

From Our Elected President PEISU Requires That I Tell Him About The Change'

they were reported in two consecutive issues.

During the ensuing discussions there were several suggestions as to how we could resolve the situation. President Baker suggested that the "easiest" thing was to conduct the meeting without either one of them. I then reminded him that we were not here to do what is easiest but what was right. Father Jim Kelly, Andy Robb, and Gary Webster among others suggested two compromises. One was that we have a unanimous vote recognizing Doug Smith as Senator and the second was that we conduct the meeting contingent on legal advise. In other words they suggested that we let Doug sit

on Senate and risk wasting 2-3 hours. The majority of Senate appeared to agree with this proposal but Baker refused to listen and asked for a motion of adjournment. I asked Senate not to move this motion but it was moved by Jean MacKay and seconded by Regis Duffy. Baker almost immediately brought it to a vote. The motion was defeated. President Baker then ignored the defeat and declared the meeting adjourned. Whenever the chair makes such a ruling it is subject to challenge from the floor and if so must be voted on. Believing to be completely out of order, I challenged the ruling whereupon President Baker stood up and said he

was going home. He packed up his papers and began to leave as did a handful of other Senators. I asked him if he was refusing to listen to a challenge and he repeated "I'm going home". I called the meeting to order in an attempt to salvage a quorum and elect a chairman from within in the remaining group of Senators. Fourteen members are required for a quorum and when it looked that one might be obtained Baker returned and stated that he would claim the chair if it was obtained. The meeting then disintegrated because it could have gone on all night with Baker declaring it adjourned (illegally) and us receiving a quorum, him re-

turning and reclaiming the chair and declairing it adjourned again.

As it stands now, the meeting is open-ended. It hasn't been officially adjourned but President Baker has called for the 8th meeting of Senate on Tuesday night at 7:15 in Kelley Memorial Library. This in fact will still be the 7th meeting (part two) and not the beginning of the 8th. Both President Baker and myself have checked with our lawyers and will have their opinions on the matter for Tuesday's continuation of the seventh meeting.

Sincerely,
Gordon Campbell,
Pres, U.P.E.I.S.U.

And Our Appointed One



Ron Baker-'I Had Not Been Informed'

received no resignation from Marilyn MacPherson, and I had not been informed that the Student Union had removed her from the vice-presidency, nor had I been informed that the Student Union did not want her on the Senate.

As the President of the University, I am very much concerned about the freedom from pressure of members of the Senate and the Board of Governors. In the past, we have seen elsewhere governments change board members because the university was not doing what the government happened to wish. I feel therefore, that the drafters of our Act and the government of the province were wise in not including in the Act provisions for recall of Senate members by those bodies that elect them. Above all, a university should be a place to protect unpopular opinions. If we cannot live with an unpopular opinion until someone comes up for re-election or re-appointment, there is something wrong with us.

Consequently, I said that as chairman it was my

view that Marilyn MacPherson was still a member of the Senate. I also said to Doug Smith that if he wanted to speak at any point I would recognize him and allow him to join in the discussion.

When it became quite clear that there was disagreement as to which of the students was in fact a member of the Senate, especially in view of the fact that a number of people agreed that there was a problem, I tried to proceed with the business by suggesting that neither of the students sit for that particular meeting. That, however, proved unacceptable.

Since the legality of a somewhat similar action involving a Senate committee was challenged this year, I was particularly anxious that there be no possibility of dispute over the legality of the membership. Consequently, I said that I would like to consult the University lawyer. It was suggested that Senate vote on the matter. In my view, however, this is a legal question, and is not solved by the unanimous vote of the Senate. I was reluctant to leave

the Senate, particularly when a motion to adjourn had been lost (12 opposed to adjournment; 10 in favor) but I did not feel that I could continue to be in a meeting where the legality of the membership was in question.

Had Marilyn MacPherson resigned and Doug Smith been elected by the Student body in the normal way, there would have been no problem at all. As it was, however, I had no resignation on the one hand; and I had had no notice of a change in the Constitution and election on the other hand.

The principle involved is extremely important. If the government, Holland College, the Student Union, the faculty can remove members of the governing bodies of the University in mid-term, especially without notice or resignation, we may on some important issue one day find ourselves in serious difficulty.

R.J. Baker
President

Feb 20, 1975

According to the University Act, among the members of the Senate of the University are "five members of the student body of the University elected in such manner as shall be set forth in the duly approved Constitution of the student body" and "the President of the Students' Union, in the event that he has not otherwise been elected to the Senate." Last year, I was informed by the Student Council that Marilyn MacPherson had been duly elected to Senate. When I arrived to chair the Senate meeting on Wednesday, February 19, I was told that there was a new member, Doug Smith. As chairman of Senate, I had