

Two years later McGill commission suggests nothing

MONTREAL (CUP) — After two years of discussion, McGill University's tripartite commission on the nature of the university Tuesday issued its first report: a wordy statement of ideals which suggests little in the way of changes for the anglophone institution.

The 7,000-word report, entitled *The University and Society*, specifically excludes discussion of two other areas included in its terms of reference—university government and curriculum—because, commissioners said, other university bodies are currently considering them.

Instead, the report confines itself to three main generalizations about the university's role in society:

- Academic freedom must be understood to be for the sake of the attainment of human advancement through the process of inquiry by the pursuit of truth

through knowledge;

- The university is a unique institution interacting through its teaching, research and service with other institutions in society for the common good;

- The university "should develop in a way that will preserve from the past what is still valuable" and must also be "prepared to change what has become irrelevant."

Concretely, the report recommends that more university funds be channelled in the direction of the humanities and social sciences, and that the university be given more freedom in determining research projects.

Commissioners admitted that the report "raises more questions than it could answer," and student representatives to the student-faculty-administration body apparently agreed. Only two of four students on

the commission signed the report.

The tripartite commission was rushed into existence in November, 1967, a day after students began an occupation of the McGill administration building. The students were protesting disciplinary action taken against three staff members of the student newspaper, the *McGill Daily*, who approved the publication of an unpopular article by satirist Paul Krassner.

The purpose of the commission was to supply a debating forum for contentious questions involving the role of McGill, in an attempt to prevent further demonstrations.

Student belief in the credibility of the commission waned rapidly during the two years of hearings, climaxing last May when the McGill Student Society formally withdrew from the body because it had made "little, if any, substantive progress."

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PRESIDENT MAX WYMAN KNOCKS GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES . . . "far below inflationary increase in costs"

Financial squeeze will cut quality

Quality of services at the U of A could go down unless the government contributes an extra \$5,000,000 this year according to a statement released Wednesday by Dr. Max Wyman, university president.

"I say that a crisis exists because the current grant will reduce the level of service and achievement which is possible at the University of Alberta. This is a level of service which the university has been encouraged over several years to seek; and to reduce it now is unfair to future students," he said.

The \$61,876,000 budget allowed only a one per cent increase in the per student expenditure over last year, he said. "This is far below the inflationary rate of increase in costs, which are acknowledged to exist in our economy."

If the university grants its staff a pay raise in keeping with the recent increase in government employees' wages, the university will require almost all of its budget to maintain present standards, without provision for a potential 2,300 student increase in enrollment.

A government white paper on education forbids the implementation of a quota system unless it becomes absolutely necessary, but "it's a thing that no one wants," said Dr. Wyman.

Unless a quota system is established, or the staff freeze is lifted, classes will have to grow in size.

Dr. Wyman noted that class size has grown from an average of 32 to 36 students over the last five years, and said he was afraid the university here would become like some uni-

versities in Europe in which courses consist of a series of lectures and one examination with no personal contact with the professor.

"The University of Alberta is continually asking for the financial support to reverse an unhealthy trend because the present road will surely lead to a completely impersonal university," he said.

Dr. Wyman contends that "a trend toward deterioration has become evident in the past four to five years," although the 1960's has shown a general improvement in level of services.

He hopes the present level of excellence will continue, but adds, "the effect of the current budget decisions has been to threaten seriously the standards achieved by the University of Alberta."

Hunka resigns

Cannot condone L & O "firing squad"—GFC parity a must

Students' Union Vice-President Bob Hunka has resigned from the GFC Law and Order Committee.

In a letter to Dean of Law G. V. LaForest stating his reasons for resigning, Mr. Hunka said he objected to students being given places on the 'firing squad' which would be administering regulations over which students would have no control. This still rests with GFC which has only two student members.

Provost A. A. Ryan, a member of the committee, said those regulations the committee would enforce would be items for which the university is liable and which he felt students have no business determining.

Mr. Hunka said that he thought student views on regulations would be treated in exactly the manner the censorship issue was dealt with: They would be defeated by a crushing majority of the GFC members.

This situation, he felt, would continue as long as students had only two seats on GFC and, even with parity, it might continue because student opinion is often divided while the faculty is able to present a united front to the students.

Mr. Hunka added in his letter that he felt the committee had been careful to create channels whereby students could make their views known to the committee and that he did not include this among his reasons for resigning.

Frank MacInnis, another students' union representative to the committee, said he felt Mr. Hunka's reasons for resigning were dubious. Mr. MacInnis pointed out that there were only two more weeks to be served on the com-

mittee until Mr. Hunka would have been replaced in any case and that if Mr. Hunka had any objections to the committee, he could have made them known.

Mr. Hunka did not make any objections known, said Mr. MacInnis. "He (Mr. Hunka) has not been to a meeting for several weeks," he said.

In closing his letter to Dean LaForest, Mr. Hunka stated, "Again I stress that my resignation is no reflection on the committee or its activities; but considerations of campus policy on a much broader spectra. For this reason, I think it imperative that I resign."

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