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Today . . .

Today is election day.
Today is the day each student has the opportunity to exercise his right to control his own affairs in the Student's Representative Council.

Today is the day each student has a vote on the issue of whether to remain in the National Federation of Canadian University Students or to withdraw.

Today is the day to make yourself heard.

Today is the day to VOTE. If you don't vote you hurt only yourself. Take five minutes and do yourself a good turn. If you are not interested, it is your duty as a student in a free country to take part in the affairs of your government. If YOU do not, then someone else will, and the someone else may not do what you would like to see done.

Today is the day to VOTE. If you do not vote only the student government you get next year and your conscience will bother you.

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Non-Confidence?

We would like to question the accusation of Mr. Jack Ernst, made before the special meeting of the Student's Representative Council last Wednesday, that the presentation of a petition to the Council requesting a referendum be held concerning NFCUS was an indication of non-confidence in the S.R.C.

Launched under Article X, section 4 of the Constitution it was initiating a referendum on the students' behalf, not changing a motion on the books of the S.R.C. Also, it clearly states that the referendum question is to be whether U.N.B. will remain in NFCUS next year and says nothing about the situation this year. The decision will affect and bind only the Council elected today.

That the President of the S.R.C., Dick Hale, along with the outgoing Council should resign if the referendum should return a No verdict to NFCUS is pure foolishness as the referendum does not in any way affect the outgoing Council. If the petition had been instituted under Section 7 of Article X and had been presented last fall after the S.R.C. had decided to remain in NFCUS for the present year, then the question of non-confidence could be raised. What validity it would have is open to question and the answer will have to wait until the situation arises.

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Where Does The Fault Lie?

Twenty-one universities and colleges in Canada are presently members of the National Federation. But there are roughly five major Canadian universities which are not members of the Organization. Four of these have been members for varying periods of time in the past, but have decided within the last two years to withdraw. Why? There would seem to be two possible reasonable explanations, and a third explanation, a combination of the first two, which most likely is closer to the truth. Let us look at these three propositions.

The first is, of course, that NFCUS is a rotten organization. It has been accused of indecisiveness, inefficiency, wasteful financing and a failure to achieve results commensurate with its cost. We have heard all these accusations, and some, perhaps even worse.

The second possibility is heard a little less frequently. But it bears examination. It is possible that four major universities are not in the National Federation because their Student Government is not sufficiently mature to concern itself with the workings of the organization or to make an effort to appreciate the work that is being done, or, indeed, to do some of the essential work itself. It might be that there was a student council president who didn't realize that it was his duty to see that the students reaped the benefits of their NFCUS membership. Or it might be that there was a NFCUS Chairman and Committee who were prepared to do the work necessary to make the National Federation a living entity on the campus. These things have been known to happen.

But the likeliest explanation of the fact that ALL Canadian students are not members of the National Federation is found when joint blame is laid at the feet of student government and of the officers of the National Federation. Student leaders are expected to provide a pipeline between the National activities of the Federation and the individual student. But, often they do not. Responsibility for this failure lies with the National Federation when the National Office and the Executive fail to provide sufficient information to local representatives, and when they fail to provide that stimulus to the imagination which is so necessary to make anyone an effective servant of the ideals of the Federation. On the other hand, responsibility for the failure lies with local representatives when they fail to respond to the information and stimulus provided for them; when, in short, they do not become convinced that the work of the Federation is vitally important for the students of Canada and for the nation.

Outside of the individual failures, then, it would appear that responsibility for disaffiliations is to be held to failures of communications. And here, eventually, is the greatest

Letters to the Editor

TO THE STUDENTS OF U.N.B.

Today a plebiscite is being held to determine whether or not we at this University are to remain in a National Federation of Canadian University Students. Before you vote — THINK.

A federation of university students of Canada — is such a federation worthwhile? Should Canadian students have an organization through which they could speak as one strong voice? Such an organization as this exists in Canada under the abbreviated name of NFCUS. If we withdraw our support from this Federation, what harm can come of it — any?

Here below is a list of what automatically happens:

1. The Student Federation is immediately weakened. The attempt to speak as one voice no longer carries the same weight.
2. We at U.N.B. are immediately outside of any benefits that can be obtained from the Student Federation and therefore see any benefits gained pass us by.
3. We immediately lose any benefits that the Federation has offered in the past. These would include: Student Discount Service, Regional Scholarship programme worth \$500.00, Art Contest, Short Story Contest, Life Insurance plan.

To students who believe that the Federation is presently operating incorrectly or even partially so, they must realize that to vote against retaining this University membership is to abruptly cast aside any possible improvement that they may suggest. Improvement of the Federation can only be carried on from within its ranks.

THINK CAREFULLY, AND THEN VOTE.

Hugh B. Gibson,
Secretary, NFCUS Committee.

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.

Sir:

Wednesday afternoon I attended a meeting of the S.R.C. as an observer at which Mr. Jack Ernst made the following statements:

- (1) That a petition requesting a referendum on the N.F.C.U.S. issue was a vote of non-confidence in the S.R.C.
- (2) That because of this non-confidence vote, the entire S.R.C. was obliged to resign.
- (3) That the president of the S.R.C., Mr. Richard Hale was negligent in his duties in that he had not pushed the N.F.C.U.S. campaign on this campus to his fullest ability.
- (4) That the entire council had failed to represent the students in this issue and had spoken only for themselves without knowing anything about N.F.C.U.S.

I would like herewith to attempt to clarify this issue. I would also ask that all persons reading this do so with an open mind and try to make their own decision on this matter.

I shall deal with the issues in order of their appearance above.

- (1) Being one of the students who signed the above mentioned petition and having discussed this matter with several others, I find that none of them intended it as a vote of non-confidence.
- (2) If the petition can be considered only as a petition and not as a vote of non-confidence, it becomes ridiculous to ask the S.R.C. to resign.
- (3) Article VII, Section 2 of the constitution of the S.R.C. states: "The President shall be responsible for maintaining this constitution and the efficient administration of the laws of the S.R.C. and all other organizations subsidiary to that body and any other student organization similar to those aforesaid which may from time to time be created."

At no point in the constitution is it stated that the president of the S.R.C. must do the actual work of any organization. If this task has been assigned to Mr. Hale by the national office of N.F.C.U.S., then that body is taking liberties which are set up in the constitution. It cannot be considered the job of the president of the S.R.C. to stir up enthusiasm for every organization sanctioned by the S.R.C. The appearances are therefore that the fault lies with the local N.F.C.U.S. committee.

- (4) It should be realized that the S.R.C. is composed of human beings subject to making errors, and perhaps after weeks of listening to pro-N.F.C.U.S. and anti-N.F.C.U.S. persons talk in circles, allow personal feelings to sway their decisions. NEVER has the issue for N.F.C.U.S. been presented in a clear and concise manner to the S.R.C., nor has the issue against N.F.C.U.S. been much better. For this reason, no person concerned with either side of the issue can really say the S.R.C. was not doing its job.

If it can be shown, and I believe it has been, that the above statements are reasonably accurate and not meaningless fabrications, it would appear that Mr. Ernst owes an apology to Mr. Hale personally and to the S.R.C.

I would like to close by saying: if more people had put as much energy in constructive criticism as into destructive criticism, this issue would probably have been avoided.

Thank you

Yours very truly,
G. M. McAllister

Dear Sir:

Why gripe about fifty cents? It is a very small sum compared to what the average student spends. NFCUS asks for fifty cents of your money; that is all they request of you. You say you are not against NFCUS in principle then why not give it a chance to become in practice what it is in principle. Don't withdraw your support now when it is needed the most. NFCUS on this campus is just beginning to function properly. Give them a chance by giving them the price of a movie.

Yours sincerely,
David George
Freshman Rep.

N.F.C.U.S. OR FUNGUS?

If by now any reader is unaware of N.F.C.U.S. then he is asleep or stupid. For the past month pros and cons have been generously spread, most of which are just a mass gathering of all the issues that have been hashed many times in recent years. Finally the initiative has been taken. On Wed. 22, 1956 our S.R.C. passed on a petition of referendum to give you a long-awaited chance to

problem to be faced in a country such as ours. There is no magic solution. But there are two things that can be done.

First, the National Federation can strive to improve the quantity and quality of information it provides for the student leaders of Canada and, eventually, for each individual student. And, secondly the students of Canada can make a sympathetic effort to think of the interests and problems of Canadian students from their own viewpoint as Canadian Students.

Peter Martin, ITEMS

DO YOU FIT?

(When Dr. Sidney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, welcomed the students of that University at the opening of the fall term, he had some poignant things to say. Two paragraphs in particular were interesting.)

The Engineering Institute of Canada brings these paragraphs to our attention in the belief that they are full of good advice, particularly at this time of year, and in the hope that they may help you to get the maximum out of your opportunities at university.)

"You have freedom of choice, and by inescapable equations your choices will bring you profit or loss. If you choose to work, you will pass: if you don't, you will fail. If you neglect your work, you will dislike it: if you do it well, you will enjoy it. If you join little cliques, you will be self-satisfied; if you make friends wisely, you will be interesting. If you act like a boor, you will be despised: if you act like a human being, you will be respected. If you spurn wisdom, wise people will spurn you: if you seek wisdom, they will seek you. If you adopt a pose of boredom, you will be a bore: if you show vitality, you will be alive. If you spend your free time playing bridge, you will be a good bridge player; if you spend it reading, discussing and thinking of things that matter, you will be an educated person."

"If you have come here for social prestige, you can get what you are after, but you may not like it much when you have got it; you would really have done better to concentrate on debutantes' parties. If you have come here to learn to make money, you can get what you are after, but you run the risk of finding yourself unhappy in your goal; you would really have done better to get into the building trades or the stock market. If you have come here to be a personality kid and win friends and influence people, you might get what you are after, but it would have been quicker and cheaper to take a course in salesmanship. If you have come here to learn to serve your fellowmen as a member of one of the learned professions you are in the right place. If you have come to study the most important ideas that mankind has evolved, you are in the right place. If you have come to penetrate the fascinating mysteries and powers of nature, you are in the right place. If you have come to learn of the cultural and intellectual heritage of the past, so as to stand on the giant's shoulders and see farther, 'to follow knowledge, like a shining star, beyond the utmost bound of human thought,' you are in the right place. You may never get what you are after, but in the trying you will become what you could never otherwise have been, and these next few years that you spend here will be the keystone of the arch of your experience."

declare your views by vote.

Basically the idea behind N.F.C.U.S. is good. Need I tell you what they are? Just read any of the propaganda sheets that have recently flooded this campus. They glorify N.F.C.U.S. to the ultimate, but has N.F.C.U.S. done anything to support their so-called aims? They point to a few obscure achievements attained over 26 long, long years. Nationally N.F.C.U.S. would appear quite dormant. Locally a few "eager beavers" have been driven to tremendous efforts and we now have their pre-vote ace-in-the-hole, Student discount service. Anyone for flowers? — 10% off. In all this I would remind you that N.F.C.U.S. on a national scale does not seem to be able to boast one recent gain for students.

"Give us a fair chance", they cry. I say, "give us a chance to show what can be done right here at U.N.B. with the funds from N.F.C.U.S."

Over this entire issue many people have been freely airing their dirty laundry. Anti-N.F.C.U.S. supporters have been tagged for resorting to underhanded tactics in their campaigning. For those who could not be present at the above mentioned S.R.C. meeting, let me review an incident of the meeting which was not only the height of poor taste but also the lowest form of campaigning ever displayed on this campus. In that meeting a spokesman for N.F.C.U.S. openly charged the president of the S.R.C. of falling down on his duties to support N.F.C.U.S. I would here remind you and him that the president of the S.R.C. is obliged to remain neutral and give no opinion while chairing a meeting. Out of meetings, he can side with whom he chooses. This is democracy. The spokesman referred to the referendum as a non-confidence vote by the students and in face of this called for a resignation of the president. Think a minute and then join with me. How stupid can one get to suggest such a thing? How low is one stooping to blame his own inadequacies and failings on others?

Today you have a chance to elect a new S.R.C. If you think a change is due, go to it. You will also vote on N.F.C.U.S. Think long, think rationally, think hard and think for your benefit. Vote no to N.F.C.U.S.

Sincerely,
Barry Ritcy

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