

FRIDAY OCTOBER 15, 1971

CAMPUS CANADA

Choquette says 'War Measures Act wrong'

MONTREAL (CUPI) - While not denying the "usefulness" of the War Measures Act "in apprehending certain people involved in criminality and... in other ways", Quebec Justice Minister Jerome Choquette says it was not the right legis-

lation to pass last October because of the "police mentality" with which such powers are used by law enforcers.

Choquette said that his contact with the police has proven that there is a difference "between law texts which give

certain powers you feel will be used sparingly, and the police mentality."

"The police - and I don't blame them, it's their job - are prone to go too far."

As an example of such police action, the Justice Minister

recalled that after one mass roundup by police (acting under WMA) he told the police he didn't want any more mass arrests without his specific permission. "Then I received from the police, at my home on Saturday night, a list of 70 persons they wanted to arrest."

Choquette said he saw on the list of 70 persons the name of a lawyer he knew quite well and who was accused of being actively engaged in defending political activists. "I knew him as just a lawyer and an entirely peaceful individual, so I told the police to scratch the whole list. I told them that if the whole list was built that way, it just didn't make sense."

Choquette also criticized the value of the WMA because of the difficulty in convicting people arrested under it. "The dismal record in prosecuting those charged under the Act taught me that juries are not ready to convict on a question of words, unless there is an overt act."

In August, Choquette suspended proceedings against about 40 persons who still faced trial on charges arising out of arrests made under the WMA.

Choquette, however, still feels that some control was necessary last October, following the FLQ kidnappings of James Cross and Pierre Laporte. (Laporte was killed shortly after the WMA came into effect). "It was entirely necessary to have some legislation, but whether the legislation (that was passed) was good is a debatable."

"If we had to have the same situation again, I don't think that I would favour exactly that solution," said Choquette.

The War Measures Act was invoked by the Federal Government one year ago today on October 15. It has been widely attacked for curtailing civil rights, because it gave the police widespread powers of search without warrant and of arrest.

SGWU loses entire SRC

MONTREAL (CUPI) - The students of Sir George Williams University no longer have a council - or a constitution.

At an emergency meeting of the Board of Governors on October 1, the constitution was suspended and the council placed under trusteeship.

According to a communiqué from the board, this action was taken due to the "inability of the governing body of the students' association to function within the present constitution."

In its place, a board of trustees, consisting of three students, a chartered accountant, and a lawyer has been appointed by principal John O'Brien.

The trustees have responsibility for all fiscal and non-fiscal matters which normally fall within the jurisdiction of the students council or the executive of the student association.

"They shall ensure that the Faculty Associations, and the student clubs and activities, that are at present under the

jurisdiction of the Association are to continue in operation."

"In exercise of these operations, the trustees may call on whatever professional or expert advice and assistance they may deem necessary."

Since the beginning of the trusteeship, two closed meetings have been held for members of the board to orient them to their new job. One of the members, lawyers Jack Shayne, had no knowledge of the events leading up to the suspension, and in his opinion, has been able to join the board without any preconceived ideas and an open mind.

Priorities for the trustees include new constitution for the Students' Association and a budget enabling clubs and communications media to continue in operation.

As soon as possible, the trustees will hold a referendum to determine whether students desire the maintenance of a students' association within an appropriate constitution. The students will decide the terms

of and the procedures for conducting such a referendum.

If a majority favors the maintenance of a students' association, the trustees will wind off the affairs of the suspended council and make arrangements for continuation of projects formerly under council jurisdiction.

Suspension followed letters to the Principal from both student and faculty representatives, protesting mismanagement of funds and general incompetence on the part of the former executive.

SPEED READING COURSE

Interested Persons Are Asked To Register

On TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1971

Time - 4:00 p.m.

Place - Room 102, Tilley Hall

For Further Information Come To This Meeting Or Call Mrs. B. Smith, Local 451.

NOTE —

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