

# Politics take over Canadian constitution

The idea that Canada's constitution is a legal matter is outdated.

According to a UBC political science professor, politics have taken over.

Opening a series of lectures by visiting speakers sponsored by the U of A political science department, Prof. Donald Smiley said this week solutions to problems surrounding the BNA Act "must be forged out of a contest of political will."

The lecture series is a celebration of Canada's centennial year.

Prof. Smiley introduced himself as a native Albertan "who grew up in this province when it still had politics."

"And when you don't have politics any more, you branch out into political sciences," he added.

The speaker investigated the problems of the Canadian state and noted more and more of the federal jurisdiction being usurped by the provinces.

### "NEGATIVE EFFECT"

He cited the example of provincial banks and their "negative effect on the Bank of Canada's control of money supply."

"The federal government," he said, "could call for clarification of this matter in the courts. But the Pearson administration has chosen not to do so," he said.



PROFESSOR SMILEY ... contest of will

On the other hand, Prof. Smiley continued, the federal government has obtained influence in the provincial sphere through its comprehensive grant-in-aid programs. Starting in 1919 this federal encroachment was sourly noted in Quebec. It has led to a series of problems in the province regarding her relationship with the rest of Canada.

Using political rather than legal levers, he felt that Quebec is now claiming a number of objects that had been reserved for federal jurisdiction by the BNA Act.

Prof. Smiley analyzed the piecemeal responses of the federal government to these challenges, concluding that "negotiations must go on in confidentiality since each party has the power to frustrate the other to an intolerable degree, especially in fiscal matters."

Lecturer Smiley measured the promises held by the existing parties against his stated objectives and particularly rejected the two-nation theory of the NDP as out of the question.

The major portion of the speech was concerned with the co-existence of English and French Canada as equal partners.

The speaker called for radical increases in French influence on federal educational and fiscal policies, "or else Confederation will fail."

## Gateway bylaws modernized

Council decided Monday The Gateway is not an instrument of social change.

After heated debate on proposed changes to The Gateway bylaws, most of the amendments, proposed by Gateway Editor-In-Chief Bill Miller, were passed.

One exception; part of an amendment referring to The Gateway as an agent of "social change" was killed.

"The bylaws must be modernized," said Miller. "Some of these changes are just making legal what is already being done."

A key amendment was a resolution passed by the U of A delegation at the Canadian Union of Students conference in Halifax last month—that the editor of the student paper be liable to no discipline by council until a Canadian University Press investigation is carried out.



# TOMORROW

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## Blitz needs student volunteers to canvas

Blitz needs you.

One thousand student volunteers are required to canvas Edmonton's small business establishments on Oct. 20 and 21 for the United Community Fund.

This year's Blitz goal has been set at \$3,888, although it is hoped this target will be exceeded.

Fringe benefits to Blitzers include

- free transportation on the Edmonton Transit System on Oct. 20 and 21;
- free Kick-off Breakfast on Blitz days;
- tickets at one dollar each to the Oct. 29 football game between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Calgary Stampeders;
- a trophy and pins of recognition to be presented during the half-time of the football game to the university groups with the highest percentage of Blitzers.

Other news media are also enthusiastically publicizing the U of A's participation in the United Community Fund.

Radio station CJCA will broadcast its morning show from the Kick-off Breakfast, featuring interviews with students.

The Edmonton Journal plans extensive coverage of the Blitz, and a television interview with Blitz Chairman Ellen Mackenzie has

been tentatively scheduled.

As Blitz Publicity Chairman Beth Rudolph told The Gateway, "This is our chance to deal directly with the community and to show Edmontonians that we are concerned with events outside the campus."

Every student interested in canvassing is asked to leave his name and telephone number at the Blitz Office in Room 108 of SUB. Good guys Blitz.

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Kelly Burke  
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 10 a.m. to 12 noon  
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she will also appear at the U of A - A of C Football game on Saturday afternoon



## OPTOMETRISTS

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12318 Jasper Avenue  
 Telephone 488-0944

South Side Office—  
 10903 - 80 Ave. 433-7305

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