly organized apparently from nowhere. Premier Duplessis promptly awarded them the long-awaited interview mentioned earlier and promised financial aid. It is the general feeling that these students were the instruments and perhaps the puppets of the "machine de l'Union Nationale." At all events, at no time have they represented officially the university students as a whole, neither have they taken such a stand themselves.

At the beginning of the new academic year, the six presidents' committee, officially recognized under the name of "Association des Universités du Quebec," continued their campaigning. In November a fourth letter was addressed to the Premier's office requesting an interview. Surprisingly enough, this time Premier Duplessis accepted the challenge (so it seemed) and an interview was scheduled for December 2nd, at 10 a.m. Now that permission of meeting Quebec's Premier has been granted, the students fully realize that nothing yet has been settled, in fact the heart of the problem is not yet tackled. Much remains to be done: the presentation and fulfillment of the students requests stated in the conclusions of their brief.

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DUPLESSIS' STAND

by MIKE STEEVES

There is today in the Province of Quebec a crisis in university education. College training is the victim of two opposing political forces: whether or not federal aid through grants of the Canada Council denotes a breach of the dominion constitution and infringes upon a right specifically reserved for and given to the provinces.

This crisis has been developing for many decades, paralleling the industrial and cultural growth of the dominion as a whole and the corresponding development of the provinces individually. The speeches and assertions of the Hon. Maurice Duplessis, Premier of the Province and leader of the ruling Union Nationale Party make unconstitutional any act of the federal government concerning education, even though these acts be intended to assist the universities in expansion programs designed to bring Canada's educational system out of the Middle Ages and into the twentieth century. The banner of "provincial autonomy" is raised, hysterical Union Nationale supporters in the Legislative Assembly hurl taunts and insults at these "traitors" whose intent they say is to subvert the constitution, while the premier publicly proclaims that Quebec must decide her own destiny.

What odd stroke of fate has placed the fortune of our second largest province upon the will and desire of this one man and one political party? It has been said in various quarters that the Union Nationale is the only party in Canada contributing to national disunity, rather than the advancement of the state as a whole. To understand the peculiar organism of the present government of Quebec one must first look deeply into the history that bred it and into the character of the people that voted it. These three are inseparably tied one to the other.

Premier Duplessis is the embodiment of the spirit of French Canadian culture and language in Quebec and in Canada. There can be no question that Duplessis is Quebec. Politically, he is concerned with the realization of power through the satisfaction of French Canadian nationalism and ideals, an expedient whose direct result has been to increase the fears of a minority culture as to its survival and endurance in the Canada of the future.

Duplessis came to power in Quebec in 1935 and has held office during the ensuing 23 years as provincial premier with the exception of a brief four-year tenure during World War II. During that time he has contributed immeasurably to the development of Quebec's natural resources and industrial potential. The poverty-stricken province of the mid-depression has been made by sheer force of will into one of the richest per capita in

Canada, surpassed only by Ontario: hydro-electric power has increased tenfold, mineral and industrial production is an important part of the national economy.

Yet why has not education in the province kept pace with its material development?

The answer to this question is a confused mumbo-jumbo of ideas from which no coherence of thought can really be derived. There remains still in Quebec a residue of the old feeling of isolation, a feeling of "not fitting in" with the established rules and procedures of the society of the rest of the dominion. This is felt in much of the inherent culture of the province. It revolves around the idea we want our children to be brought up by ourselves in our way and in the ways and thoughts by which we ourselves were brought up. Any attempt from without to influence these ways and thoughts meets an almost insurmountable wall of speeches, rhetoric, and indifference.

Such is the misconception seeming to exist within the government of Quebec in relation to grants of the Canada Council. Arguments to their cause have been taken by direct quotation and inference to the British North America Act: our constitution states that the provinces have the power to "make law" under certain conditions on matters concerning education within the provincial territory.

But this clause was not intended to provide a strangle-hold over educational progress. It was not intended to force the will of one man or group of men to the complete exclusion of others. It was not intended to destroy those features of university so necessary to the advancement of learning: to offer all, without reference to economic status, the right and privilege of education.

Nor does their exist a clause in our constitution whose intent was to force a group of students publicly to their knees to beg for the money which is their life-blood. The recent meeting of McGill students in preparing a brief to the premier is but one example of this.

Yet there is a paradox contained in it all: there is no political opposition in Quebec of sufficient character to govern the province with benefit to all, surpassing those endeavors of the present Cabinet. Only by contrasts to its alternatives may a government be deemed good or bad. Such is the tragedy of Quebec.

From the leaves of the Dalhousie Gazette

October 4, 1949

Dalhousie University has opened for the first time a school of graduate studies leading to a degree of Master of Arts and Master of Science. The course of study consists of work given in advance of ordinary undergraduate classes and will be confined to one subject or two closely related subjects.

October 7, 1949

A New Look has come to the Dining Room in the Men's Residence. The Canada Catering Company Limited, represented by Operations' Manager, L. M. Neville, now

provides cafeteria service for male and female alike.

A full course meal still costs 55c but if a student wants less, he no longer has to pay the price of a full meal. Mr. Neville expressed his desire to install a small canteen.

October 6, 1950

Lieutenant Colonel K. C. Laurie, DCL, Chairman of the Board of Governors, will lay the cornerstone of a new rink on Thanksgiving afternoon, October 9, before the start of the football game.

This copy of the Gazette will be entombed in the cornerstone.