

Board of Governors disrupts convocation

York's convocation ceremonies were disrupted May 29 when university officials halted a scheduled student speech on United States domination of Canada.

Graduating student Mike Blumenthal, speaking to an audience of 3000 parents and graduates, was listing directorships held by York board of governors members on U.S. corporations when Floyd S. Chalmers, university chancellor, told him his time was up.

Blumenthal had earlier been granted 5 minutes to speak following repeated requests backed by the Council of the York Student Federation.

When Blumenthal started listing names, Chalmers, university president Murray G. Ross and W.P. Scott, chairman of the board, held an emergency on-stage conference before the eyes of the entire audience.

Following the conference Chalmers stopped Blumenthal, although some audience witnesses have claimed his time was not up.

In his speech, Blumenthal charged that board members were profiting by U.S. economic domination of Canada.

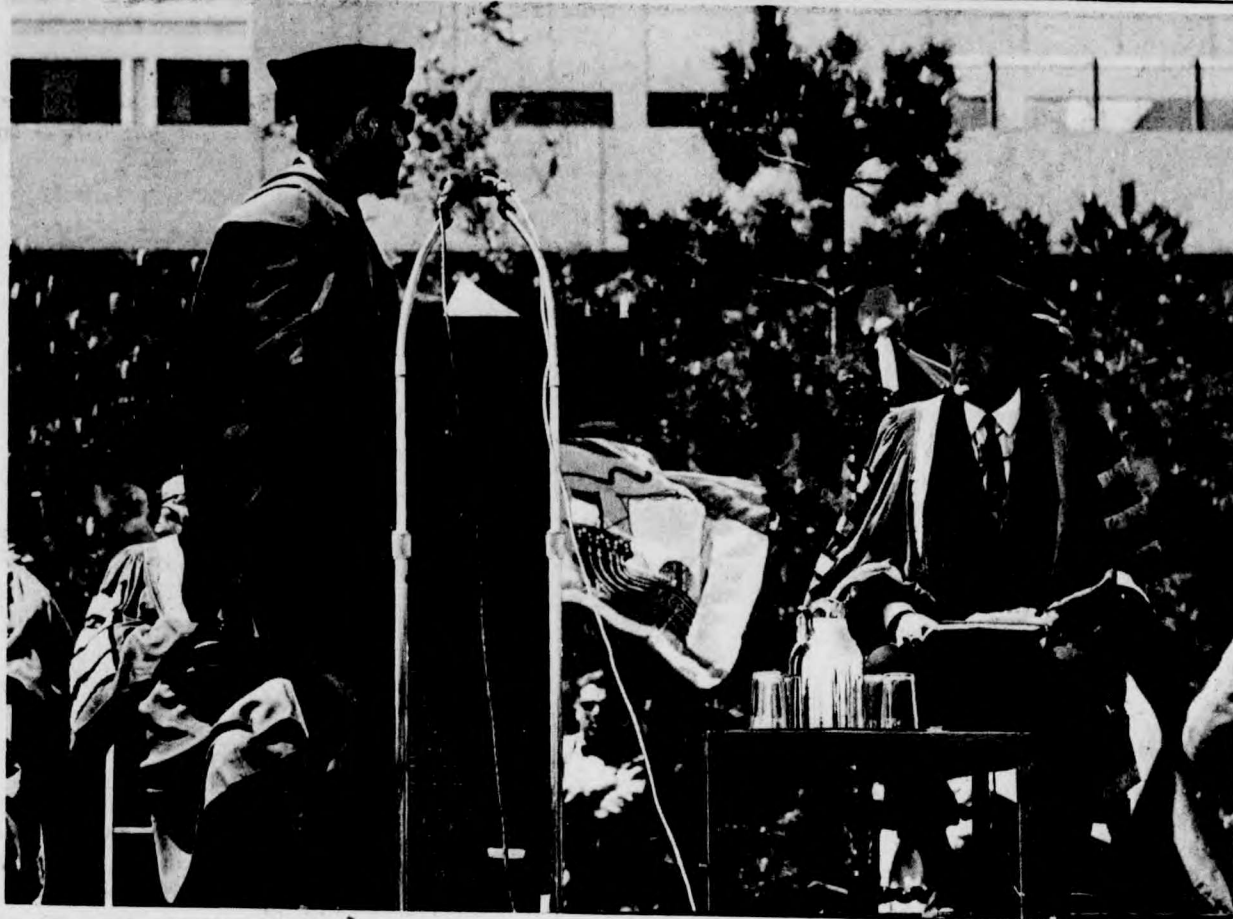
"In their day-to-day corporate practice, it is their job to help maximize the profits of their businesses. And it makes no difference to them whether they represent the interests of the Canadian people, or British and American corporations."

The CYSF executive in a letter later charged board members with using "rude and repressive tactics in disrupting normally scheduled events."

"It is clear," the letter said, "that these members deem it their right to arrogantly and arbitrarily define the bounds of free speech."

Chalmers in a written reply told CYSF that convocation was not "an appropriate occasion" for Blumenthal's remarks.

"I am sure there are many occasions where Mr. Blumenthal and others can exercise their right to free speech at the University," he said.



University chancellor Floyd Chalmers fails to be amused by Mike Blumenthal's attack on York's business connections.

Speech exposes Board's Americanization

The following speech was delivered by graduating student Mike Blumenthal at York's convocation ceremonies May 29. (During his speech Blumenthal named Chancellor Floyd Chalmers as chairman of MacLean Hunter Ltd. Chalmers afterwards indicated that he resigned that position a year ago.)

Today, after centuries of struggle to build Canada, the majority of Canadians feel pretty strongly about our nation. And our feelings are by no means merely emotional.

Yet, as we read our newspapers and listen to public speeches, we cannot help but feel a sense of disquiet. For we know that Canada enjoys very little independence, a meagre amount of autonomy.

We all know that most of the decisions which directly affect our lives are being made in the boardrooms in New York and in the government chambers in Washington, just as they once were made in London.

Despite the struggles of millions of Canadian patriots for nationhood, independence and autonomy, we are little more than a colony of the American Empire.

But rather than being caught in a mood of despair, Canadians are in fact vigorously expressing their nationalism, their desire for self-determination.

It is time to stop beating around the bush. We can no longer afford to be quiet, to neglect naming names.

For there are some Canadians who find that it is profitable to sell out to the U.S.

And some of them are here today.

Let's take a close look at our Board of Governors — those who are supposed to be community leaders. Out of the 27 members, 21 are businessmen. But not just ordinary businessmen. These 21 corporate directors sit on the boards of about 150 corporations.

As members of the Board of Governors at York, these gentlemen are in charge of all administrative functions within the university. They decide which buildings will be built when, and for what purpose. By keeping their fingers on the budget, they decide which departments will move ahead and which will be stagnant. They have the final say in choosing the top academic administrators and thereby shape the framework for education at York.

I will return to the academic relations at York in just a moment. First, let's look at the actions of some of these gentlemen in their roles as elite businessmen.

In their day-to-day corporate practice, it is their job to help maximize the profits of their business. And it makes no difference to them whether they represent the interests of the Canadian people, or British and American corporations.

A few examples.

Allan T. Lambert is the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors. He is Chairman of the Board, President and Director of the Toronto Dominion Bank. He is also on the Board of Directors of 16 other companies — 8 of them American. They are: Canadian International Paper Co., Canadian Westinghouse Co. Ltd., Con-

tinental Insurance Co., Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting, IBM, INCO, Union Carbide Corp., Union Carbide Canada Ltd.

John H. Taylor is a member of our Board of Governors. He is President of Canadian Fuel Marketers Group Ltd. He is also on the Board of Directors of 15 other corporations — 3 of them American and 2 of them British. They are: Greyhound Lines of Canada, Procor Ltd., Canadian Salt Co. Ltd., United Dominions Corp., and Slugh Estates (Canada) Ltd.

Alfred Powis is President and Chief Executive Officer of Noranda Mines Ltd. He is also on the Board of a host of other Noranda corporations. The Noranda people are currently sharing control of British Columbia Forest Products and Northwood Pulp Ltd. with the Mead Corporation of Dayton Ohio. In January, Mr. Powis announced that although Noranda spent 80 per cent of their exploration expenditures in Canada five years ago, this year they will spend only 50 per cent of it here.

Or take A.J. Little, a partner in Clarkson, Gordon & Co. and in Woods, Gordon & Co. A few years back he served as Chairman of Canadian Tax Foundation. During his term of office he made many brave speeches advising the government not to raise taxes. Not once did he mention the dozen ways that we subsidize U.S. corporations by allowing them not to pay taxes.

And then there's the Chancellor of our university, Floyd S. Chalmers. On the one hand, Mr. Chalmers made a brave speech about American corporations and their lack of responsibility to the Canadian culture. On the other hand, he was Chairman of MacLean Hunter Ltd., which gets along just fine with Time magazine in sharing Canadian advertising revenue.

Then there's William Pearson Scott, Chairman and Director of Wood Gundy Securities Ltd. He is Chairman of our Board of Governors. Mr. Scott is also a director of Hawker Sidley Canada Ltd., a British corporation; and Allstate Insurance Company of Canada, an American branch-plant. Mr. Scott was the chief moving spirit behind the group of leading businessmen who helped depose Walter

Gordon and his nationalist policies from the Finance portfolio in 1965.

It's no wonder, then, that American corporations find Canada so lucrative. Leading Canadian businessmen are anxious to work their heads off and send the profits down South.

This colonial mentality works its way into the academic nature of York University in many ways. Take President Ross, for instance. Although he holds only one directorship — you guessed it — its an American company. Murray Ross is a director of Continental Can Company of Canada Ltd.

Or take a look at the Arts faculty. Out of 15 departments, only three have 50 per cent or better Canadian staff. In 8 of the departments, there are more Americans than Canadians; and in 2 departments, there are more Britishers than Canadians.

This situation directly affects the learning environment. In a survey of the 15 social science and humanities courses this year, the student newspaper found only 6 Canadian books on the required reading lists.

The result of this wretched situation is that York students think American. One American professor commented in the student newspaper, "some of those papers — you wouldn't know that they hadn't been written in Columbus, Ohio, because they use purely American data and examples."

Asked why Americans come to teach in Canada, another American prof answered, "there are large numbers who come, something like the proconsuls of Empire. They come to show the virtues of American political science — to show the truths of behavioralism."

Just as the American Empire has taught the business class in Canada to be loyal serfs, so it is attempting to involve students in the niceties of colonialism.

But they make a grave error. For the Canadian students today are rebelling against this domination. With the skills that we learn here, and together with the masses of patriotic Canadians, we shall build a New Canada — free and independent, socialist and self-reliant.



"No one denies that Mr. Blumenthal had the right to hold dissident views. On the other hand, it was a drag having him around."

York told to comply with U.S. state law

York university has been ordered to comply with a Pennsylvania state law calling for the keeping of files on political activities of Pennsylvania students attending York.

A letter sent to York Aug. 31 from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency orders York to report all facts relating to Pennsylvania students who are "expelled, dismissed or denied enrollment... for refusal to obey a lawful regulation or order of the Institution (York), which refusal in the opinion of the Institution, contributed to a disruption of

the activities, administration or classes of the Institution."

A formal contract to be signed by York was sent with the letter.

Failure to comply with this law means York will "no longer be considered by the (Pennsylvania) Agency as an approved institution of higher learning," the contract warns.

Pennsylvania students attending "unapproved" universities are not eligible for state loans or scholarships.

York president David Slater has indicated he will not comply with the U.S. law.