

Community Forum - A Failure

Lively discussion, burning questions, and heated crossfire were definitely not part of the Community Forum in the McInnes Room last Thursday afternoon.

Set up by the Student Services Committee to inform the students, faculty and administration of each other's jobs in relation to the university community, the panel consisted of Mr. Donald McInnes, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. A. MacKay representing the Senate, Mr. Leffek, President of the Faculty Association, and Mr. Bruce Billis representing the students.

Before the Forum had hardly gotten underway Mr. McInnes raised the hackles of a number of observers with the statement that the university was the biggest industry in the area.

The notable absence of products on display was attributed to the lack of publicity but apathy on the part of the student could receive some of the blame.

This was not the case with the faculty, who were well represented in the audience.

Mr. Leffek argued that the faculty is the least powerful and thus the least important group in the university, while Mr. MacKay stated that the Senate would be rated very highly if they were considered equal to the students and faculty.

For anything to be accomplished each group must first define its respective role for the benefit of one another and the campus as a whole. It must clear a way for open communication so that problems will be

brought out in the open and not kept hidden because it is felt the governing body will become "uptight" over a proposal.

Every member of the panel expressed a willingness to listen to the opinions of the students.

However there is a limit to what the university can do, as was noted in the mention of the Physical Education Complex. In this case the holdup is money but there may be other reasons that are not immediately evident.

It is the function of the university to create an atmosphere for the individual to deal with the problems that are brought out by the students and other facets of the university community through talks and future Forums.

The other functions of the university as a complete entity were left

for a later date but Mr. Leffek did state that if improvements to education require some radical change it should be initiated by a political party set up outside the university for this express purpose.

Many of the questions raised at this Forum were irrelevant to the topic selected for discussion and dealt with personal interests of the panelists. These included reference to Mr. Gillis' activities on the day of the CUS Referendum, the activities of Mr. McInnes on various boards, and indirectly the political affiliations of Mr. Leffek.

However some relevant questions were asked concerning the matter of open housing, the financial undertakings of the university as a whole, the new physical education complex, and the apparent absence of non-academic staff on the Forum.

democratic staff on the Forum.

At least one concrete plan did come about as a result of this meeting. A new committee is being set up to do a study on student government. This includes dropping the original idea to follow the Toronto Report. Their report will be distributed next fall to the academic community and will hopefully lead to working discussion of the problem. When the report is tabled the role of each administrative organ hopefully will be defined to everyone's satisfaction.

As an introductory seminar the meeting was a basic failure in most respects. Little could be done with the poor turn-out and the formal atmosphere. It is hoped that the next meeting, as yet unscheduled will be better publicized and less rigid in its structure.

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TRUDEAU'S FEDERALISM IN THE CYC:

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There was a mix-up over radio-controlled translating devices during the in-camera meeting when council discussed Quebec - it's pretty well certain that some newsmen listened in, or could have.

But there is a scapegoat here, who because he left the meeting before the session on Quebec and was not careful of his translator, will be blamed if arrests are made in Quebec: Vidal's enemy, Jim Littleton.

That may make little difference now. Pelletier has said there is going to be a parliamentary investigation. The result, may be just what the permanent council described in their latest press release: the courts will decide whether "any individual volunteers have, unknown to the council, committed illegal acts."

Individuals are expendable, so long

as the basic trust of the federal government's philosophy of the use of the CYC is not threatened.

And once those 'individuals' have been weeded out, and maybe a federal trusteeship imposed on the company, things will again return to what they were.

Radicals left in the company in English Canada will be harrassed into further resignations, Littleton will be eliminated for opposing Vidal and there will still be separatists in Quebec employed by the CYC.

The administration of the city of Montreal was right when it said there is more than one separatist in the company. The CYC's information director admitted that more than a month before the present crisis began.

There are also more than will be uncovered by any 'parliamentary' investigation.

"HAPPINESS IS"

will be here Nov. 21, 1969
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