

Quebec Students

Flatly Reject

Alberta Offer

LENNOXVILLE, Que.—Quebec students have turned down flat an offer by Alberta students to exhibit western culture in Quebec, but the Westerners readily admit their plan may have been premature.

The U of A students' union had planned to send representatives to a French-Canadian university this winter in order to foster a cultural dialogue with Quebec students.

But when two U of A student representatives travelled to Quebec City to discuss the possibility of holding a Western Canada Week at Laval University, they were greeted by student leaders who refused to speak with them in English.

The display of western culture and art was to have been a return visit by Alberta students, of French Canada Week, held last winter on the Edmonton campus.

French Canada Week was a \$13,000 experiment in which French-Canadian speakers, art displays, music and food were brought to Edmonton as part of an understanding through communication theme.

Friday's communication breakdown may not have been an accidental one.

Pierre Sarault, head of Laval's student body, communicated with U of A students' union president Richard Price through Mr. Price's executive assistant, who speaks French.

"Either he doesn't speak English—or he won't," said Mr. Price.

Laval University is one of several French-Canadian universities which last fall left the predominantly English-speaking Canadian

Union of Students, and formed their own student organization, the Union Generale Des Etudiants Du Quebec (UGEQ).

The reason given Price for Laval's refusal of the Alberta offer was twofold:

•Quebec students already understand the West's culture better than do westerners understand French-Canadian culture.

•Quebec's present concern is with the future of Quebec—not Western Canada.

Bruce Olsen, CUS chairman on the Edmonton campus, said a Western Canada week would have failed for yet another crucial reason.

"In holding such a week, we would have to present our students' views to Quebecers in the proper French," he explained.

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