

THE HISTORY OF NFCUS

... by DATELINE

January 13th, 1927

There can be no doubt in the minds of those who attended the Second National Conference of Canadian students recently held under the auspices of the Student Christian Movement at Macdonald College (Dec. 27th—Jan. 3rd), that the students of Canada are wide awake to the problems confronting our age, and they certainly appear to be determined to work out their own solutions to even the most complex situations which our present economic situation imposes on international society.

March 17th, 1927

(Prediction for March 17th, 1977)

The National Federation of Canadian University Students will hold its 1977 meeting this September at Dalhousie. The Council President made this announcement yesterday immediately after receiving word to this effect from National head-quarters. The work of the conference will extend over two weeks. The conference will meet in the students building; and the delegates will be distributed among various residences.

The most important matter which will come before the conference is University representation in Parliament. This problem has been agitating Canadian Universities for the last decade; and it is now generally felt that the present representation is inadequate.

January 20th, 1928

A singular honor was bestowed upon Dalhousie at the first annual meeting of the National Federation of Canadian University Students held in Toronto December 27, 28, 29, 30, 1927, when Dalhousie's representative, Gerald Godsoe, was vice-president of this great organization.

... The exchange of undergraduates was considered as the greatest and most practical field for the accomplishment of the fundamental purpose of the Federation, that is the promotion of a higher degree of co-operation and better understanding between university students throughout Canada.

January 13th, 1932

During the summer of 1930 an overseas tour was organized and conducted under the auspices of the National Federation of Canadian University Students with great success. In 1931 arrangements were made for a similar tour, but due to economic conditions and severe competition registration was insufficient for the tour to be carried on and those al-

Canon Puxley—

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on to say that this right also carries with it the duty of obtaining accurate information before coming to conclusions, and the task of putting such conclusions into constructive action.

With respect to NFCUS requests for government financial aid for students, Canon Puxley warned delegates that state assistance might also lead to governmental controls in educational fields.

Commenting on the Congress, the NFCUS Honorary President said that he was "inspired by the agenda" and that he was "gratified to see a considerable concentration of the spotlight on Latin-America." He said that Russian activity in this area is one of the "big questions" of the day, remarking, "It is at the cultural level, at the university level... where truth is arrived at, that the best exchange of opinions, understanding and friendship can take place."

Canon Puxley urged Canadian students to send delegates to conferences attended by Russian representatives. He felt such meetings would prove fruitful since the Soviets have, in recent years, become confident of success in the war between ideologies, and are therefore more prepared to discuss questions openly.

The President told delegates that Canadian students could learn from their fellows in Latin-America, who feel they must pay for their privileged position in society by "shouldering social responsibility."

The 1960 Canadian Student; Who Is He?

by PETE OUTHIT

In the spate of journalistic verbiage concerned in recent years with the aims and motives of Canadian university students, little of value has emerged except the fact that they are (to use a MacLean's generality) a serious, generally confused group whose inability to speak collectively mirrors the swift metamorphosis the country has been undergoing since the last war.

WHAT DO THEY WANT?

They are restless and not as easily led as they once were. "Sheep" is not the adjective to describe them, for they do not follow blindly: they are simply directionless, appearing to do things in minorities. No five students subscribe to the same doctrine.

The Canadian student knows what he stands against but he is unwilling to stand for any number of established concepts.

He must be enticed, wheedled, browbeaten and cajoled into backing blood drives, treasure vans and the numerous functions that assault his university existence.

During the school year we read of sporadic student outbursts against one thing or another, occasional uprisings in opposition to university or governmental policy or officialdom in general, and the odd stunt or fad; but they don't last. Too quickly comes the retirement to anonymity. There is no sustained enthusiasm for any single student project.

Is this bad? Purely a matter of opinion, and something upon which few writers agree. I have considered a university should bring the kind of freedom — academic and physical — that encourages the radical, the thinker, the creator.

Little of these traits are evident in today's student. The answer could lie in the pressures of 1960 society — or it may lie in a trend of civilization far deeper than that.

Whatever the answer, students today shy away from club association and don't enjoy stringent ties. College societies are called "childish", club memberships are restricted to a handful of officers and "fanatics" or "bugs", student rallies ignored as a waste of time.

Just what isn't a waste of time few students could tell you. They don't know—and it worries them.

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

If Canadian students have anything in common of a cohesive nature, it will become apparent in NFCUS, their only real national organization.

A number of general principles—broad and theoretical enough to admit excitable westerners and ultra-conservative Atlantic students, half a dozen small Roman Catholic colleges and several sprawling urban universities—are all NFCUS' 34 members have to bind them.

Except that they are students. As students they will debate whether they should be listened to in international affairs, whether they have any power at all now in Canadian governmental circles, whether college administrators are tightening an already firm grip on student critics' liberty, whether petitions have any effect on officialdom.

How they approach these problems will largely depend upon their various regional environments. Perhaps they can be roughly classified according to Canada's three geographical and economic divisions.

The easier atmosphere of the newly-rich and old world tie-less West has bred a number of radicals, freethinkers and self-appointed "student leaders" who keep universities constantly in the public spotlight with marches on capitol buildings, open castigation of public officials, and continual petitioning for student hearings.

This is a step in a good direction, albeit a clumsy one. The West is no longer wild but it's still woolly; and the frontiers remaining to be conquered are vastly more difficult because they're mental ones.

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ready enlisted were satisfactorily switched to another party. It is felt that, with a reasonable measure of prosperity, it would not be difficult to make a success of this department. No tour will be undertaken this year.

February 24th, 1939

Canada's Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, has consented to become Honorary President of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. That Lord Tweedsmuir has consented to accept this office is significant of his interest in Canadian university students. It is one of the greatest honors paid to the NFCUS since its formation and one more bit of evidence that the universities are linked nationally.

... This announcement followed upon Federation President John H. Macdonald's release of the NFCUS ten-point program. This embodies an increase in the Federation's scholarships, travel and information services, an employment bureau, a dramatic club's clearing house, a student radio hour, and the formation of an advisory council.

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NFCUS Fees Increased On Voluntary Basis

HALIFAX (CUP)—Sept. 20—The presidents of all the 34 member universities of NFCUS agreed to a fee of 10 cents a student to be paid on a voluntary basis, at this afternoon's plenary session.

What seemed to be the most controversial issue of the 24th NFCUS congress held this week at Dalhousie university was passed unanimously by all 34 with no one speaking against the motion.

David Edgar, president of the Students' Council at the University of British Columbia presented the resolution which stated the voluntary raise would bring fees to: 60 cents for the first 1,500 students, 55 for the next 1,500, 50 for the next 1,000 and 45 cents a student for universities with populations in excess of 4,000.

Edgar pointed out, "In essence this would be a dime raise at every level." If all universities agree to the raise, the increase will bring in \$7,800 for the federation.

He pointed out that there was a gap between the potential and financial position of NFCUS. "We must strengthen our financial position and funds cannot be diverted therefore we have come to the conclusion that a fee increase is desirable, but that it should be a voluntary one."

Member universities will not be forced into paying the additional voluntary sum, he said. From 1951-53 the fee was 20 cents, 1953-54 it was 20-25 cents, 1955 50 cents, 1956-60 it averaged 41 cents a student.

The money raised by the fee increase would be allocated for a comptroller and a part-time secretary. The present staff of the secretariat consists of an executive secretary, who has also been acting as treasurer, the president, who must travel and a secretary.

"At present we are preventing our executive secretary Andre L'Heureux from doing the task for which he is best suited. This expert on student affairs is fettered with book work," he said.

Edgar stressed that federation is financially able to carry on.— "It is not in trouble," he said, "but our program is now a broad one which can be explained to students."

McGill President Stuart Smith was the only speaker on the motion and supported it stating, "Our Fed-

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esting is the secretarial committee. We have four secretaries working round the clock. They aren't being paid, but our stationery bill is going to be very high—we'll use over 30,000 sheets of paper (that's more than 400 pounds) before we're through."

We were interrupted for a moment by a committeeman who wanted to talk to Peter, but by the time the coffee came, I had a chance to ask about the translation system they had set up, not only for delegates, but also for the press tables.

"We were lucky," he said. "Since Parliament isn't in session, we were able to hire the House of Commons translator. We had an engineering student build a small booth to house him. The earphones, mikes and other equipment belongs to NFCUS."

I recalled that I had had a chance earlier to look into the booth. The translator must have been working hard—his ash tray was chock-full of butts.

"When I was in Montreal a week ago," I said, I noticed an editorial on NFCUS in the Montreal Star. You're getting a lot of publicity. You must be pleased."

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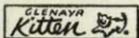
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