

LaTouche and UGEQ the benefit of the doubt, however, SCW determined to carry negotiations further."

Poor Mr. Estrin, you certainly have a productive imagination, Allow me to bring some facts to your memory. Since, if I am not mistaken, you were not present at this meeting.

1. My presence in Saskatoon was to ask for CUS solidarity in our fight to keep UGEQ's president out of the hands of the RCAF.

2. Alberta was one of the only delegations (and certainly the most verbal and vehement one) to oppose the expression of their solidarity. While the entire Canadian student community was joining us in our fight against the defense department, Alberta stood alone and refused to join the movement.

We will remember this for a long time.

3. You are right when you say that UGEQ would not have sent an observer if it had not been for the SISA conference in Winnipeg. In fact, I had to pay for my trip from Winnipeg to Saskatoon, since the

UGEQ executive was so displeased with both the project and the Al-bertan diplomacy that they did not want to have anything to do with it. It is only because I thought the project could be saved that I went to Saskatoon. This gave me the privilege of being labelled 'traitor', and 'vendu' when I came back. If I had just known. But now I have learned my lesson.

4. A final point: If I remembered well the Conference did not object, but on the contrary supported my criticisms.

Following this, I had two days of conversation in Montreal with Mr. Estrin. There a compromise was reached:

- The theme of the academic seminar would be slightly modified to make it more relevant to the Canadian and Quebec student.

- The athletic section of the program would remain untouched.

- For the academic and literary seminar (approximately 150 participants out of 1,100) Quebec would have half the representation (including both English and French speak-

ing Quebec students), but at the same time would be responsible for half the expenses. It seemed fair to us that if we had half the representation we should also pay half the costs.

It is only with these conditions that I could convince UGEQ's executive and board of directors to participate in a centennial activity. Mr. Estrin was supposed to give me an answer the following week.

We waited five weeks for the answer.

Then it came. A 24 page telegram.

Allow me once more to quote from this telegram that in my eyes is a "chef d'oeuvre" of English Canadian arrogance.

"Sympathize with the Quebec organization but . . . are not prepared to reduce other representation to accomplish this. A commitment has been made to serve 40 universities outside Quebec."

"UGEQ first secure and send directly to SCW the \$3,1000 requested but refused by the former LeSage government . . . UGEQ is

then encouraged to sponsor any number of additional delegates by raising funds (about \$250 per additional delegate)."

"The important points to make are that (a) no other province or group is being allowed to send more than three students . . . and thus puts Quebec in a special category. (b) we are really proposing a very good financial bargain to you."

I am beginning to realize that Anglo-Saxons are really obsessed with money. Mr. Estrin was proposing that we give him the money he could not raise (if he had consulted us beforehand he would perhaps have had better chances) and then as a bonus, we would be allowed to pay a ransom of \$250 for every delegate we would like to send in addition.

This, in the words of Mr. Estrin was "A way to give you what you want, i.e. give to UGEQ a chance to be important in (a) dealing with the government of Quebec; and (b) choosing the 36 extra delegates."

Dear Mr. Estrin, we really appreciate this concern of yours to make us feel important.

In the two years during which I was responsible for the international affairs of UGEQ this episode was probably the saddest and the most revealing one. It shows beyond any doubt what English speaking students mean by "a frank co-operation" with their Quebec "friends". I have personally learned my lesson; UGEQ also, and a lot of water will flow under the Jacques Cartier bridge before this is forgotten. You will have to change this paternalistic attitude if any Canada-Quebec co-operation is to be expected, but from what we have learned you are far from being ready.

Anglo-Saxons are indeed all the same. A less polite observer would not hesitate to qualify certain of Estrin's comments as racist; I limit myself to qualify them as childish.

Mr. Bourgault and the separatists are perhaps correct: a "maudit anglais" will always stay a "maudit anglais."

I will say no more.



I WONDER

—Lyall photo

. . . where I've heard this before

Edmonton Public School Board

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SEPTEMBER 1967

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