

Manitoba marches while Quebec quits.

By CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

It was a year when student demonstrations became socially acceptable.

The leaders of Canada's academic institutions began a hurried search for an alternative to higher tuition.

The myth of Canadian unity exploded as French-Canadian students abandoned the national student union.

So went 1964-65.

It began just more than a year ago in Toronto at York University where student delegates...

...when the 28th congress of the Canadian Union of Students (CUS) met. The congress laid the groundwork for a year-long struggle against the trend to increasing university tuition, approving a campaign to freeze tuition at Canadian universities pending the report of the Bladen Commission on the Financing of Higher Education. In addition, the congress decided to conduct a national student means survey to determine the financial status of Canadian students.

It was during the congress that the union received one of the worse blows in its 28-year history. The tide of French-Canadian nationalism was too strong to be denied, as it had been a year earlier, and three French-Canadian Quebec universities, Laval, Sherbrooke and Montreal, tendered their withdrawals. More shocking than the departure of some thirty thousand French-Canadian students were the pronounced splits it uncovered in the English Canadian student community. On Nov. 16, Laval, Sherbrooke and Montreal joined the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec (UGEQ) at its founding congress in Montreal.

The year also began with a long awaited legislative gift from the federal government in the form of guaranteed low-interest student loans. The Canada Student Loan Act was inaugurated in September, making yearly loans of from \$500 to \$1,000 available to undergraduates throughout their university careers. Almost immediately its critics charged that students were using loans to buy savings bonds, sports cars and trips to Europe. There was little evidence to support the charges and by mid-November the plan was a widely-heralded success. Twenty-nine thousand Canadian students received assistance under the plan this year, and the government estimates that by the end of the 1964-65 fiscal year, students will have received \$48 million in financial aid.

For some years to come, Oct. 10, 1964 will be remembered as "black Saturday" in Quebec city. The occasion was the Queen's visit to the capital city of Quebec. French-Canadian separatist students were bullied and harassed by riot squads as they carried out peaceful demonstrations against the royal visit. Several weeks later the Attorney General's department of the Quebec Government absolved police of guilt in the incident and blamed the Canadian press for inciting needless concern for the Queen's safety in Quebec.

Prime Minister L.B. Pearson provoked a positive response from students in October when he told the National Conference of Canada Universities and Colleges he favored free university education. Although there will always be impediments of one kind or another, he said, the financial barriers to education which now exist cannot be tolerated indefinitely. He added, however, that there may be other and greater priorities in the field of education at the present time.

Remembrance Day, a sacred cow which annually takes a beat-

ing at the hands of Canadian students, was marked on four campuses this year with silent vigils and special memorial services. The emphasis, however, was on the future and peace. At the University of Toronto, Nov. 11 demonstrations culminated in a Students' Council proposal to establish a peace research centre at the university. The centre would be the first in Canada, and, as its proponents argued, would bring the academic community into confrontation with the problems of modern international conflicts and their peaceful resolution.

In mid-November a University of Western Ontario student entered the mayoralty race in London determined to create new interest in the city's municipal elections. His platform and slogan — "a new initiative to bring London into the twentieth century" — apparently didn't move London voters. He placed a poor third in a field of three for the mayor's chair.

The leader of the American Nazi Party, George Lincoln Rockwell threatened to replace the flag debate as the subject of coffee-shop conversation following an appearance on This Hour Has Seven Days. Two weeks later the Student Union at the University of British Columbia forbade him to speak on campus after learning he was a prohibited person under the Canada Immigration Act. Mr. Rockwell was understandably ruffled when his invitation to appear at the university was abruptly retracted.

Across the border, the arrest of 800 students at the Berkeley campus of the University of California during demonstrations protesting an administration ban on the on-campus distribution of political literature was met with more than passing interest in Canada. Students' Council at the University of Toronto and the Canadian Union of Students sent telegrams to Berkeley President Clark Kerr supporting the right of teachers and students to the free expression of opinion. The administration and students at Berkeley have since come to terms but relationships are strained and the peace is tenuous.

The strength of the Canadian Union of Students freeze-the-fee campaign met its first test at the University of Manitoba in early February. About 1,500 students took part in a half day strike and demonstration in front of the Manitoba legislative buildings to protest a predicted increase in tuition next September. The Manitoba Government turned down a Students' Council brief asking for an additional \$600,000 grant to the university to avoid the increase. Following the demonstration, Dr. H.H. Sanderson, president of the university, announced an across-the-board \$75 increase in tuition next fall.

Freeze-the-fee campaigns at the universities of Alberta and Western Ontario were more successful. After consideration, both universities announced they will not raise tuition next year although graduate student tuition at the University of Alberta will be increased \$65.

The campaign suffered a ser-

ious blow March 12 when 11 Maritime universities jointly announced an across-the-board 15 per cent increase in tuition in September. The decision will affect about 1,000 students. On the same day, the Senate and Board of Governors of McGill University announced a general \$100 increase in tuition beginning in September.

At this point, Canadian Union of Students spokesmen in Ottawa conceded that the battle is not going well. They maintain, however, that growing student interest in the tuition issue has been encouraging.

On Feb. 9 a student at Sir George Williams University took a 60 hour shower and claimed the world's record in the most popular campus crazy game since bed pushing. His glory, however, was short lived. A week later, a student at Acadia University understood the spray for 101 hours. Not to be left out, a group of Acadian coeds knitted continuously for ten days. The result: a red and white scarf 105 feet, 6 inches by 50 stitches.

The Canadian University Young Liberal Federation set the party on its ear in February when an annual meeting in Ottawa supported a resolution calling for the end of the monarchy in Canada. The resolution proposed replacing the Queen with the Governor General as chief of state. Liberal members of parliament and party leaders were almost unanimously critical of the resolution.

Taking everyone by surprise, the Newfoundland government announced March 9 that it will pay tuition for all first year university students in the province beginning next year. Finance Minister Fred Rowe said the government was "aware of the inevitability, before many years, of free tuition for second and third year students as well." The plan will effect freshman students at Memorial University in St. John's, the only degree-granting institution in the province. No other Canadian province provides free tuition to all students in any university year.

A University of Toronto "sit-out" in front of the U.S. Consulate in Toronto protesting racial violence in Selma, Alabama, snowballed into a dramatic march past the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa March 14. About 320 students from the University of Toronto and another 3,000 students from at least six other Ontario universities participated in the march, which drew in all about 4,000 demonstrators, many of them non-students. In a statement to the demonstrators Prime Minister L.B. Pearson said, "I honor those in Alabama, or anywhere else, who are fighting within the law for their rights as free citizens."

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