

Laurin says bilingualism not feasible

by Allen Young

"The primary reason for Bill 101 is that the federal government has been pushing Quebec to bilingualism while the rest of the country is allowed to remain unilingual," said Quebec cultural development minister Camille Laurin last Friday.

Dr. Laurin, in an address at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies conference on Ukrainian Canadians, Multiculturalism, and Separatism, essentially said the federal bilingual policies have failed to prevent the erosion of the French language and culture in Quebec, and for this reason, a new course of action must be taken.

He argues the language rights offered by the federal government do not extend to the broader notion of cultural rights. Cultural rights, he said, are reduced to language rights, which are in turn reduced to minimal rights.

Laurin pointed out that to preserve its language and culture and take its place in modern history, Quebec may have to separate from the rest of Canada.

"Quebecers themselves

want to be and will be their own scribes of their own history.

"We subscribe unequivocally to the notion of interdependence among people in economic, cultural, and social spheres ...

"But all interdependence is based on the principle of sovereignty first."

The conference was remarkably quiet, considering that it was one of Laurin's first public speeches in the West, and follows very close the passing of the controversial language legislation in Quebec earlier this year.

Laurin has been termed as a man who is "a scholar more than a politician," and the minister mentioned in his opening remarks he would like to discuss the issues from a scholarly rather than a political point of view, even though the implications were found to be political.

The minister said Quebec is not asking for universal Canadian bilingualism.

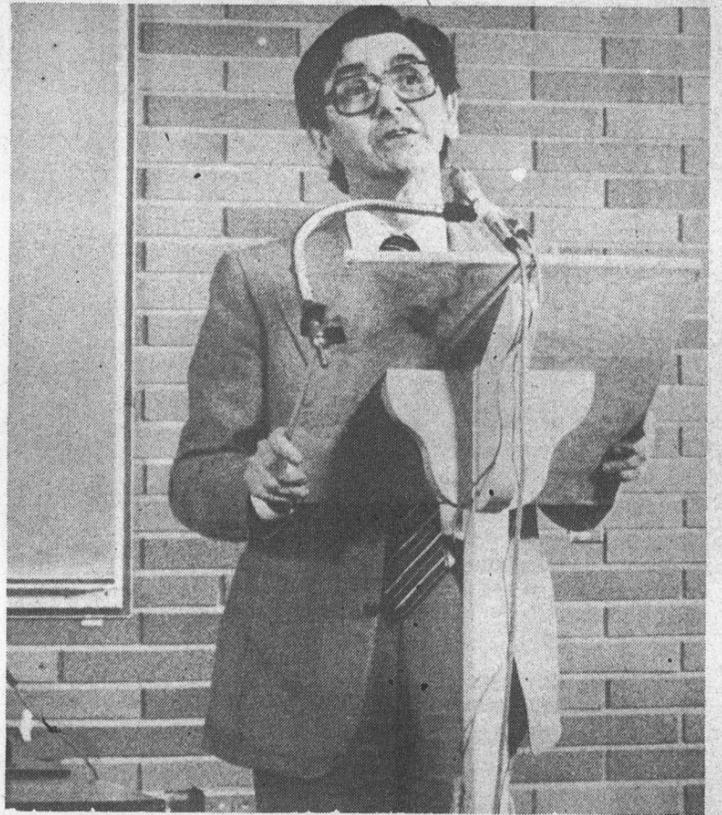
"More reasonably," he said, "We demand that Quebec should be unequivocally francophone as the rest of the country is unilingually anglophone."

The original ideas of the BNA act, said Laurin, which is a political agreement between two founding peoples, has been partially undermined by the new ideas of multiculturalism. The smaller minorities, he said, are assimilated into the English and many smaller minorities become advent supporters and defenders of the English viewpoint.

In the question period, Laurin expanded his views on the role of minorities, saying "What we mean by Quebec being French is that French will become the official language, the language of communication." He said the French culture is to be the converging focus of the other cultures.

A suggestion of a constitutional amendment made recently by Prime Minister Trudeau granting Canadians the right to attend schools of the language of their choice, was termed by Laurin a form of political strategy designed to draw yes votes away from a possible referendum of separatism

continued to page 2



Bad laws . . .

The Gateway

. . . are the worst sort of tyranny.

VOL. LXVIII, NO. 2. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1977. TWELVE PAGES.

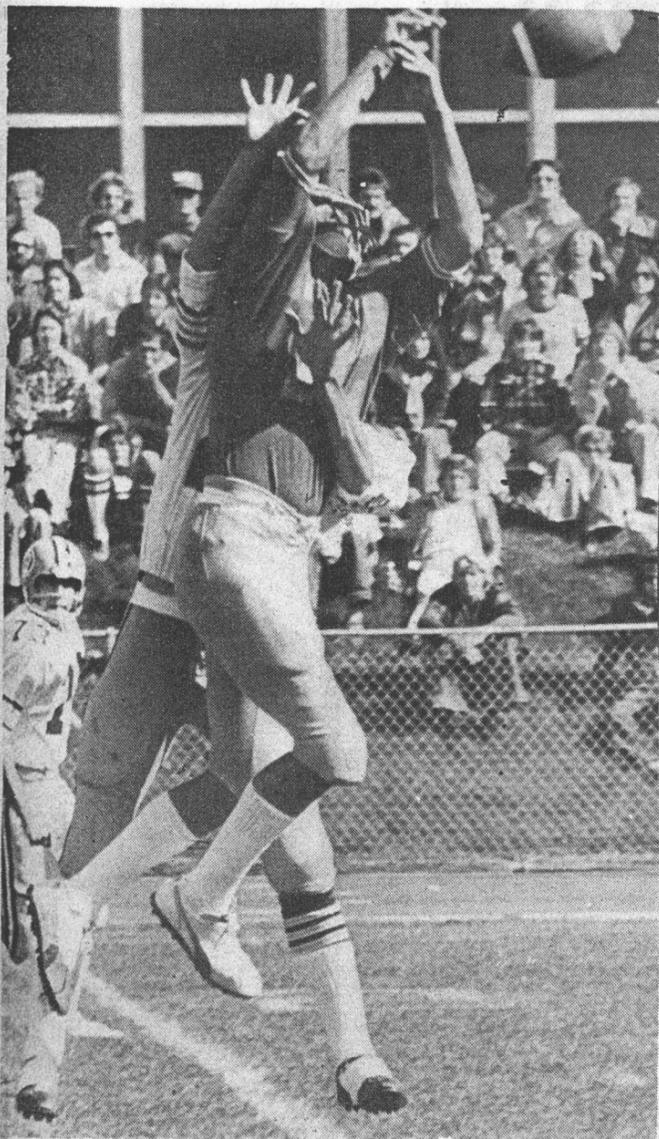


photo Brian Gavriloff

A rare bit of tight defensive coverage by the Bears backfield, in a wildly exciting 29-29 game with the UBC Thunder Birds

Cabinet shuffle expected LaLonde cancels tour

The honorable Mark LaLonde was to address the U of A student body later this week but he has postponed his visit to attend an emergency liberal caucus in Ottawa.

LaLonde, minister of Health and Welfare, was to visit the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge to discuss unemployment with students.

The tour was postponed, said campus Liberal Kevin

Feehan, who is booking the U of A segment of the tour, because of a Liberal conference which will probably entail a cabinet shuffle. Feehan told *Gateway* he learned of the shuffle, not to be officially announced until later this afternoon, from an executive assistant of the Prime Minister's Office.

A cabinet shuffle has been expected by many observers since the recent resignation of

Donald Macdonald from the Ministry of Finance.

Feehan also said LaLonde will possibly take the position of Minister of Finance and Minister without portfolio. Jack Horner, may move to a portfolio position.

LaLonde is expected to hold his discussion on unemployment with U of A students later this month, depending on what portfolio he assumes after the shuffle.

Housing picture brighter

Housing is not as serious a problem this year as last, according to Students' Union Housing Registry director Harold Kuckertz.

"This year we have a lot more listings than last year," said Kuckertz, "thanks to that, and thanks to the students seeking accommodation earlier this year the situation is not as desperate as it could be, but we are still very busy."

This year, the week of August 22 through to August 27 was declared Student Housing Week in Edmonton by Mayor Terry Cavanagh. During that week the registry received 272 listings.

Many students are seeking roommates to share houses with, Kuckertz told *Gateway* last. He said so many students have rented two or three bedroom

houses with the intention of finding roommates, that many may be frustrated in their search.

Edmonton presently has an official vacancy rate of 0.2 per cent, but many of these available residences are too costly for students. Rents generally have increased considerably from last year said Kuckertz.

Lister Hall

Unlike previous years, Lister Hall is not full to capacity

for the beginning of classes.

The student residence has a capacity for 1,820 persons. Last week *Gateway* was told that as yet only 1,560 persons intend to live there this year, leaving 260 empty beds.

Housing and Food Services director Dave Young said the vacancies in residence probably are due to the better housing situation in Edmonton this year, and to a possible decreased enrollment at the University.

Do you ever feel like a budding Woodward or Bernstein?

If so, attend Gateway's 64 annual Beer'n Rookie nite on Sept. 22 at 7:00 pm, Rm. 282 SUB.