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A.W.R. Carrothers

Strong presidential contender may be present Calgary chief

By CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

York's rumor mill is grinding once more the grist of the search for a successor to retiring president Murray G. Ross.

As it appears that only one of the original three candidates — U of T arts dean A.D. Allen — of the first 'short list' will be on the next 'short list', York's search committee is seeking new candidates.

One strong potential contender is rumoured to be University of Calgary president A.W.R. "Freddy" Carrothers, formerly dean of the law schools at the University of Western Ontario and the University of British Columbia

Carrothers, who became president at Calgary just a year ago, is an outspoken advocate of 'faculty power', although it is unclear what this means given the guild structure of the professoriate.

What it seems to mean to observors at the U of C is that particularly senior faculty - deans, associate deans, etc. - are welded into a close alliance with the administration for decision-making purposes, and that more power is exercised through the academic senate at the expense of the board of governors.

In his U of C installation address on Jan. 30, 1969, Carrothers observed that within five years, government of the university by a single body made up of all the interests now represented on the senate and the board, though in different proportions, will be "endemic" in Canada.

In other words, the faculty will be masters, as they have been in older countries for a long time.

They will have to learn to orient themselves to the whole institution. Carrothers said that he is confident that this is possible because while governors contribute time, money and outside support, and students spend a few years at the university. . . "for members of the faculty, the university is life itself."

Despite his faculty power line, Carrothers is probably the ideal man to inspire confidence in a board of governors while shifting power around a bit.

His background, his training and his administrative style are all such that a board would realize he could be trusted to prevent anything 'rash' from happening.

Carrothers is considered to be one of the best jurists in the country and his legal training profoundly affects the way he views the university in much the same way as its affected the Woods report on collective bargaining.

'Rule of law'

His feelings toward the rule of law can almost be described as fetishistic, and his belief in the 'proper channels' unshakeable.

In an interview in The Gazette (Western) in December, 1968, Carrothers' basic philosophy regarding reform of society, and of universities, operates within this framework of the 'rule of law'

He defined 'rule of law' as "a phrase which covers a broad philosophical concept; if you don't have it . . . you have the rule of men. . and people act arbitrarily and individually. . . there is chaos.

He added that "the rule of law institutionalizes this arbitrary process and legitimizes the use of power, thus transforming it into authority.'

Power, he said, "is the illegitimate use of force" while authority is "the legitimate use of force within an institutionalized framework.'

The senate is an example of a body which has authority and as such operates within this concept of the 'rule of law'. Its power is statutory, thus legal. In his mind, for change or reform to be legitimate, it must be effected within the confines of the 'rule of

Sit-ins violent

Carrothers' stand on student power activities and the role of students in university government follows directly out of his belief in the 'rule of law' and 'proper channels'.

The following interview with Carrothers appeared in the now deceased U of C student newspaper, The Gauntlet, on Jan. 15, 1969.

GAUNTLET: Do you think students have a right to indulge in non-violent demonstrations when all other established channels of complaints have been exhausted without satisfaction?

CARROTHERS: Depends on what you mean by non-violent demonstrations.

GAUNTLET: Sit-ins, picketing.

CARROTHERS: I would not condone the use of force even though it may be described conveniently as non-violent. I think a sit-in is a use of force and I've said so on other occasions and I don't think it excuses a sit-in simply to describe it as non-violent. So my answer, I assume from all that, to your question would I find it justifiable, my answer to that is (I think it must be) no.

GAUNTLET: In other words, after all available established means and channels of complaints have been exhausted, there is no further complaint?

CARROTHERS: I didn't say there is no further complaint.

GAUNTLET: What further channels would you suggest after the established channels have been

CARROTHERS: Well, you seem to be premissing this question on whatever the complaint is, the students are entitled to have it answered in the



A.W.R. Carrothers

manner in which they want it answered.

GAUNTLET: Or at least discussed to a consensus decision.

CARROTHERS: It may not be a matter on which the students should be able to have such an evenhanded contribution as to demand a consensus because that assumes that there is no decision - or no right decision - until it is concurred in by the

(Interviewer's Note: That's exactly what I meant.) With regard to student involvement in university government, in December 1968, Carrothers, at that time at Western, said "he would be prepared to endorse student representation in matters that concern

However, he added, that two important matters must be decided on before involvement begins: 1) 'Does it affect students enough to involve them?" 2) "How much voice should they have?"

In matters such as curriculum, he felt that students shouldn't have a "deciding voice, because they don't know enough about creating and administering curricula to have a deciding voice.'

Students can play an important role in determining academic and social behaviour, he said, but "faculty should control academic freedom and standards, because these decisions require experience.'

A conservative

In other words, Carrothers is a conservative, though not a reactionary. He has a profound belief in formal procedures for handling conflict of virtually any description.

And although he considers that sit-ins constitute violence and that society has the right to resort to force (for him, legally-sanctioned violence) to ensure order, it is considered unlikely that he would allow many situations to come to that.

By all reports, he is a brilliant man and considered to be one of the best mediators in the business. The federal government has used him extensively.

Personally, he is considered quite affable, but ill-at ease with the outrageous. Rude students apparently unsettle him.

While at Western, Carrothers headed a commission on disciplinary arrangements on campus which rose out of a case of double jeopardy involving a marijuana charge. A student stood to receive punishment for one charge from both the university and civil authorities.

Carrothers took the student's side in opposing double jeopardy, but still maintained an equivocal stand on the relations between university regulations and society's laws.

Idolized

Carrothers is practically idolized by the Calgary establishment. The U of C is really strapped for money and he has spent a lot of his time doing public relations work to drum up funds.

He has made great stock out of the fact that the university and the community are inextricably related, but he has confined his dealings with the community to the upper echelons of business.

He likes to have everything under control all the time, Calgary sources report. When he took office at U of Clast January, his first official act was to set up an administrative review of the university and to institute a selective purge of upper-level administrative personnel, notably the vice-president (academic).

Apparently, Carrothers was attempting to ensure a close alliance with senior faculty by paring off administrators to allow faculty more room to make decisions

He has served as executive secretary of the Canadian Association of University Teachers and is presently a director of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

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