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G.F.C. HANDCUFFS DICK TRACY

by Terri Jackson

Every seat in the visitor's gallery was taken for yesterday's General Faculties Council debate on the status of the campus security force.

The special meeting of the GFC was called to debate the merits of special constable status for the force. A motion to withdraw an application to the provincial government for the status was passed.

Had the application for special status been approved, it would have given campus cops the same police powers as City of Edmonton constables.

Opposition to the special status was apparent long before the vote was taken as speakers were at least three to one in support of the withdrawal of the application.

An amendment to prevent any new requests for special constable status being made without GFC authorization was proposed by grad student rep David McMurray and approved.

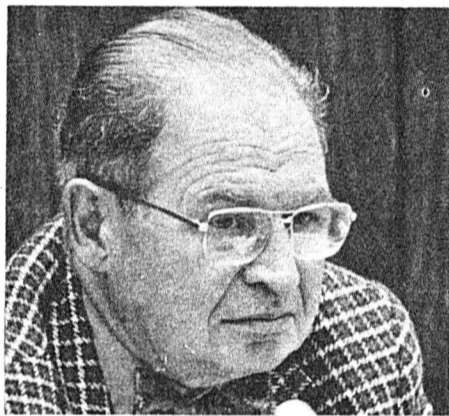
"I'm sorry if this offends anyone," McMurray said in defending his amendment, "but I have the feeling that we'll wake up in two months and discover that another application has been made."

In seconding the amendment, Rose made his remark about the Hydra-like problem which has reappeared before GFC a number of times in the past three years. He also charged that the application for constable status had been made "without apparent motivation from this body (GFC)."



Rose: "I feel like Hercules with the Hydra—I do not want to see this question arise again."

The question of authorization for the application had earlier been ruled "irrelevant" to the matter under discussion by Max Wyman, university president and chairman of the GFC.



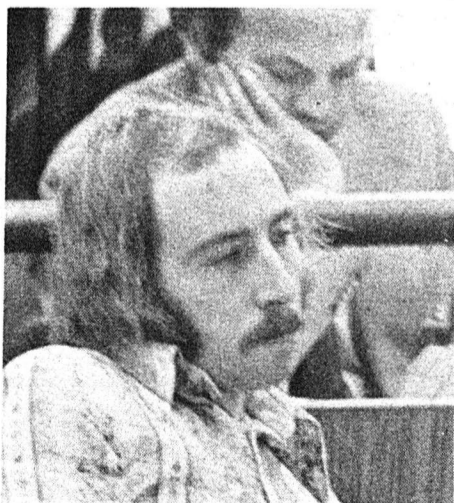
Wyman: "We want no Kent States on this campus."

In response to a question from George Mantor, recently appointed as undergrad rep in the faculty of arts, Wyman said that the application had been made by former VP finance and administration G.D. Tyndall.

He said that under the Universities Act the Board of Governors has authority to act on any non-academic matter, and the application may have been at their request. "If you want me to look into this, I can," Wyman offered.

Richard D'Alquen, associate professor of romance languages, was first to speak against the motion and in support of the special constable status.

While objecting to a lack of information on campus crime rates and other information not reported by the committee making the recommendations, D'Alquen said that "There is a suspicion—not confirmed—but not denied—that city police cannot enforce the law as quickly and effectively as a sworn campus force."



Mantor: "Do we need the typical Dick Tracy on our security force?"

Mantor followed D'Alquen's argument with campus crime rate figures for 1971 which showed 5 assaults causing bodily harm, 2 common assaults, 2 indecent assaults and 1 armed robbery.

For an area with a daily population of some 18,000, he said he thought the rate was remarkably low. "As things stand now, I cannot see the campus becoming a haven for criminals," he commented.

Grad student Peter Flynn called D'Alquen's argument about the possible ineffectiveness of the city force "specious".

"I've never had the experience of phoning the police and having them say 'No, I'm sorry, we're not guarding that block this week'," Flynn said.



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The city police force would not be doing their jobs if they did not undertake to enforce the law on campus as well as in the rest of the city, he argued.

VP finance and administration Lorne Leitch posed the question as a

choice between a force made up of "building watchmen" and "traffic patrollers" or a police force.

The effectiveness of the campus force if they did not get special constable status would decrease, he said, because campus cops could not demand identification, could not deal with moving violations under the highway Traffic Act, and without the "protection" of the status, "would be more likely to encounter physical and verbal abuse."

Noting that campus security personnel had been without the status for sixteen months, dean of education Myer Horowitz, said "we haven't had any evidence that anyone has had problems during that time."

He also said that from his experience of "student unrest" at McGill, "one of the main reasons that some sanity was developed" was that police were identified as outsiders to the dispute.

"It would have been disastrous if police had been part of the administration," he remarked.



D'Alquen: "The University needs a better security force than a shopping centre does."

Spraggins barred from GFC

A ruling from the chair prevented Rob Spraggins, executive VP of the Students' Union, from replacing SU president Gerry Riskin in his seat on the General Faculties Council.

Council chairman Max Wyman cited a previous decision of the GFC in a case which involved an impeachment move against a grad student rep, that members once appointed cannot be removed from their seats until their term has expired.

The SU had recommended that Spraggins be delegated to the GFC as one of their two representatives when Riskin's schedule made it "increasingly difficult" for him to attend the meetings.

When Wyman opened his decision to challenges from the floor, undergrad law rep Bob Curtis asked for clarification on the appointment of alternates for ex officio members of the council. Wyman replied that SU members are appointed as individuals and not as ex officio members.

Spraggins was asked to leave the seat he had taken and watched the rest of the session from the visitors' gallery.

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