

THE COMPLEX WORLD OF JOE COLLEGE

Youth Of Canada Show Apathy To World Affairs

OTTAWA (CUP)—The youth of Canada do not participate enough in world affairs, nor do they have adequate knowledge about procuring the necessities of life, according to the Asian secretary of an international youth organization.

"This is not a conscious isolation, but one which stems from a lack of knowledge," M. N. Krishnaswami, of the World Assembly of Youth said during a brief stopover to make contacts for the reorganization of the Canadian national committee.

It is difficult for Canadian youth, he said, "to understand how others are faring in the struggle for life's necessities when they are not keenly alive to activities which affect the world."

The organization — for youth between the ages of 16 and 30 hopes to bring together various Canadian organizations such as NFCUS, WUSC, the YMCA, the YWCA, young Christian groups and young workers to provide a forum for different approaches, exchange of information, and joint action in certain areas. NFCUS is the present acting secretary.

WAY—with headquarters in Bruxelles — provides advice and aid to its national committees, which pay part of the cost of the international organization. Any youth group may belong to it if it is voluntary and democratic.

Mr. Krishnaswami stated that WAY does not want to take over the activities of the Canadian youth groups, but strengthen and help them with national and international programs, in these areas as well as providing advice, technical assistance, and bilateral exchanges.

A Canadian national committee "can work closely with youth in other countries providing a dispassionate study of the (see also page 2)

A Report On Student Activities and Conditions Around the World

as compiled by
Canadian University Press

Negro Student Protests Spread to 15 U.S. Cities

PHILADELPHIA (UPS)—The sit-down protest by Negro students which had reached nine cities early last week, has now spread to 15, including New York with the possibility of this city of brotherly love being next on the list, bringing statements from interested groups.

The northern sit-down protests are in support of the southern movements and not to protest the policies of the branch stores involved.

The movement began Feb. 1 when four freshmen from the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro entered an F. W. Woolworth store in the heart of the town. They bought a few articles, and then sat down for a snack at a nearby lunch counter.

According to the New York Times dispatches, the students were approached by a Negro kitchen woman who said, "You know you're not supposed to be in here."

The students then asked a white waitress for coffee.

"I'm sorry but we don't serve colored here," they quoted her.

After pointing out that the same woman had served them at the counter two feet away, the students sat, coffeeless, until the store closed at 5.30 p.m. 3/4 of an hour later.

The Greensboro demonstration triggered off a number of similar demonstrations throughout the South. The movement's chief targets were two national variety store chains, S. H. Kress and Co., and the Woolworth stores.

Following the spread of the sit-down protests the American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement on the legality of the strikes.

In a telegram to North Carolina State Attorney General Malcolm Seawell, the ADLU cau- (continued on page 4)

SOVIET STUDENTS APPEAR INTERESTED AND EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT WEST

by PAUL UNTERBERG

Students in the Soviet Union were very interested in the West, just as we were interested in their country. We talked to them for hours in the cafes, on the streets and in the parks. When we spoke to someone, it was almost certain that friends passing by would stop and join the group when they saw we were foreigners.

I should like to point out the freedom with which I was allowed to explore Moscow. My wife and I spent the whole month of June, and part of the month of October there, and not once were we prevented from looking at something or staying as long as we wished. We were not led about, but wandered without a guide. To the best of my knowledge we were never followed.

We spoke to many Russians. Some of them were altogether afraid to speak to us. But these were a small minority. Most seemed very eager to converse

with foreigners. I had crammed a night course in Russian before leaving and learned a good deal more every day, by simply being forced to make myself understood. I made many mistakes, some of them probably amusing. Many of the Russians, particularly the students, spoke some English or French, and that made things easier.

We were astounded at how much they resembled Canadian or American youth. They were interested in exams, international politics, clothes, their jobs after graduation, jazz, women, summer vacations, and how to get a ticket to a championship soccer match. Many of them complained about the restrictions on travel which allowed only the rare exception to leave his native land. Others complained about the liberty of the press, but in an overwhelming majority they were be-

hind their present form of government. Even those who complained about some of these restrictions were unquestionably convinced that their present Communist government was the system which would bring them even better conditions of life.

These students, and their elders, are justly proud of the Soviet Union's achievements in science and education. I was travelling on the Trans Siberian railway from Tashkent to Moscow when the Lunik I hit the moon. The train nearly went mad. Vodka, which flows freely enough in any case, was drunk tumbler-wise in celebration. People sang, yelled and congratulated one another as though it were a personal victory for each one of them. For this too they thank their government.

It is true that there are in Moscow certain groups who try (continued on page 4)

The Problem of Education in Quebec . . .

Two events in the last two weeks have brought education in Quebec sharply into focus once again, and it now looks as though the province is willing to pay heed to the universities, and students which former Premier Maurice Duplessis once described as, "a necessary evil."

One is the report from Ottawa that the federal government may soon introduce a bill to reduce federal corporation taxes so that the planned Quebec increase of one per cent in these taxes will not effect the actual amount paid by these corporations.

The other is the announcement of a meeting this Friday of students and Premier Antonio Barrette to discuss a brief by the Québec universities.

This meeting — a culmination of struggle and frustration is perhaps one of the most important breakthroughs for Québec students in recent years. On the surface it may appear to be a simple meeting, but to students long accustomed to the deaf ear of M. Duplessis, it could prove to be a vital one.

Hope for a change began to grow during the short time that Premier Paul Sauvé was in office. Now it seems likely that the new premier will not alter the policy of his predecessor. But it has been a long uphill fight.

During the time of the Duplessis government Québec universities were perpetually in financial trouble, and their predicament seemed to be worse than alarm-

ing. This situation was especially drastic with the French-language universities of Laval and Montréal, which do not receive private grants from industry of philanthropists, and have been running into the red for years.

The new University of Montréal buildings, built with the aid of a fund-raising campaign throughout French-speaking Canada, still laid unfinished, it was not fully equipped, and it was overcrowded. Research was stalled by lack of funds, and world renowned scientists such as Dr. Hans Selye worked under difficult conditions; no university press could be established for the diffusion of their studies and discoveries. Professors received, and still receive some of the lowest paychecks in Canadian universities. They were jammed into tiny offices, overwhelmed by academic work, and had no time for personal studies. Fees were kept to the middle level, but still too high for sons and daughters of workers. Education was a privilege of the middle and higher classes.

"For every student that registers," U of M Rector, Irene Lussier, once said at a round table discussion organized by students after the 1957 raise in fees, "the administration has to spend twice as much as what he pays."

The rector has also stated publicly that he would have to suppress such "on-vital" faculties as literature, the school of history

etc., to keep alive his renowned faculties of law, medicine, dentistry, and science.

Long kept secret for obscure reasons, the U of M financial re-

In this, the first of two articles, Pierre Martin, former editor of Le Quartier Latin at the University of Montreal, traces the attempts at educational reform while Quebec was under the government of Maurice Duplessis.

port was made public in 1958, and showed a \$300,000 deficit. Delivering the report Rector Lussier pointed out that the probable deficit for the year 1959 would be \$500,000. But still the money did not come either from industry, or private sources, or from the province.

Premier Duplessis' policy towards universities was to keep them well disciplined and respectfully humble towards the decisions of the political strong man. Annual "discretionary" grants forced the university administrators to make a yearly pilgrimage to the provincial capital to beg for their financial needs.

A Laval student show ridiculed the situation in an act where a university rector had to make the "dance of the grants" before M. Duplessis to get the needed money.

I cannot understand why men such as university presidents or rectors can be kept so long in such a humiliating and revolting situation, and still keep silent or show resignation. I discussed this matter with Rector Lussier, and his final explanation was, "If you had known the man."

The Union Nationale policy was to keep in power. Thus any progressive form of legislation was far away from its aims. The party and its leader did not believe that the universities are the most important source of vitality for a nation. And since some university circles, such as the faculty of social science at Laval had clearly expressed dedication for progress, and reform, the Union Nationale was likely to judge universities, and intellectuals as "a necessary evil."

In September of 1957 the fees were raised at U of M. Hit hard, the Montreal students struck out first against the fee raise, then started questioning themselves about how to fight it. It did not take them long to realize that the problem was more complex, and lay deeper than they had believed. A minority group — most of them in financial difficulties, and already conscious of many aspects of the education problem — decided that the action had to be taken. A brief on education was drafted, negotiations were held with government for presentation and discussion of the brief by the students with the premier.

A council of university students presidents was formed, and the content of the brief agreed upon by all six of the student union councils' leaders representing 21,000 students in the province.

The final recommendations of the brief were not new. The reforms asked for, were the same as those recommended by many groups such as workers' unions and boards of trade. But all previous briefs presented to the government had failed to catch the public eye, and had gone into the waste paper basket without any attention. Therefore, the students decided that education was a public issue. The people of Québec were to be made aware of the problem. Publicity was to be given to the discussion with the premier. But M. Duplessis failed to answer the first two letters asking for a meeting with the student's delegation. Then he bluntly refused. The fat was in the fire.

Student leaders — especially at Montréal and Laval — decided that some action was to be taken. Even after a university press campaign, the majority of students still were not completely aware of the education problem. We felt the only way to enlighten them was to throw them into action, and tell them at this moment of crisis, what they had to fight for. Some major action had to be taken. March 6, 1958 almost all Québec university students went on strike.