

Businessmen say UofA production down.. Nonsense says Wyman

Escalating education costs came under attack from the Chamber of Commerce at a U of A Senate meeting Friday.

Ken Chapman, chairman of the Edmonton education committee of the Chamber, University of Alberta president, Dr. Max Wyman, and Student's Union president, Don McKenzie were participating in a panel discussion entitled "Financing Education in an Inflationary and Growing Economy."

"Business and industry are tremendously interested in education being handled well but you must become realistic", Chapman warned. He said that a national education committee of the Chamber of Commerce consisting of leading businessmen including the top manager of the Royal Bank of Canada was set up to study ways of controlling education costs. Chapman then proceeded to quote various committee findings that supposedly proved that the productivity of the U of A had dropped in the past ten years.

Dr. Wyman countered that the use of statistics comparing the University of Alberta ten years with what it is today is very misleading, because they are not comparable institutions. The enrollment in 1959 was 5300 students; in 1969 it was 17,500. Since 1959 there has been a 4.2% increase in staff salaries, and the increase in enrollment (both graduate and undergraduate) and the installation of expensive computer facilities. With inflation also taken into account the increase in budget from \$9 to \$53 million is not out of line.

The productivity of a university is not just the number of graduates per staff member. Discoveries like Salk vaccine that come out of university research should not be ignored.

"I am worried about the hostility shown and generated towards education; and the disenchantment of parents is shown in students who do not

come to university. It will not help to point a finger at one sector of the community for this will ultimately destroy education. We are all in it together and we must get out together," concluded Dr. Wyman.

Don McKenzie said that it is now a political move how much the government will spend on education. The allocation of priorities by the university as well as costs should be taken into account. However, there is a real need for the separation of costs in the university into research, teaching and community service. At present they are lumped under one large budget. "There is a real



U of A Pres. Max Wyman

possibility that students may actually pay for a third to a half of their education not merely 15%", he said.

McKenzie also expressed concern that in collective bargaining between the Board of Governors and academic and non-academic staff the staff would demand more and more. He questioned whether professors would be willing to cut back salaries so more professors could be hired to reduce large classes. The idea of an Educational Opportunity Bank which would provide students with free tuition and a stipend for room and board and

which students would pay back later in increased income tax was suggested by the SU president.

The financial barrier would be broken down and a university education would be based more on the ability to pay, allowing more students to attend university according to McKenzie. "There is a great need in university financing to abolish the difference between operating and capital budgets so that buildings do not get priorities over students", said McKenzie. He felt that there should be a greater use made of the university facilities by the community. According to McKenzie this would help increase community support for education. "If we do not do this then we may be facing decreasing resources when the need is increasing", he said.

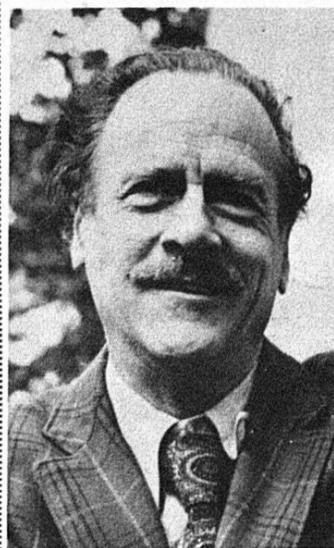
In the lively debate which followed the seminar, G.A. Compston, a senate member, felt it was naive of McKenzie to

expect society to pay room and board for students. "it is their own responsibility if they want a university education", he said. He questioned the product which would be turned out of universities if costs are still rising once the building costs are at an end.

Another Senator, H.R. Spelliscy said as a businessman he felt that the danger is not in the increasing cost of education but in a lack of academics who want to forestall costs. "It is up to society then to tell us - through the government - that they feel it is spending too much on education. People say we are wasting money. I say prove it" argued Dr. Wyman.

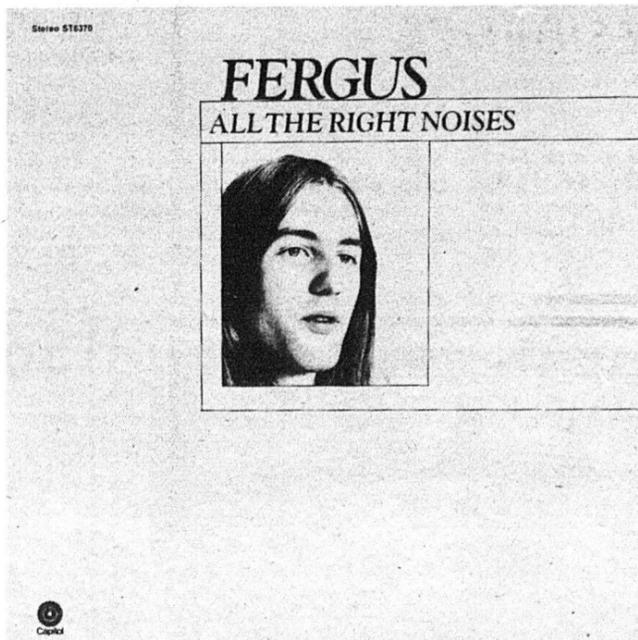
Spelliscy then hotly denied charges by Phil Arnold, president of the Non-Academic Staff Association, that business can hide their costs under their income tax, while the University must account for every penny spent.

by Elsie Ross



Marshall McLuhan, the man who has written several books concerning our modern society and is acknowledged as one of the foremost philosophers of our time, presented the convocation speech to the UofA 1971 graduates Saturday. Dr. McLuhan was presented with an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree at the Convocation ceremonies.

Fergus



All the right noises



Songs of a young Canadian.
Songs of a Canadian's wanderings.
Songs of a Canadian's loving.
Songs of a Canadian's experience. His name is Fergus.
He sings songs of his own making.
Songs of a young Canadian. Listen to Fergus. On Capitol.

Capitol Records (Canada) Limited Produced by: Greg Hambleton



Trips and Memberships

sold in S.U.B. until Dec. 3

Trips are planned for:

Banff - Dec. 20 - 23
Whitefish - Jan. 1 - 5

REMEMBER

**NEXT MEETING ON NOV 30
SHAKER NO. 2 ON DEC 3**