

By the people

The news that Alf Brien had withdrawn from the SRC election race, giving Lawson Hunter the post by acclamation came as a surprise and shock to most people. His name had been mentioned often during the Fall as a possible candidate, and we all expected a close race. Now for the first time in many years, there will not be a presidential election, and the SRC is poorer off for it. Elections always provide a chance for debate and discussion and a chance to define the issues. It would have been especially useful this year when student government is faced with a number of interesting and difficult problems — rising fees and living costs, inadequate crowded housing, the virtual failure of the residence system, the inadequacy and waste of big classes, the new student union building. None of these can be solved by student action alone, but we have a big stake in all of them. Without clear public discussion, the new president has little idea where the students stand — assuming they stand anywhere.

It is unfortunate that the new council must make some of its most important decisions in a very short time, when it will select the heads of a number of big campus organizations — Carnival, Brunswickan, Radio UNB, and others. The SRC will have to move carefully and ask for a great deal of advice if its appointees are to be as successful as this year's group.

Moreover, the new Council will be without experience and more important, will be themselves partly elected by acclamation. The Engineering students are so apathetic they couldn't even find enough people to fill the five vacant seats. Arts has six seats. Seven people applied. There are a few welcome new faces, and three former members will probably be back, but the Council is untried and inexperienced, and without clear directives from the student body. Most of them will do their best, though there will be a few deadwood social climbers, as usual. In general this campus gets the kind of Council it deserves, though there are occasional exceptions, like this year's executive group which has done well. Last year's SRC, however, provided an excellent example of the rule.

It is hard for me to account for the stupidity of the UNB electorate, which seems quite content to expend whatever meagre amount of energy it can muster for "student affairs" on picayune bellyaching, and not a bit of time on constructive work. Complaints without proposals are really tedious, and some people are getting a bit tired of it. Where were you at election time?

— N. J. A.

For Heaven's Sake, Get Out And VOTE

Brunswickan

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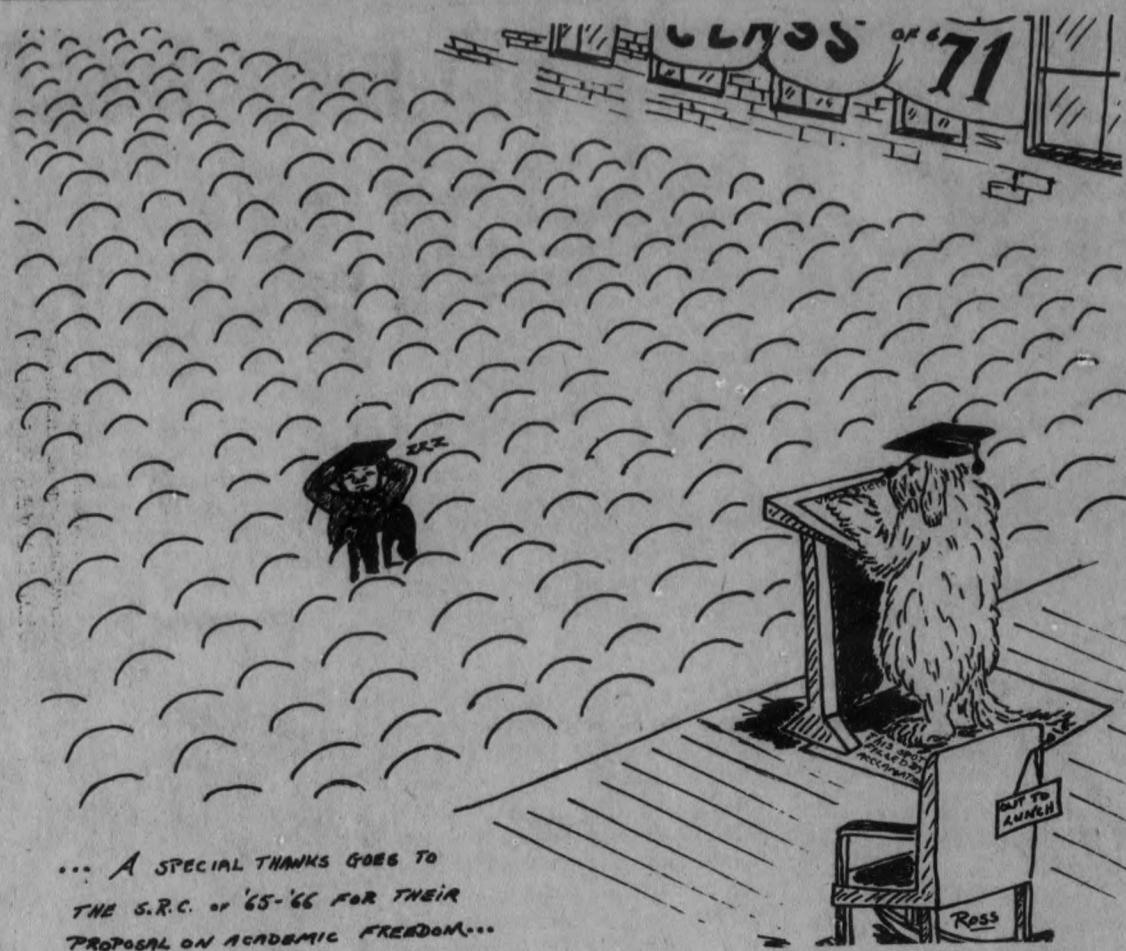
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Developments In Higher Education

by
Prof. E. D. Maher

The significant developments in the past year have been in the field of higher education in general rather than in business education. Unfortunately the developments have been largely in the form of more reports setting forth the needs in Canada for very rapid expansion of staff and facilities and estimates of the resources required; there has been little action to implement the recommendations.

The Economic Council of Canada in its second annual report, released on January 5, 1966, refers to the importance of education and training as "crucial" and the need as "immediate". Dr. Deutsch, the Chairman of the Council, commenting on the Report stated "The central theme running through the whole of the Council's second review is the need to improve productivity. In productivity the most important factor is our human resources, and we can best invest in them through education. So education and training is fundamental to the whole".

The Bladen Commission, which was established by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to estimate the requirements of the universities for staff and facilities for the next decade, reported on October 6th. Among its major recommendations were the following:

1. The Federal and Provincial Governments should provide for expansion of higher education on the assumption that undergraduate enrollment by 1970-71 would be 100% above the 1964-65 level and that by 1975-76 it would be 150% above the 1964-65 level. Graduate enrollment was expected to exceed four times the present level by 1975-76.
2. The Federal per capita operating grants should be

raised from \$2 to \$5 per capita for the year 1965-66 (i.e. the present academic year) and by a further \$1 each year until alternative financing arrangements are introduced.

3. A federal Capital Grants Fund should be established by an annual contribution of \$5 per capita of population.
4. They also stated "That the financial problems of the universities are so urgent that action to resolve them should be taken without delay."

The Commission's statement about the urgency of the situation seems to have made little impression on the Federal Government. Although the Bladen Report was not released until October 6th it is dated June 30th and it was certainly in the hands of University Presidents and, judging from the press reports of election speeches, its contents seem to have been

known to many candidates for election well before its official publication date. However it took Federal Government about two months from the official publication date to take any action; the "action" was to call a Federal-Provincial Conference for February. The Commission's recommendation that "action... should be taken without delay" seems to have made little impression.

Repeated submissions have been made to the Federal Government in recent years, by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (and its predecessor the Canadian Universities Foundation) and by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, setting forth the expected very rapid increases in demand for higher education in the 1960s and 1970s along with estimates of the resources needed to meet these demands. All these reports seem

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

May I remind the Senior students of this University that in a few short months our graduation will take place. It is important therefore that the ceremonies and festivities of this event and the programme of future generations be administered in an efficient and imaginative manner. On January 26th, we elect our Life time executive who will serve in these positions. It is important that seniors are aware of the programs planned by the Presidential candidates and to this end a Senior Class

meeting has been arranged for January 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the Chemistry auditorium. Other business to be discussed is the March Senior Class party, whether or not the Red n' Black cast should attend this function, our gift to the University, and finally the financial statement regarding the present position of the Senior Class.

The 1966 Senior Class has had a fine record thus far and I would hope that the interest of the class will not falter in these final months.

J. Brian Malone