

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Surviving election parties isn't done by the candidates alone but by the staff which covers such elections—consequently several hangers staggered into the office for the fourth last press night of the year. Among the stagged were: Dave Sufferland, (who had nothing fit to print), Ina van Nieuwkerk (she's against Busses), Al (the warth) Scarth who hasn't forgiven Rich yet, Orest Popovich (fastest draw in the West), Cathy Morris (she helps Scarth down the suds), Dan (the Man) Jamieson, Lynn Hugo, Terry Pettit, Judy Samoil, Bob (who's got nothing on the ball since a close shave in Victoria), Joe (the Basketballs) Czajkowski, and leastest last, your "frostyballs" snake in the suds, Harvey G. (for groin) Thomgirt.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1969

Editorial

This guy is sick and tired of many, many, many things

It didn't take very long. Less than a week as a matter of fact. And a member of the Social Credit government has publicly denounced "militants"—those terrible people who are saying that something might not be all that good in the university structure.

There is really little wrong with an MLA taking a stand on such an issue. However, it must be remembered that when a member of the provincial government speaks, it must be assumed he is talking about this province and if he speaks of solutions, then he must be advocating answers to problems which exist openly in Alberta.

Last Friday, a fella named Lee Leavitt who represents the Queen's Park constituency in Calgary talked in the legislature about these alleged problems. His remarks were picked up by our competitor across town. This is a partial list of his more intelligent remarks.

"Let us tell our presidents of our colleges and universities to get rid of the undesirable trouble-makers who may be within their faculty.

"We do have a few professors who, under the cloak of academic freedom, are bent on overthrowing the democratic process.

"Trouble-makers or followers of such rabble-rousers should lose their portion of the provincial per student grant to universities and colleges.

"Let us tell the militant activists and their blind followers that they are not eligible for provincial scholarships, bursaries and grants, and that we will not process their provincial loans.

"Let us tell them that the undesirable among them will be barred from provincial employment for a minimum of at least five years.

Of course, when people talk about radicals, the terms "communist" and "Canadian Union of

Students" are thrown in to add spice and incredibility.

Once upon a time there was a guy named Joseph McCarthy who was a United States senator. . . .

What should be asked at this time, because Leavitt has to be talking about the universities of either Calgary, Lethbridge or this one, is that he be a bit more specific in his accusations.

For instance:

- are there such things as "desirable" troublemakers because what Leavitt has said so far certainly stamps him as some sort of troublemaker.

- can he name the "few professors" who are making the trouble from within the faculties. If he can, then let's have them.

- does he consider the threat to slice operating budgets to the university anything other than outright coercion? Does he consider such an act in "the best interest of the people of Alberta and democracy"?

- can Leavitt explicitly state who in the Canadian Union of Students is "militant"? Can he prove (or even refer to) what actions were taken by CUS in the field of occupations, sit-ins etc? Can he pinpoint militant actions taken by CUS in this province?

These are just a partial list of questions the MLA might be asked to answer. At the same time, Leavitt's remarks indicate how far out to lunch the public is when it comes to analyzing the types of people and types of problems plaguing the university.

Guys like Leavitt are going to cause a hell of a lot more trouble by their outlandish, unfounded statements than will ever be resolved.

It's even more appalling when one considers that Lee Leavitt is a member of the provincial government and there are too many people who believe what he says.



"The students hanged the Dean in effigy—No, by George, that is the Dean!"

A sacred MLA speaks of militant students and profs

By BRIAN CAMPBELL

This column is about phoney politics and everything that goes with it.

Everyday we are bombarded by another survey of public opinion telling us such and so per cent of the Canadian Public favors or opposes Estate Taxes or Medicare or the Vietnam War or Trudeau's Thoughts on The Constitution. Everyday there is a new opinion and the underlying assumption of both the opinion-measurers and the press is that the Canadian Public holds these views with revolutionary fire. They tell us unless the government heeds the Voice of The People they court disaster.

No one ever questions the assumption that these opinions are important in the total outlook of the people said to hold them. I mean are you really upset about Estate Taxes and Medicare and Constitutional Conferences?

If we sent the opinion-pollers out we could generate an opinion on whether or not Trudeau should wear a racoon coat and that opinion would be just as valid as the rest. And just as irrelevant.

An opinion is something someone is ready to defend. The opinions we are deluged with are created just by asking for an opinion.

The acid test for the opinion-measurers and the politicians is asking just what your personal priorities are, and then deciding where politics fits in.

Frankly I'm tired of the tasteless, ugly population that pours out of our public schools and into the streets to build the new tomorrow. I'm tired of the tasteless architecture and the general repulsiveness of downtown Edmonton and its inhabitants. I'm tired of acres and acres of row housing. I'm fed-up with the sublime ignorance of Social Credit MLA Lee Leavitt, who seems to know nothing about what the radicals have been saying at this university, and yet wants to get rid of "a few professors who, under the cloak of academic freedom are bent on overthrowing the democratic process" and "tell the militant

student activists and their blind followers" that they are ineligible for provincial grants, loans, or future employment. Leavitt's harangue is a threat to the right of free speech. It sounds like it might have been written by Marilyn Pilkington as a warm-up exercise for the legislature.

The Edmonton Journal, of course, gave this speech a big play last Saturday. It was probably a good move because it gave the beer-hall animals who read that rag a chance to grind their teeth a little—work-out their sadism on a few imaginary dirty hippies—and these people are the ones who read the ads and buy the products. It's always a good thing to put them in a satisfied frame of mind. Keep them coming back for more.

It seems people are more parts of a larger system than people anymore, and this is what bothers me. It seems to me that we have been told that certain mental attitudes go with a particular role in society or that a certain role forces the attitudes on us.

Businessmen seem to be an illiberal lot. I have yet to meet a businessman who was worth talking to. Perhaps they are all afflicted with a disease called the Chamber of Commerce.

This all looks dis-jointed, and it no doubt is; but it adds up to an ugly world in my mind. And it is the function of politics to deal with that ugliness. We should put our priorities in order. Are we going to satisfy our hatreds for a few sadistic kicks? Is that the first priority on our list? Are we going to scream about what means we use to we make sure that everyone gets decent medical attention?

Maybe we should get down to the gut level and decide what living is all about. Maybe we should do something about developing ourselves as human beings as well as developing our ability to consume.

If Estate Taxes are giving us ulcers we must be pretty near death.