



ERIC KEIRANS . . .

—photo by George Barr

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# Quebec will not secede "in our lifetime" — Eric Keirans

By CATRIONA SINCLAIR

"The new governmental department of communications will be concerned with the medium and not the message", said Postmaster General Eric Keirans when he answered questions in a "Hot Seat" in SUB theatre, Monday.

Keirans will head the new department which will deal with the problem of hardware for the CBC, telephone systems and radio and not content.

"I won't be getting in disputes with the performers on the shows," said Keirans.

Under this department Canada should have launched a communications satellite by 1971, which Keirans said, "will be the cheapest way of covering the whole country with a communications system."

"This is a prerequisite for the development of the North. People in Inuvik will be able to phone their relatives in the southern climes of Edmonton," he said.

Keirans suggested the satellite operation would be run as a public corporation.

Asked about letters between France and Quebec on collaboration for a satellite, the minister replied, "I don't know what these letters of intent intend."

"France can hardly sign such

agreements with her own neighbours until the laws of space are worked out."

"These letters merely reaffirm and strengthen the condition of the French people in Quebec," he said.

Mr. Keirans was applauded when he said that he did not think Quebec would secede "in our lifetime."

"The new language bill is a tremendous breakthrough," he commented.

"It will give assurance to the French Canadians that they will become real partners in Confederation."

Many of the questions directed to the Postmaster General concerned with governmental policy in regards to NATO and defence.

"When one billion, 800 million dollars is being spent on war materials, it's not a question of better weaponry but why at all," he said.

He said Canada has other needs on the priority list like property problems and the Indians.

"NATO may or may not have had a legitimate function in 1948," Mr. Keirans said.

"It's an illiberal institution, it divides the world and people. What right have we to cast the collective men of the East into

outer darkness and cast ourselves as angels of light?"

"Neither side can envision a nuclear holocaust," he replied to a question on NATO as a deterrent.

He was asked if NATO had agreed to defend Yugoslavia from the fate of Czechoslovakia. Mr. Keirans did not believe such a step had been clearly delineated.

"I don't see us fighting to nuclear confrontation over Yugoslavia unless Russia swept through to the channel."

"Russia has not moved since Potsdam. Her attitude is defensive," he said.

Mr. Keirans said that ideas are spreading.

"This is what Russia fears and that's what Czechoslovakia was all about."

He said Russia also takes this defensive attitude in satellites.

"Instead of broadcasting Communism to brainwash the world, her attitude is to protect her own people from brainwashing by capitalists."

Mr. Keirans said Canada can be a great power as a neutral with her first commitment to the UN to supply forces for peacekeeping.

"Any other nation has a history of wars and conflicts. We don't have those memories," he said.

"We weaken the international organization which has no political sovereignty in its own right when you espouse the aims of the UN and then join all the old organizations like NATO."

In regards to policy on Red China, the federal minister said "We trade with them, a country of 700,000 people, so we've got to recognize them. It will mean an increasing flow of communication of ideas."

"And if Chiang-Kai-Shek says if you recognize Red China you don't get me, OK," said Keirans.

When one student complained the post office was subsidizing the American magazine industry by paying part of postal charges on second class mail, Mr. Keirans replied, the Canadian magazine industry was improving with this competition.

Mr. Keirans was presented jointly by the Campus Liberals and the Students' Union.

## Pay students says Strom

"One must submit to authorities because authorities are in God's service. That is why you should pay reverence to your government."

This was one of the quotations read from the Bible at Sunday's celebration sponsored by the Anglican-United University Parish attended by Alberta's Premier Harry Strom.

After a short service held in the Meditation Room, a question period was thrown open to the audience.

Probably the most interesting answer of the premier was in reply to a question concerning fees for university students.

Because of the increasing need of society for university graduates, and because of the increasing difficulty of students to meet financial needs, he hoped fees would eventually be abolished.

Students may even have to be

paid to go to university, he said. Asked if his present government would consider liberalizing liquor laws, Mr. Strom replied this would depend on the wishes of the people of the province.

One person was concerned about apparent communication gap between the government in Alberta and the needs and problems of the university student. Mr. Strom suggested his office would be open to anyone to come at any time and talk to him about the problems of the university.

Harry Strom told the audience the Department of Education was studying the Hall-Dennis report on education (which suggests some very radical changes in our present education structure) and that it was very seriously considering utilizing some of the suggestions.

About 120 students attended the meeting.

## SAIT students, faculty demand investigation

CALGARY (CUP) — Arbitrary course cancellations and revisions by administration officials has moved both students and faculty at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology here to condemn the administration and demand an investigation of the institute.

The feeling reached a peak Saturday and Sunday when the 200-member instructors association voted non-confidence in the administration and asked the Deputy Minister of Education T. C. Byrne to come to SAIT to investigate the situation.

The dispute started January 17 when it was announced the institute's Journalism Administration course and two other courses would be dropped.

The decision to drop the course was made by administration head D. H. Campbell without consultation with either students or instructors and set off a reaction which had been building for some time.

Both faculty and students fear the administration (particularly Principal Campbell) is attempting to rid SAIT of its more liberal courses such as fine arts and television arts. The widespread reaction to Campbell's announcement of course changes is relieved to have stalled plans to redirect the institute's popular television technology course on a more technical line.

Course changes have been made without adequate consultation with instructors and department heads, nearly all of whom have had wide experience in the industries for which they are preparing students, said W. G. Clark, President of the Local Instructors' Association.

Campbell charged that little thought had been given to the effect the course changes and cancellations would have on students' studies and careers.

Students have held three mass meetings since the announcement but have taken little direct action. They have demanded that Campbell explain why the courses were

dropped and have also made representation to the province's education minister.

Although no formal announcement has been made, student leaders says the Journal Administration course has been reinstated.

A meeting was to take place Monday between administration and education department officials. They are to discuss the course revisions and the instructors' charges that the administration ignores staff and student opinions.

Both faculty and students are awaiting results of the meeting before deciding further action.

## Boyd Hall for president?

Boyd Hall announced to council Monday night that he would be running for presi-

dent of the Student's Union in the spring elections.

Although he is a member of the SDU he stated, "I am not running for the SDU."

Hall has represented the Faculty of Arts since November. He was a key organizer of the arts teach-in.

## U of C withdraws from CUS

CALGARY—A disappointing turnout of University of Calgary students Monday endorsed their student council's move pulling the school out of the Canadian Union of Students.

Less than 30 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots, rejecting the national union by a 1,294-648 margin. The council quit the union in November but students forced a referendum.

The council's rationale for leaving the union had been financial. Problems with financing of the Calgary student union building had left the council looking for extra dollars and the \$1 per capita CUS levy was very attractive.

On the same ballot students voted to continue publishing a yearbook by an overwhelming 80 per cent majority. Calgary students contribute about \$5 a head for the book.



## International Week Agenda

You are all invited to participate in the forthcoming events starting Saturday. Films, forums, dinners, discussions, speakers, variety shows and dances will all be a part of that week. Here is a brief outline of the coming week's events on the university campus.

**CHINA TEACH-IN**, Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Dinwoodie Room, SUB:

1. The Historical Development of the Chinese Revolution. Speaker: Rene Goldman, Dept. of Asian Studies at UBC.
2. China's Influence in the World. Speaker: Professor Barington, U of A.
3. China: A Model to the Third World? Speaker: Students from the Third World.
4. Canada and the People's Republic of China. Speaker: Mr. Burchill, Professor at Royal Roads College, Victoria (Political Science).

**CANADIAN INDIANS: Community Organizing? Revolution?** Monday, Feb. 3

1. Revolution and The Canadian Indians (noon, SUB Theatre Association and Doug Cuthand.
2. Community Organizing (1:30 p.m., SUB 142). Speakers: Rose Auger, C.Y.C. and Jim Whitford, former head Provincial Community Development.
3. Films: Pow Wow At Duck Lake, Indian Pow Wow (see T.V. monitor SUB)
4. Where Do We Go From Here?; Jim Whitford (7 p.m. SUB 104)
5. Informal Supper: for all those involved in afternoon seminar (CUB)