

C. F. C. C. S. HOLDS RALLY

THEME: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

"Academic Freedom" was the theme of the rally sponsored last Sunday in the Alumni Gymnasium by the Canadian Federation of Catholic College Students. The rally was attended by hundreds of delegates, comprising Catholic teachers, nursing trainees, high school students, and lay apostles from various parts of the province.

Robert Quigley, president of the Students' Union, made the opening remarks, and introduced the speakers who were to deliver talks on various aspects of freedom during the day.

The first speaker was Rev. Richard Ellsworth, S.T.D., M.Sc., who spoke on Freedom in experimental biology. He was followed by Mr. Elmer Murphy, editor of the Summerside Journal, whose topic was "Freedom of the Press". Mr. Edward Amassinab of Ghana, a student at the Coady Institute in Antigonish, N.S., concluded the first session of talks with his speech on freedom of the individual.

Following a short break, Rev.

Freedom of the Press

Mr. Elmer Murphy, editor of the Summerside Journal, gave a very comprehensive talk on freedom of the press. Freedom of the press, he said, is simply an extension of freedom of speech; it is not the conferring of a special privilege, nor should it be confused with license. Freedom of the press means freedom to speak in print, and it is the primary manifestation of the things we all value as much as life itself.

He went on to say that freedom of the press is inexorably bound up with that system of government known as democracy; one cannot exist without the other. It is only with the guarantee of freedom of the press that democracy can become complete and the people become really free. The strength of democracy can be determined by the freedom possessed by the press of that country. Wherever the press is free, as in North America and western Europe, democracy flourishes. But elsewhere, the picture is spotty, as in Portugal and Spain.

Mr. Murphy then outlined various definitions of freedom of the press. The Canons of Journalism define it as "the unquestionable right to discuss whatever is not explicitly forbidden by law, including the wisdom of any restrictive statute." Fred S. Auger, publisher of the Vancouver Province, called it "the right and responsibility to keep the public fully informed on public affairs, and the right to speak freely without censorship, or without fear of persecution." The Chairman of the United Kingdom Press Council stated in 1955 that freedom of the press means "the right to

Owen C. Sharkey, Ph. D., and Dr. M. Burke, M.D., a well-known psychiatrist in Charlottetown, gave brief, but comprehensive talks on freedom of the mind. This was followed by a question period.

In the evening session, Rev. Fr. Doucette, C.Ss.R., spoke on freedom and the arts, and Dr. Mark MacGuigan, Ph.D., L.L.D., gave a very edifying lecture on freedom and the State. This talk concluded the sessions for the rally. For the benefit of those who missed the rally, or wished to receive copies of the talks, summaries of most of them will be found on this page.

print books, newspapers, pamphlets, or any other printed matter without getting government permission first."

The speaker next went on to point out that Freedom of the press was achieved in Britain only after a fierce struggle and that it was only a little over one hundred years ago that it was obtained. In the United States, it was considered so important that it forms the subject matter of the first amendment to the Constitution, and states: "Congress shall pass no law abridging the freedom of the press."

But he cautioned the audience as to the extent to which freedom of the press should go. Just as freedom of speech does not permit us to say whatever we like, so too, freedom of the press confines us within a certain scope. A publisher is bound by laws of libel, obscenities, and so on, not to publish untruths against any person, or to print vulgarities, obscene literature, and articles of that nature. But not only is a publisher morally bound to observe state laws, he is also morally bound to perform other duties in accordance with the moral law. As Pope John XXIII, speaking to the Union of Italian Catholic Jurists, said in 1959: "Freedom of the press must fit in with, and be controlled by, respect for divine laws, just as individual liberties must fit in with an observance of the requirements of positive prescriptions."

Freedom and the Mind

Rev. Owen Sharkey, Registrar and Dean of Studies at S.D.U., and Dr. Margaret Burke, a noted Charlottetown Psychiatrist, combined to lecture on the topic: "Freedom and the Mind".

After being introduced by Miss Noreen Cameron, Secretary of St. Dunstan's C.F.C.C.S., Father Sharkey gave a short talk centered around the individual's freedom from himself and his consciousness. He outlined his research work done in Canada and the United States in the fields of education, Marriage Court cases, and psychiatry, and discussed man's limitation of freedom when he is emotionally disturbed. He then introduced the featured speaker, Dr. Burke M.D. (psychiatry).

Dr. Burke declared that man



DR. MARK MacGUIGAN — Professor of Law at the University of Toronto Law School, chats with Fr. Alan MacDonald, National Chaplain of C.F.C.C.S. Dr. MacGuigan gave the final address at the C.F.C.C.S. rally held last week.

Freedom and the State

Dr. Mark MacGuigan of the faculty of law of the University of Toronto, concluded the Seminar with a perceptive discourse on the topic: "Freedom and the State".

Dr. MacGuigan said that Law does restrict freedom of choice but makes possible a more significant freedom—freedom of perfection. He defined the latter as the liberty that accompanies doing the right thing as opposed to freedom of choice which is the liberty to do whatever one pleases.

Maintaining that Law must aim at the common good, he went on to discuss spiritual and material freedoms. The speaker outlined the various spiritual freedoms such as freedom of religion, press, arrest, detention and exile. Pointing out and elaborating on three clear cut cases, he then proceeded to clarify freedom of religion.

Maintaining that the purpose of the State is protection from harm to others, he then touched upon material freedoms such as the right to private property, the right to social security. Quoting freely from the Universal Declaration of Rights and the encyclicals of Pope Pius XI and Pope John XXII, the distinguished lecturer declared that today the State is playing a positive role with more govern-

ment intervention and greater social consciousness. can be a slave to his compulsions, whether they are alcoholic drinking, or simply washing hands, and this can limit his freedom to the extent that he will not be at liberty to make decisions because of his emotional disturbance.

After Dr. Burke's interesting talk a question period was held. In this discussion Dr. Sharkey defined normality as "a person who is free" while abnormality is "a person who is not free". As time ran out, there were still several questions to be asked by the curious, but obviously fascinated audience.

Terry Burman

Freedom and The Arts

After being introduced by Bill Faulkner, Vice-President of S.D.U.'s C.F.C.C.S. group, Fr. Doucette proceeded to speak to a very interested audience on the subject of education and freedom. He quoted several definitions of education, and proceeded to relate them with the two prevalent social trends in the world today as stated by the Dominican Cungaard: over-importance given to individuals, and power quest of large corporations. Reminding us of St. Paul's definition of the educated man—"A man of God may be furnished to every good work"—he proceeded to show how both the ideals of the French Revolutionaries and the power of modern monopoly conspire against the formation of the modern educated Catholic. He was especially vehement against modern monopoly.

He spoke also about some modern ideas of freedom: the Rousseauian, the Marxist, the Stoic (also Buddhist) and the Christian, emphasizing that the Christian recognition of God made the Christian formula the only one for peace positively attained. The Christian wills for God to move him towards His glory, while the others think peace can be found only in shirking physical and mental worries.

He spoke also of the arts in the broadest sense of the word. He was primarily interested in the freedom of the individual, and quick to state that art, an "incomplete" virtue, must be guided by prudence, a "complete" virtue. An interesting question period followed a brief pause for discussion.

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Freedom in Experimental Biology

The first aspect of Academic Freedom treated at the rally was "Freedom in Experimental Biology". Father Richard Ellsworth in this presentation pointed out that there is freedom in experimenting with living things; this freedom is reasonably limited by civil laws. Man is at liberty to experiment with all plants and lower animals in the interest of science, with the restriction that he must not be cruel; this experimentation, however, may be carried out on man only if his dignity as an image of God is respected, and his life and health are not unreasonably endangered. Having exemplified man's limitation in experimenting, Father Ellsworth went on to clarify the meaning of "Academic Freedom", which is distinct from freedom in experimental biology. He defined academic freedom as man's freedom in teaching as long as he teaches the truth exclusive of his own opinions and beliefs.

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