

POLICE BRUTALITY CHARGE FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION

(ED. NOTE: The following is a special report from CUP President Roger McAfee in Ottawa.

Charges of police brutality have been flying since a wild two-hour demonstration by 300 university of Ottawa students at Ottawa's National War Memorial yesterday.

The students were demonstrating against a reported statement by CNR President Donald Gordon that there were no top French Canadian executives in the government-owned railway because it was difficult to find qualified men.

Police hauled three students off to jail. One witness said one of the students taken into custody was bleeding from the face. Another reportedly needed medical aid.

The students paraded from the University along Ottawa's main downtown streets, cheering wildly, singing French Canadian songs and snarling up the heavy noon-hour traffic.

At the memorial an effigy of Gordon was hanged and burned. At this point police moved in but were unable to handle the crowd until reinforcements arrived. They spoke no French and every time they spoke in English, the students chanted "En Francais, En Francais."

The student demonstrators denied charges that the War Memorial had any special significance in the demonstration or that their action was meant to be taken as a desecration of the Memorial.

President of the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion, Judge C. C. Sparkling of Winnipeg said the use of the Memorial grounds for such a display was "shameful." He said the matter would be discussed by the Legion's executive in Ottawa this weekend. He said it would be up to the courts if the burning was a desecration of the Memorial.

The demonstrators, many of them girls, carried signs reading "Gordon switch tracks, your days are numbered," "French Canadian Si, Gordon Non," and "Freedom and Emancipation."

Another sign, referring to Real Caouette's proposed bill to be presented to the Commons calling for Gordon's \$75,000-per-year salary to be cut to \$1, read, "Caouette is wrong, \$1 is too much."

Following the scene at the Memorial some of the students marched on Parliament Hill, a block from the Memorial, and three of the group met and presented a brief to Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

The brief suggested that Mr. Gordon withdraw what the students considered to be offensive statements about French-speaking Canadians to the CNR's administrative board.

THREE REMANDED FOR SENTENCE

In Ottawa Police Court December 6 three University of Ottawa students were charged with disturbing the peace as a result of the demonstration. They were remanded one week for sentence.

During the hearing a group of 50 students milled around outside the court house and more than a dozen others were settled inside the court room.

At the University a special edition of the Arts faculty, The Artsman, screamed police brutality, and slammed the reporting of the incident in one of the Ottawa commercial papers. The article also took the CBC to task for the use of the word "mob" in its report of the incident.

The student organizers of the demonstration have called on Ottawa Mayor, Charlotte Whitton to launch an investigation into the methods used by police to handle the demonstration.

During the demonstration at the Memorial, CUP President Roger McAfee said he saw no evidence of unruliness in the crowd and certainly no acts of desecration were committed. "Also there were no signs of police brutality. It seemed the only accusation that could be made against the Ottawa police is that they handled the entire incident poorly. The demonstration would have proceeded quietly as planned if the police had merely tried to control the crowd and insure order was kept rather than trying to break up the demonstration.

"Grabbing a couple of students and hustling them to a police wagon can hardly be called police brutality, however.

"The demonstration at Parliament Hill was quite orderly, with the RCMP in complete command of the situation."

FEDERATION DENIES RESPONSIBILITY

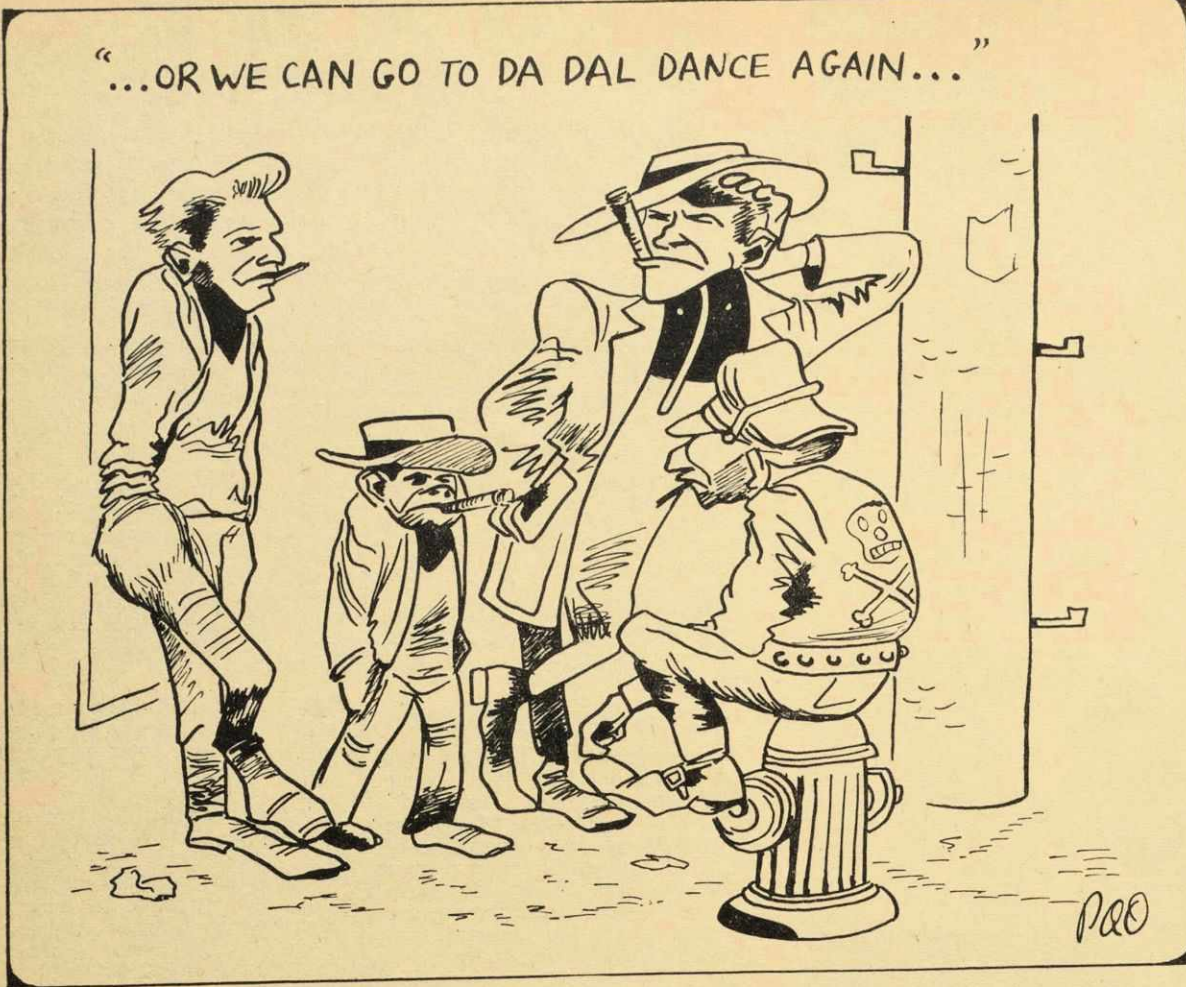
The student federation at Ottawa U has issued a statement that the demonstration was not an official act of the federation. The statement also said the use of the pavement in front of the War Memorial was not meant as any signs of disrespect.

The federation executive said it "deeply regrets the unusual and offensive manner in which it (the demonstration) was handled by the Ottawa Police Department."

The statement says the executive will officially ask the city mayor to investigate activities of the police department in this manner.

The demonstration received the full support of Ottawa U's French-language student paper, La Rotonde. A special edition of the paper rallied students to the march. It showed a picture of the CNR president with his head in a noose. The caption, in red ink said: "Gordon Au Bucher."

The edition gave time, meeting place, and events to take place during the demonstration.



THE STUDENT DIRECTORY

The directory has finally appeared, but we suspect that it might have been better for all concerned if it had never seen the light of day.

Every year the promise is made that the student directory will be published within three or four weeks of the beginning of term. This year we were informed it was to have a new format and would be circulated even earlier than usually promised. It finally left the printers shop two weeks before the end of the fall term and in such a mess that the printer could well have spent the Christmas holidays correcting the errors without causing too much inconvenience to students.

What was wrong with it? Here are a few items at least:

- new covers had to be put on because the printer left the University Crest off one set and neglected to cut the fold;
- the pages appeared in two different sizes;
- many of the numbers are wrong;
- the general directory is left out;
- the campus map is on the wrong pages with the wrong explanatory notes under each section.

Student Council President Al Robertson has told us of the continual stalls and excuses put forward by the printer when asked when the directory would be ready. In fact, while some of the delay might be traced to the students organizing the directory, it appears that the printer has just fallen down on the job.

No contract was signed between the council and the printer. However, the Council has called for a full investigation into the publishing of the directory this year. We hope the members will deal appropriately with whoever is at fault.

'SIR CHARLES TUPPER MEMORIAL'

The University is approaching the Canadian Centenary Council for funds to help in the construction of a new medical building to be called the 'Sir Charles Tupper Memorial'.

The Dalhousie Medical School will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 1968, the year after the Canadian Centenary. Sir Charles Tupper was closely associated with Dalhousie and the founding of the Medical School. He was on the Board of Governors and, a Doctor of Medicine himself, actively participated in the planning of the new faculty.

Sir Charles is perhaps better known, however, as one of the Fathers of Confederation from Nova Scotia and is in fact the only doctor to have served as Prime Minister of Canada. It would be fitting indeed to name the new medical building after him.

Fifteen University presidents on the Central Advisory Committee on Education in the Atlantic Provinces have voiced their support for such a proposal and have urged the Centenary Council to give the request its serious consideration. The Council has approximately \$100,000,000 to spend on the Centenary celebrations. We have no doubt that a certain portion of the money will be spent on things of transitory significance. The Medical building, we suggest, would be a permanent memorial to one of Canada's great leaders, and would be of very real value to the Atlantic Provinces as well.



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