

January 23, 1969

CUS--What it Means and What it Does for You

The basic issue of Canadian student unity goes far beyond the party lines of moderatism vs. radicalism.

Here at M.S.V.U., we have formal student organization at the university level and hopefully in the future, at the faculty and departmental levels. Therefore, organization at a national student level is both logical and in keeping with our present policies.

Furthermore, for about one dollar per capita per year, we will indeed get our money's worth from CUS. For this money we will receive services ranging from a national student newspaper to very low cost charter flights to Europe, to discount life insurance and a CUS field worker and resource people within the Atlantic Region.

CUS lobbying at the Parliamentary level has in the past resulted in the Canada Student Loan Plan, better financing for co-op housing, and direct federal aid to help provinces finance higher education.

CUS also serves a communication function. It acts as an agency to bring student leaders together to discuss education in terms of philosophy or tactics, and how to deal with them. Policies for the individual campus may be discussed, and a liaison established between universities.

The arbitrary decision of the majority of Canadian universities and especially Mount Allison, Memorial, and U.N.B. in the Atlantic Region to opt from this voluntary organization has produced little if no opposition from student "non-representatives" on these campuses.

Must this be interpreted as support for the move?

If you answer yes, then in can be deducted that support for the withdrawal must ~~come~~ in turn, be interpreted as reluctance to work for educational reform on a national basis.

Simon Rosenblum, Vice-President, SNU Student Council, summed up this idea when he said, "We don't need a national union to provide service station functions. However, such a union would allow for student views to be made representative on the national level, especially in the field of educational reform."

A resolution passed at the 1968 CUS Congress states: "The fundamental demand of student unions must be for control over the learning process at all levels...the demand for control cannot be a request for participation in this corporate structure."

The average Mountie, content to fight for abolition of attendance taking in class or extension of leaves will probably find this proposal typical of the "radical left clique" within the national organization.

However, it is at this point that we, as responsible citizens must consider 'our' definition of student power and the student movement, both regionally and nationally.

We must not look upon the student power movement with apprehension. The student power movement on the majority of campuses is a sincere and valid request for representation on the decision-making committees of universities.

If students wish to open the way to unheated discussion and cooperation between faculty and student for the benefit of all, then the administration must be made to relax their control and allow students' needs to be considered and met.

Please become aware of CUS issues that have been presented to you over the past week and prepare to make an intelligent decision on your referendum vote Friday

CUS is a channel for action and action is most important. The viability of a national union depends completely on our participation. The channel itself is secondary.