

SRC should investigate four-day week trend

Our election is over, and we send our congratulations out to newly-elected President Roy Neale and Comptroller Fud Steeves.

This campaign, however, was like too many others. It was not one of programs, but of personalities. The plaster poster method and the ever-smiling face were once again the over-riding factors in this election.

A look through campus newspapers across the country indicates that this campus is, for the most part, like the others. Personality contests and tons of verbal garbage predominate. Wild promises from wild heads - no concrete proposals, backed with sound financial reasoning.

And so it was here.

Curiously, though, two campuses had interesting issues. Both involved plebiscites.

At the University of Loyola in Montreal, the students were deciding whether or not they preferred the four-day week. Voting was done by faculty, and it was therefore possible that an Engineer might stick with a five or six day week, while the Arts student might opt for four days. We don't have any word on the outcome of the plebiscite, but the issue, at least, was raised.

It was something worth looking into, not just getting passed off with a wave of the hand and a cough of the throat. We think perhaps our council should also do some investigating along these lines.

At the University of Western Ontario, in London, students were deciding whether or not they wanted to build a new arena. The proposed structure has facilities for track and field, hockey, skating, curling, and has ample room for concerts. UWO students had the proposal presented to them squarely - the

benefits and the costs.

Nothing of the kind has ever been done here.

They were told simply that the complex would cost an extra \$7 on their student union fees for the next 20 years. We suspect that it will be built under much the same method of financing as

our own SUB was built several years ago.

Make no mistake, we are not endorsing these ideas. We have too little information both financial and otherwise on these proposals. The ideas do exist, however, and we definitely feel that our re-elected President should look into the first, with

Comptroller Steeves looking into the latter.

With the knowledge these two gentlemen already have, we think a report of this nature - if there is to be one - should be due no later than the first week of March.

Let's get to it.

"Rights" being changed to privileges

In Quebec, the Gendron Commission's report on language has been "leaked" to Le Devoir. Briefly, the report calls for the increased use of French in la belle province, while maintaining some semblance of service to the English-speaking minority.

While we would readily agree with the first, we feel that this is being done to the detriment of the English-speaking minority.

The school language issue has long been a point of contention in Quebec. The freedom to choose either French or English schools has led to the integration of immigrants to Quebec into the English school-system. With the low birthrate in the province, it aroused fears that English could eventually become the majority language, at least in Montreal.

We can understand those fears, and are willing to agree to whatever measures will stop or reverse this process. These measures, however, cannot be taken at the risk of depriving English-Quebeckers of their rights.

The report calls for French to be Quebec's official language, while both English and French would be national languages. Individuals would still be

allowed to deal with their government in either language. Firms, however, would not. According to the Gendron report, companies must communicate with the government in French. Just as important, the commission mentions the "privileges" of English-speaking Quebeckers, but never their "Rights." This is grossly unfair. The right to communicate should be just that - a right, and not a privilege. Employees and company directors should be

encouraged and perhaps even forced to get some understanding of French if need be, but they should be able to communicate with their government in either language.

For this country to remain together, both the English and French populations must give and take. Cooperation must be the by-word, for there can be no other way. The people of Quebec should not allow their government to infringe upon these rights to language.

We're waiting

Gentlemen of the Administration, where is our Health Services Report? Last summer a committee was set up to investigate and make recommendations on the existing Health Center on campus. We desperately need better organized health facilities here, and the longer you hold up the report, the longer it is before we get what we need.

And gentlemen, where is the housing proposal that we were promised would be presented to Senate before last Christmas? We desperately need better housing facilities also. How long will it be

before we get them?

Instead of withholding everything until these final reports are available, would it not have been a good idea to inform us of the different proposals open to us. Then the students could have given their opinions during the drafting of the reports and not have had to wait until the final copy was released.

This would be better than having the student body voice their displeasure afterwards, thereby holding up both improved health services and housing facilities.

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