

SRC Budget Not Printed

SRC IGNORES CONSTITUTION

In one of its rare moments of decision, the SRC at its meeting on January 27 decided to set aside a clause of the Constitution requiring budgets to be published in the Brunswickian before they are finally voted on by the Council. As the SRC prepared to discuss the final disposition of some \$2800 of student money, one member brought this clause to the Council's attention.

The same question had arisen in the fall budget, at which time it was decided to set aside another clause requiring the budgets to be passed at a meeting within ten days of the preliminary budget meeting, in order to allow a delay of about one week until another issue of the Brunswickian was out. In the recent instance it was decided this would delay passage of the budgets for too long and deprive some organ-

izations of urgently needed funds. A delay of at least two weeks would have been necessary since no provision had been made by the Finance Committee to have the budgets published up until the time the SRC meeting began.

At this point a representative of the Brunswickian pointed out that it would be possible to stop the presses and insert the budgets in the current issue of the Brunswickian. This would have meant that by meeting again, three days later, after the Brunswickian appeared, the Constitution could have been obeyed in full. A straw vote of the SRC, however, indicated only six members were in favour of doing this. The other 14 favoured proceeding with the budgets at once.

On the basis of this straw

vote, the President decided to exercise his prerogative and set aside the troublesome clause to allow the budgets to proceed. (Although no one seems to have thought of this, he must also have been suspending another clause which requires budgets to be posted on the bulletin boards before they are passed, since this had not been done either.) The motion of the President required two-thirds approval by the Council.

Debate on the motion centered around whether or not the student body wished to be informed how their money was spent (the majority view was "They don't care."), and whether or not the organizations concerned could wait from Monday until Thursday to get their money. In favouring the motion one Council member asked his colleagues to exer-

cise their common sense. Every time some problem comes up, he went on, the SRC seems to fall back on the Constitution. Concluding, he pointed out that the Constitution was not something intended to bind the SRC. (Following this revelation, he didn't say what, in that case, the Constitution was supposed to do.)

The motion received a two-thirds majority (14-6) and the Constitutional clause stood suspended. Whether the decision was based on the urgent need of organizations for the money, or a reluctance of Council members to sit through another meeting on Thursday night, will never be known.

In the subsequent budget discussion, three of those who voted to uphold the Constitution consistently abstained from voting. The Council

President advised them, to no avail, that by doing so they were, in his opinion, failing to represent the students. After the meeting one of the three said that, in his opinion, by denying student the right to be informed before the budget meeting how the SRC planned to spend their money, the SRC had made it impossible for him to represent student opinion.

Having thus taken care of the \$2800, the Council moved on to other business. After a few more touchy constitutional problems, including a discussion of whether or not the solution to not enough students running in elections was to have more elections, the SRC finally got down to the important matter of whether bulletin board notices should be 8" by 11" or 12" by 18".

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The Voice of UNB

Conference

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The University of Manitoba's Conference on Commonwealth Affairs opened Tuesday with a keynote speech by Australian High Commissioner to Canada, David O. Hay.

Speaking on the Conference theme, The Commonwealth And The Challenge of Communism, Mr. Hay said that the challenge was more one of power than of ideology. "The promise of sure and swift economic growth has been one of Communism's most powerful attractions to Asian countries," he said.

"The ideological appeal of Communism has recently been weakened because this promise has not been fulfilled."

He said that China under Communism has not achieved the same prosperity or rate of economic growth as had the nearby Commonwealth countries. On the other hand the nations of the Commonwealth are related more by ideology than by power.

A Commonwealth based on this common ideology could hold the line against Communism, he felt.

Wednesday, Dr. Richard Pipes, Associate Professor of History at Harvard described the Imperial Character of Russia.

He said that Russia's empire-building, unlike that of western countries, occurred simultaneously with nation-building.

Russia's expansion was overland and not over the seas.

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ENGINEERS TERM WEEK 'A SUCCESS'



Last week, Monday through Friday, the Engineers held their annual Engineering Week. "It was particularly successful this year," said Dean Dineen, "due largely to the attendance of the open house." The open house was held on Monday, in the afternoon for visiting High Schools

and in the evening for the public. Eleven High Schools participated, with more than 280 students visiting the various displays.

Tuesday night was film night for the Engineers in the Chemistry Auditorium, and these included films of an informative and entertaining na-

ture. Wednesday, the Engineers held their sports day, with various indoor sports such as squash, and bowling being played, as well as a hockey game with the Foresters.

On Thursday, the Association of Professional Engineers

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STUDENTS PROTEST FEES

EDMONTON (Special to CUP) Indignant student demonstrators, 500 strong, paid a noon-hour visit Tuesday to the University of Alberta president but found him out to lunch.

A petition was presented to president's executive assistant, A. A. Ryan protesting a 20 per cent fee increase planned for the new seven million dollar resident complex opening in the fall.

The singing, chanting crowd packed the front steps of the administration building carrying placards: "Is university a preserve for the rich?" and "Never have so many paid so much for so little."

Three carloads of police arrived shortly to the cheers of the crowd. Spectators joined the marchers in chants: "Why must we pay, it seems we have no say."

A spokesman for the demonstrators told Mr. Ryan that the demonstration was not "an attempt to blacken the name of the administration," but a method of bringing attention to the students complaints.

He handed the petition to Mr. Ryan asking that it be referred to the board of governors. Ryan addressed the group and told them "to go through the usual democratic process to gain their ends."

The committee of senior students who organized the demonstration say they are planning further action against the fee hike until their cause is satisfied.