

**Want to keep it Canadian**

# Students may buy McLelland

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Student councils across the country are being asked to support a scheme to keep the McLelland and Stewart Ltd. publishing firm in Canadian hands.

The proposal, hatched last week by a committee of students at the University of British Columbia, calls for purchase of the company by a consortium of student societies, university administrations and the public through debenture sales and operation as a non-profit foundation.

The proposal would preserve publishing of important Canadian authors and would make Canadian content textbooks available at a more reasonable cost to students.

The Ryerson publishing company was recently purchased by American interests and it is feared the McLelland and Stewart firm may suffer the same fate.

Jack McLelland sole owner of the 63-year-old family firm, which was offered for sale last month told the committee here Wednesday that it would take between three and 3.5 million dollars to take over the financially ailing business which has debts of about \$2 million.

The student committee believes it is possible to raise the money and McLelland has indicated he is "intrigued" by the proposal.

"McLelland considered it a serious idea. When we make a concrete proposal, he will be willing to consider it a serious proposal," said committee chairman Jerry Owen. "We have to show him within the next month that the funds are available."

Councils across the country have been asked to consider the proposal in principal and commit themselves tentatively.

"With commitments, we can get short term bank loans and be in a position to bargain," Owen said.

There are no formal plans yet as to how the company would operate but it is clear that a university financed national publishing house would go heavily into textbook publishing for elementary and secondary schools as well as universities.

Owen said the Canadian publishing of textbooks — an ever-increasing number of which are being published by American controlled firms — is essential to an independent Canada.

"When you start talking about

elementary and high school texts — that has a lot to do with forming a Canadian identity.

"And if the company were associated with the universities, it would go a long way to increasing outright Canadian content in courses," he said.

McLelland, who is heavily involved in the Committee for an Independent Canada, told the committee he has two other serious offers from Canadian interests and indication of interest from American sources.

McLelland has said he will send a copy of the private company's books — which are not published — to the UBC committee so they can start work on a formal proposal.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Canadian Association of University Teachers will be approached for support.

"A lot of these associations have supported Canadian control of the economy in principle, and this is a specific case where we can ask them to put their money where their mouths are," Owen said.

# McMaster class boycott gets support in poli. sci.

HAMILTON (CUP) — A successful strike vote Mar. 2 at McMaster University has resulted in a class boycott by 20 to 50 per cent of that university's political science students.

The issues are student power and Canadianization of the department. The students claim that only four of 38 undergrad and two of 15 graduate courses are Canadian oriented. Six of the 20 faculty members are Canadian.

The students are demanding voting rights on the department's main policy-making committee. They are presently represented by two grad students and three undergraduates who have no voting rights on the 20-person committee.

Many faculty seem to agree with the students' "non-negotiable" demand for voting representation — the last time student voting

rights was presented, the faculty vote deadlocked in a nine-nine tie. The strike gained momentum Wednesday when 35 of the 40 graduate students decided to throw their support behind the boycotters.

Tension in the political science department between students and American department head Howard Lentner broke into the open two weeks ago when a proposed Canadian foreign policy course was dropped in favour of one on international relations. The reason given was that the Canadian course was too narrow for hiring purposes.

Lentner believes he has already introduced adequate student participation because students have been given voting rights on all advisory committees except the one dealing with promotion and tenure.

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