

"CONFERENCE
MAKETH
A
READY MAN"



The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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IS THE
DOMINION
OF
ABSURDITY"

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Delegates are piped off the plane at the Halifax International Airport on their arrival to attend the NFCUS Congress.

—Photo by Bissett

NEW MEMBERS SWELL NFCUS RANKS

by IAN MacKENZIE

In his report to the 24th National Congress of NFCUS, National President Jacques Gerin welcomed two new colleges to the Federation, bringing the total number of universities and colleges to 34.

The colleges newly joined are Montreal's Loyola College and the College Saint-Boniface, which joined ranks with the University of Manitoba.

Membership in the federation now stands at an all time high of 78,000 students.

FLASH!

Sept. 21—A crash program to exert student pressure on educational authorities in both the provincial and federal fields was instigated today by a full plenary session of the 24th NFCUS Congress.

After an earlier session had resulted in a stalemate between the English and French-Canadian universities, night caucuses led to a compromise in which French-Canadians were assured that provincial autonomy in educational matters would be respected.

The Congress declared itself in favour of a long-range plan "to effect speedy action by governments on a scholarship and bursary programme, involving a nation-wide total of 10,000 new scholarships of approximately \$600 divided on a basis of provincial student population and distributed through channels approved by the provincial governments."

The resolution stated that "the application of every means of influence at our disposal" would be used to exert pressure on the proper authorities on both provincial and federal levels. However, the intensity of the pressure to be exerted on provincial governments is to be determined separately by each university.

The Congress also created the office of Educational Affairs Vice-President to "organize and lead NFCUS endeavors in the field of university education."

"This year has been one of development in breadth," President Gerin said. "Our activities have reached into more segments of the Canadian community than ever before and the voice of the student has consequently been heard in more parts of the nation."

Mr. Gerin stressed the need to expand the secretariat. However, he pointed out that the expanding program of the federation was costing more and more. "Greatly increased resources will be necessary to provide adequate services to membership," he said.

One of the highlights of the year, Mr. Gerin said, was the 2nd National Seminar held in Vancouver, in which 140 delegates participated in discussions and studies on Canada and its development.

Another major project still in the offing is the National Student Magazine, which is being held up through lack of minimum staff requirements and finance—the project will cost in the region of \$100,000.

Mr. Gerin concluded by suggesting the setting up of a committee to make preparations for the Canadian Centennial, and the adoption of a theme for next year—"Foreign Student in Canada"—to help foreign students to feel at home in Canada.

WORLD STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS LINE UP IN OPPOSING CAMPS

USSR WON'T ADMIT NFCUS OBSERVER

Sept. 20 — NFCUS has formally protested to the Soviet Union its refusal to allow a former president of that organization to attend an international youth conference to be held on Russian soil. This refusal came after an assurance that a Canadian was welcome.

Jacques Gerin, NFCUS President, said yesterday that Walter Tarnopolsky had been refused a visa by the Soviet Embassy in London which would allow him to attend the international preparatory committee for a student youth forum to be held next year in the Crimea. The next evening a full plenary session under the leadership of President Gerin and Vice-President an (McGill) unanimously approved an (McGill) unanimously approved a telegram expressing "the surprise and dismay of this conference" that a student of Tarnopolsky's ability should be excluded from this conference.

"We are very surprised at this refusal because we had assurance from the Students' Council of the USSR that the Soviet Embassy in London has been told of our intention of sending a Canadian delegate", Gerin said.

The Embassy said that they had not been informed of Tarnopolsky's intended visit and that he would need an invitation to go to the meeting.

Heenan hinted at the plenary session that the Soviet attitude might stem from the fact that Tarnopolsky is a known anti-Communist and is exceedingly able in international student affairs. Tarnopolsky speaks Russian.

President Gerin said "the matter will be investigated carefully". He added "this might effect the visit of the Soviet students who arrive in Canada October 15 to visit fifteen Canadian universities."

ECONOMISTS WARN NFCUS SEMINAR

Canada Losing Economic Independence

VANCOUVER (CUP)— Canada stands in danger of "becoming a helpless satellite of the United States", economist Walter Gordon told the third annual National Federation of Canadian University Students' seminar in Vancouver.

Mr. Gordon, chairman of the royal commission which authored the Gordon Report on Canada's economic prospects, said the nation must choose immediately between economic independence and complete integration with the U.S. If there is no decision, satellite status "will come immediately", he warned.

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Canada's Contributions to ISC Described as "Very Great"

Students from countries the world over showed "great respect" for Canada at the International Student Conference (ISC) held at Leiden this summer, according to Roy Heenan, International Vice-President of NFCUS, who attended the meeting together with NFCUS President Jacques Gerin and Chairman Paul Becker.

Speaking to the NFCUS Congress on "NFCUS—Its International Role," Mr. Heenan described Canada's contribution to ISC as "very great".

Canon H. L. Puxley Opens Giant Congress

"The Soviets have good reason to smile at our quaint western ways," Canon H. L. Puxley, President of King's College and Honorary President of NFCUS, remarked in an address which formerly opened the NFCUS Congress at Dal on September 17.

Canon Puxley was referring to what he called the "two yardstick" method of selecting students for university training in Canada. The first of these, "the academic yardstick", he described as "inadequate" because, while "all alike are subjected to the same tests for university admission", public high schools are equal in neither staff or facilities. The second yardstick, he felt, was that of family wealth. "If a supreme intelligence presides over our existence", he said, "He must surely smile at this yearstick."

The College President compared these selective processes with those of the Soviet Union, where "the best brains, and only the best brains, reach university."

The Rev. Mr. Puxley maintained that students had a right to express themselves on any issue, but went

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President Jacques Gerin introduces Rev. H. L. Puxley, Honorary President of NFCUS, at the opening ceremonies of the Congress.

The story of ISC, which this year included representatives from 73 countries, goes back to the end of the war, when students of the world formed the International Union of Students (IUS) in the hope of assisting their fellows in "underdeveloped countries". But in four years, this organization had become, as Mr. Heenan put it, an "ideological front," with the result that students in the western camp broke away to form the ISC on the basis of the original plan for objective and non-partisan constructive activity. He added, however, that the 73 national unions, of which NFCUS is one, participate in ISC under widely varying circumstances, some of which include the threat of torture, imprisonment, even liquidation, by their home governments. Nevertheless, he felt that the projects of ISC, which meets about every 18 months, were beneficial.

Mr. Heenan went on to explain that, unlike IUS, which elects an executive that can speak out or take action on any issue, political or otherwise, and frequently does so in an anti-west vein, ISC operates under the supervision of an appointed and salaried Secretariat (COSEC) acting only on projects mandated by the Conference.

In discussing this year's International Student Conference, Mr. Heenan said that one of the main difficulties had been to deal with communist elements who wished to use the meeting to promote their own ends. Another was the problem of getting Latin-American delegates to dissociate Conference action from national political and social issues. He explained that these representatives could see no line of demarcation between the problems of students as such and those of their countries. "In Latin-America," he said, "students feel they are an integral part of society."

Mr. Heenan said that the 40 projects (including seminars and construction of educational buildings in areas like earthquake-ridden Chile) would perform a "valuable service", and would "show our legitimate interest in the welfare of underdeveloped nations."

Asked how ISC financed such projects, Mr. Heenan said that some of the money came from member student unions, but that most of it came from foundations in the United States. The salaries of the secretariat are, he said, paid by the students, while funds for projects, coming from the outside, are accepted only if no strings are attached.

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NFCUS SPECIAL