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CUS Pullout Unlikely

By STEPHEN KIMBER

The Student Council made no final decisions on the fate of the Canadian Union of Students last week but their deliberations seem to preclude any move to withdraw from that national body. The best it appears the rumored anti-CUS faction could muster on a withdrawal motion would be three votes and it is therefore unlikely that there will be any backroom manoeuvres in that direction. The debate which began last week will continue when all members have a copy of the fifty-eight pages of CUS resolutions debated at the summer Congress in Guelph.

Discussion during the two and a half hour debate was marked by a lack of the emotionalism and petty irrelevancies which have plagued Council meetings this year and the willingness of both sides to discuss the controversial question rationally did not seem to be lost on the more than thirty spectators in attendance.

In order to develop a thesis for later discussion initial comments were restricted to student unionism on the local level. Arts Rep Nick Pittas led off debate with a warning to Council that through their earlier decisions on the restructuring of the union and the passage earlier that night of a resolution condemning the actions of the School Board in extending the separate school system, they had in fact begun to deal, with the small "p" political questions. These types of questions were the type of issues now being considered by CUS and he added: "If we don't like this sort of thing, then let's get out of CUS. But if we see that CUS is playing a role, then we must stay in. If you disagree with the actions of CUS, then I ask you this question. Why did you vote unanimously to adopt Randy's restructuring and why did you vote for the resolution tonight? Are you being hypocritical or are you just unclear in your own minds?"

"We have to realize," Pittas continued, "that before we can be effective, we must have an aware informed student body. There cannot be an elite. We've assumed that because there is no vocal opposition the students are happy."

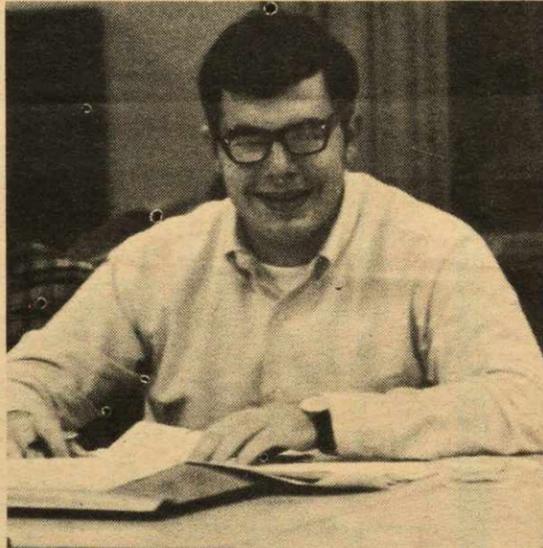
Dave Bell then turned discussion to the concepts of the role of the Council. "The people on Council have common ideas and make realizations based on information not available to the average student. If this Council is to provide leadership, and then gives students everything they want, what is happening is that we're being led by the students."

"Three years ago," he told Council, "it would have been unreligious for any administrator to suggest that students be represented on the Senate. Just recently students at Nova Scotia Technical College



Thought typically flanked by two beauties, President A.R. kept his mind on the CUS debate

were asked to select representatives for their Senate without even having to ask for them. The universities, then, do not exist in a vacuum. But how do



CUS Opponent Peter Cook

ideas get around? If we don't have some form of common national communications like CUS, then we're in trouble." Commenting on the rumored move to get Dalhousie out of CUS, Bell said that it would be a "dangerous and a dead end thing to do".

Summing up his remarks Bell told Council that "education is more than just going to classes, taking notes, and getting grades. The moral and educational processes of the society in which we live should be understood. In the past this Union has been inadequate in performing that role."

Bob Daley, turning the discussion to the question of leadership fired several broadsides at fellow Council members - "This Council are experts at the role of non-leadership. Randy will think out some problem and then he hands it to us and we say great; yeah, we'll pass it."

In referring to remarks by Pittas and Bell, as well as the working papers on Student Unionism, Daley warned Council that only two roles for Council had been set forth, that of an extra-curricular activities and of a pressure group. "There is a third alternative," he said, "and that is co-operation".

In closing off discussion on local student unionism Pittas warned, "If people have any strong objection, they bloody well better say it now." No one spoke and they moved on to the national set up after a five-minute time out for hasty strategy conferences.

Science Rep Peter Cook led off after the recess with a motion expressing the Council's concern over the trends in CUS. "Because of what I have read, I am concerned. Perhaps I'm over-reacting. But according to the press the priority of CUS seems to be international affairs. I'm told this isn't the case, but it must be clarified," Cook urged.

At this point discussion began to bog down. President Smith asked Cook how Council could express concern over the trend in CUS when it hadn't read all the resolutions yet to find out what that trend was.

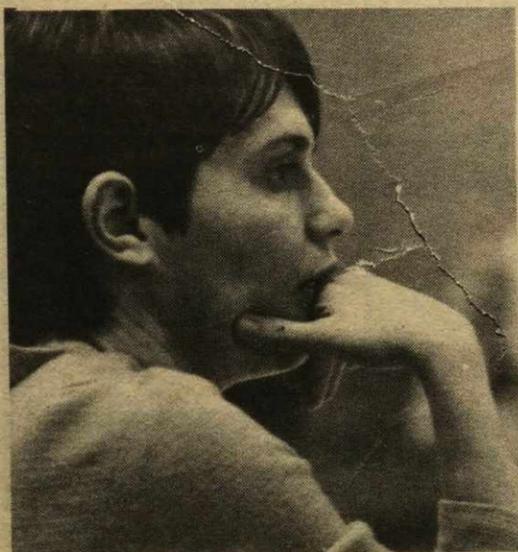
Cook asked that Council at least consider sending a more representative body to CUS so that Dalhousie would be represented by people expressing a majority opinion. Pittas countered that "we must fight future elections on issues, but until we make it clear that it's not a high school popularity contest, we can't Peter, for God's sake, say that even we are representative of student feeling."

As discussion began to become more and more irrelevant Bruce Gillis moved that Cook's motion be tabled until members could study the CUS resolutions. The motion was passed.

The debate represented a successful coup by the pro-CUS forces, who, with the aid of President Smith made the anti-CUS faction take to the defensive. They never recovered. While the move is not likely to win friends and influence people on campus where the student reaction has been hostile and intense toward CUS, Council's discussion last week assured continued participation by Dalhousie in the Canadian Union of Students.

Council Raps Extension

Separate Schools Condemned



Separate Schools Opponent Connor

The move of the Halifax School Board to extend the system of Protestant and Roman Catholic schools into the soon to be annexed areas of the county drew sharp criticism from the Dalhousie Student Council last week. Education Rep Sarah Connor, a former teacher, told Council that "education is bad enough without adding the separate school system to the situation". Miss Connor introduced a motion expressing the Council's disappointment and condemnation of the city's move as "fundamentally contrary to the concept of equal opportunity in citizenship".

Speaking on the motion Randall Smith cited two famous decisions of the American Supreme Court involving school prayers and separate but equal educational facilities. "Separate facilities are inherently unequal," said Mr. Smith quoting from the Supreme Court decision. The President further declared that such separate school systems tend to perpetuate a sort of "religious ghetto", and he declared himself opposed to the use of taxpayers' money "for propagation of one religious group".

The motion set forth by Miss Connor, with an amendment from Hugh Cowan gained Council assent.