

ELIOT REFUTES CONTROVERSY OVER MAIN RENOVATION

RENOVATION
VERSUS restoration was the topic of discussion when UPEI President Dr. Eliot spoke with UPEI Student Council on Sunday. The President was asked to speak to Council to address student concerns that the heritage of Main Building was not being preserved in the renovation of the building.

"In order to restore a building we have to know what it once was", said Eliot.

He said that because Main Building's interior has been torn up and changed so much over the years that there is no fixed period of time that the building could realistically be restored to. Indeed, the original Main building had a wood frame rather than brick and was without the wing and annex that now exist on its West side.

Eliot stated that the University has asked the architect to preserve the outside of Main and any parts of the interior that showed the original character of the building. However, Eliot said that there was little left of the original interior to restore.

Student Council asked Eliot specifically about the marble staircase with brass rail that has been removed from Main and for which

there are no plans to replace. Eliot stated that Main was originally designed for about 250 students and that it could in future have to accommodate upwards of 750. To cope with this, Eliot said the main hallway was redesigned to be more open. The existing staircase was too long to conform to fire regulations and by redesigning the hallway, the staircase had to be changed as well. Eliot also added that the marble staircase was only built in 1939.

Council was also concerned that the original paned windows that can be seen on the first floor would be replaced with more modern ones, destroying the character of the exterior.

"The windows will be restored as if appropriate to the middle of the 19th century," stated Eliot.

Eliot was less definite when asked about the appearance of the interior of Main.

Students have been worried that the architect, who designed the Coles building law courts downtown, would wind up making the interior of Main similar to Memorial or Cass buildings.

"I hope it won't look like either of those buildings", said Eliot. He said



of the Coles building that "some parts are beautiful, other parts I think are disaster areas."

Eliot reassured Council that the architect knows how people feel about Memorial and that where ever possible, the character will be preserved. President Eliot used the example of the room known as the "Bishop's Parlour" which, he said, is being restored to its original state.

Dean MacMillan, science representative on Council, asked if Eliot expected back-

lash from people who donated money thinking Main building was to be restored rather than just renovated.

Eliot said that none of the material promoting the fund raising campaign the university conducted mentioned restoration.

"Restoring it would cost two of three times as much", he said.

Eliot stated that the University was seeking to make Main a usable building although he recognized the importance of its heritage.

"It is the heart of St. Dunstan's and we have to preserve our roots" he said.

Eliot said he was not expected a backlash from people who contributed to the fund for Main.

The renovation of the building is continuing on schedule. A third floor has been added to the English annex, the support structure of the building is strengthened, and it is expected that the building will be ready for use by August 20th 1988.

New Year's Eve to be wet only

THE STUDENT
UNION New Year's Eve pub will not be a wet/dry event. Student Council decided Sunday that because the last Hallowe'en pub drew only four "dry" students and that it would be difficult to get enough Campus Police to staff a wet/dry event for New Year's, that the event at The Barn be restricted to students of the legal drinking age or over.

Wet/Dry pubs, which permit all UPEI students regardless of age to attend Student Union sponsored pubs, was started on a trial basis this year. Under the sys-

tem, one floor of the Barn is designated "dry" (no alcohol permitted) where soft drinks are served. Because of the greater potential of under age students getting served from the other "wet" bars, more Campus police are required to ensure that the law is not broken.

On Friday, an anonymous letter was distributed around campus from "concerned students" stating that at the wet/dry Hallowe'en pub, only four students were stamped "dry" but there were several under age who got into "wet" areas because

of fake identification.

"(We) feel our liquor license privileges are being jeopardized by these under-age freshmen", stated the letter. "If their actions are allowed to continue the results will be catastrophic—it will mean the loss of C.P., bartender and some S.U. jobs."

Student Council discussed the letter and the problems with the pub with head CP Darren Ford on Sunday night. Ford stated that it was difficult for the student police to match ID pictures with the peo-

ple coming in the door at that particular pub because of makeup and costumes.

Ford also presented the fact that fifteen Campus Police would be needed to staff a wet/dry event and that for New Year's Eve, getting that many people to work would present a problem.

Student Council discussed the matter and decided that mainly due to the staffing problems, the New Year's pub be open only to drinking-age students. However, it was pointed out that the wet/dry system was set up to serve to

students and that it should not be abandoned because very few under age students had taken advantage of it at Hallowe'en.

Council decided that, if possible, a completely dry event should be held in another building on campus, possibly the cafeteria or a residence, to accommodate under age students.

However, VP Operations Heather Hickey informed the Gem Wednesday that because the university is officially closed during Christmas break, it is impossible to hold such an event.