

# CUP Conference Highlights

## Democracy Threatened

The Queen's *Journal* has expressed their "position" in a recent editorial. In no less than two places they state that the CUP would possibly "be destroyed" as a national organization if the three "walkout" papers revoke their membership from CUP.

The *Varsity* and the *Ubysey* are large financial contributors to CUP and considering the present financial state of the organization, their withdrawal would undoubtedly be a very definite weakening factor.

The *Brunswickan* while not necessarily condemning the reasons for their walkout, does condemn the walkout. By this practice they are threatening the very foundation of a democratic organization, namely, a majority rule. Admittedly at times this imposes on the individual a restriction, but without this practice no organization, including CUP, could function.

A motion was passed with a large majority and it is on the very passing of this motion that the three papers withdrew from the conference. Any paper attending the conference does so with the understanding that a simple majority alone is required on motions, not relating to by-law and constitution amendments in order to be passed.

Unfortunately the *Varsity*, *Journal* and *Ubysey* either lacked or lost this understanding. And even more important they are in such a position, which the *Journal* insidiously states, to seriously undermine CUP by their possible withdrawal. They are imposing or attempting to impose on the national organization a minority rule by flaunting "the imminent loss" CUP would suffer with their resignation.

The *Journal* states that "we find it completely unacceptable that two-thirds or even ninety per cent of the members of CUP can tell us what our opinions will be on any issue". We respect the "stated" position of

## The Reason for the Walkout

The *Varsity* (U of T), Queen's *Journal* and the *Ubysey* (UBC) walked out of the last plenary session of the Canadian University Press Conference on December 29th.

Debate arose when a resolution was brought before the Conference stating CUP's "profound regret" of the "apparently abrupt and arbitrary" expulsion of three editors of the *Carabin*. The three students of the Laval paper were expelled in September following the printing of the controversial *I Am Alone*. Prior to the presentation of the resolution, a standing order sponsored by the *Varsity* was passed (12-11) preventing CUP from expressing any editorial opinion without the unanimous approval of every member paper. When the motion condemning the Laval Administration's actions was brought to a vote, one paper opposed it. Their opposition was merely to illustrate the fallability of the standing order requiring unanimity on editorial opinions.

Heated discussion followed, and the result that the standing order was rescinded over the vehement protests of a minority. A new motion was passed permitting CUP to express editorial opinion, based on a two-thirds majority of the Conference.

The motion of censure against Laval was then re-introduced and passed. Immediately following *Varsity* Editor, Ed Roberts walked out in objection to the resolution "permitting a two-thirds majority to decide CUP editorial policy". The Queen's *Journal* and the *Ubysey* also left the Conference. The *Gateway* (U of A) supported the *Varsity* but did not withdraw from the Conference.

To date the three papers have not the *Journal*, but we do not respect, we condemn the action they have taken to have this "position" enforced.

The 23rd National Conference of the Canadian University Press (CUP) was held at the University of Western Ontario in London during the Christmas holidays.

The highlight of the three-day conference was a walkout staged by three papers, the *Varsity* (University of Toronto), the *Queen's Journal* and *Ubysey* (University of British Columbia) after disagreement with other conference delegates over whether a unanimous or two-thirds vote should be required on the Laval question.

A new slate of officers to head CUP commencing June 1, 1961 were named. Ted Johnston, McMaster University, won by acclamation the presidency of CUP, and immediately appointed Michel Beaubien, *La Rotonde* (University of Ottawa) as National Secretary and Bruce MacCutcheon of the University of Toronto as National Vice-President.

Two newspapers were accepted with full membership and privileges into CUP increasing the membership to 26. The "*Campus Estrien*" a French language paper from the University of Sherbrooke and the "*Manifesto*" Lakehead College are the new members.

The first two days of the conference were devoted primarily to committee and sub-committee sessions. Delegates to the conference were divided among three major committees. These were:

**Administration Committee**—dealing with finances, constitutional or by-law revisions, reviewing the administration of the national office.

**CUP Services Committee**—dealing with such items as wire services, library services, features services, poll resigned from the organization but are reconsidering "their relationship with Canadian University Press".

and survey services, trophies and photo exchange.

**Editorial and Policy Committee**—dealing with this year's proposal to form a CUP Research and Information Committee, CUP statements of policy regarding specific incidents (e.g. Laval issue and expulsion of editors) and the Code of Ethics and Charter of the Student Press.

The *Brunswickan* was mandated to review and revise the Charter of the Student Press in Canada and the Code of Ethics (1959), and that it present its report to the next National Conference.

Approved at the final plenary session after the walkout of the three editors was the following motion; moved by: *La Rotonde*, seconded by: *UWO Gazette*; Whereas three members of the staff of *Le Carabin*, Laval University, have been expelled as a result of certain articles, the Canadian University Press while not condoning the content of the articles, expresses its profound regret:

1. The expulsion of the three students which appears to have been arbitrary by the University Council, precluding action contemplated by the Association Generale des Etudiants de Laval;

2. The apparent failure of the AGEL to fulfil its responsibility to support the staff members of *Le Carabin* and the principle of Freedom of the Press, in that insufficient effort was made to have the students reinstated, or at least to aid them financially.

The Canadian University Press regrets this incident. In order to avoid such occurrences in the future, we urge:

—that member papers adhere to the Canadian University Press Code of Ethics.

—that student governments fulfil their responsibilities toward their

student press. —that university administrations avoid infringements upon the rights and liberties outlined in the Charter of the Student Press in Canada (1959) which the student press must enjoy in order to serve any worthwhile purpose.

The establishment of an Investigation Commission was delayed to permit a sub-committee time to clear up difficulties. The purpose of the proposed Investigation Commission would be to conduct a full and impartial investigation into such occurrences as the Laval incident and send an immediate report to CUP.

A brief, outlining the position, aims and needs of Canadian University Press is to be presented to the Royal Commission on Publications in Ottawa. This draft, which is confidential at present, was approved at the conference and its contents will be revealed later.

Awards to university newspapers judged best in various classes were made at a banquet sponsored by the University of Western Ontario. Guest speaker at this dinner was J. W. Pickersgill, Liberal M.P. for Bonaville - Twillingate. Mr. Pickersgill spoke on the topic "Freedom of the Press and Truth".

The Jacques Bureau Trophy for general excellence among English language member papers publishing less than twice weekly went to the *Silhouette* of McMaster University for the fourth consecutive year.

The Southam Trophy for general excellence among English language papers publishing twice weekly or more was awarded to the *Gazette*, University of Western Ontario, also for the fourth consecutive year.

The Le Droit Trophy for general excellence among French language newspapers was won by *Le Carabin*

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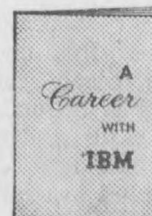
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