

Stan Dalton,
Toronto



LETTERS FROM EXILE
The Cadre,
U.P.E.I.

While on PEI during my Christmas holidays I had heard that the UPEI student union executive had resigned. I've learned since then that that is not true. In any case however, if it were true I would be in no way surprised because the student union has been heading in that direction for a number of years now.

The age-old problem at UPEI has been the union executive blaming the students for lack of support while the student membership has accused the executive of being aloof and non-representative of student interests. This is what appears on the surface. Actually, however, this is merely symptomatic of a more profound fact, namely: student affairs

are ignored in the UPEI constitution—the university act. In this act students are disproportionately represented on all important bodies at UPEI. In particular, the Senate and Board of Governors have a small minority of students while, in fact, students constitute the bulk of the population at UPEI. They have some say, but are numerically powerless at voting time. Consequently, student power is at a minimum at UPEI. As a result therefore students become subordinate to the decisions of a minority-administration and faculty—and are left with the administration of social activities, only. It is no wonder there is apathy! There cannot

U.P.E.I. STUDENTS NEED NEW CONSTITUTION

but be apathy where there is powerlessness.

If the students are to surmount their internal squabbles they must, of necessity, pursue a new constitution putting students and students rights first. They must demand at least on equal say and vote for academic, curriculum content, and faculty content, policies. Only when students become masters in their own house will these mischievous squabbles give way to responsible relations and for the development of pro-student policies commensurate with the needs of our Island population as well as the individual student's needs.

These squabbles are internally diverse; but do you see concern expressed by Baker and Co.? Of Campbell and the Dept. of Education? Of faculty? No! So far as they are concerned, the weaker the students the easier to promote anti-student, and pro-business academic policies.

Do you want to be "educated" in such a way as to serve some capitalist in a Toronto factory? Or would you rather be educated in

such a way as to be of maximum use to the Island people and, therefore, yourself?

If the latter is your concern then the students must pressure their student union executive to develop a made-at-UPEI constitution reflecting the genuine interests of students.

Education on PEI must be made relevant to the needs of Islanders. Campbell and Baker will, in no way, facilitate this. Students, and students only, can fight for and insure this.

To proceed, the student union executive must develop closer ties with those it represents and, together, forge a new constitution putting students—the majority—first. Otherwise, internal division will further develop resulting inevitably with the desegregation of student union representation thus placing the students in a fatally vulnerable position.

UPEI students must decide now whether to proceed in the old way (a proven ineffective way) or proceed along a new path to responsible student power.

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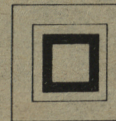
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