

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT DAY

Having recently returned from the Regional Conference of the National Federation of Canadian University Students (NFCUS) held at Acadia University, I feel it is my obligation to inform the student body of the results of this and of the main project NFCUS will endeavour to carry out this spring.

The conference was attended by representatives of every Maritime University, who together sent a total of fifteen delegates and twenty-five observers. We were welcomed at Acadia by the President, Dr. Kirkconnell, and by the president of the Student Union, Ian Forrest. The principal topics under consideration at the conference were "the Toronto Plan, and "National University Student Day."

"The Toronto Plan" was drawn up by an advisory committee on student aid at the university of Toronto. The plan, in effect, a detailed description and consideration of the serious situation in Canada today presented by High School students who cannot attend university because of the lack of financial aid. Many, many high school students are forced to terminate their education after completing high school; and as a result, Canadian Universities, and the Canadian nation at large, are losing many qualified students who would certainly take their place as leaders in the world.

The program proposed by the Toronto Plan would enable the promising High School graduate to attend university, instead of being left behind to face the world without the asset of a university education. Free tuition, bursaries, and scholarships would be available to these students, providing that they fulfilled the necessary requirements.

This in substance is "The Toronto Plan". Many proposals and considerations contained within it did not meet with the approval of the conference. As a result of this, the regional conference made a motion disapproving the plan. This motion carried, and its decision will be taken to the National Congress next year.

The second major topic under consideration was "National University Student Day". This day has been set, by the National Executive, as March 5, 1959. The National Federation of Canadian University Students at its last annual congress felt that the Canadian public was not familiar with the educational problems in Canada, and more particularly with the university problem.

The purpose of University Student Day is to acquaint the general public with the university student, his role, and his problems. The day is to be of an informative nature. Its theme will run along the following lines: the place of the university student and the problems he will encounter at university and in society, what he

must do to overcome them, and the part played by the university itself.

Such problems as the acute shortage of residences, which makes it more and more difficult for potential students from non-university cities to attend university, and, of course, the basic problem of the financial barrier to higher education, will be discussed. The manner in which the students' views, problems, and ideas will be presented, will be of a twofold nature—national and local.

On the national level, the executive will handle the broader aspects of the program. They will release the broad, informative statements that concern Canada as a whole. They will obtain the cooperation of the press and the national networks of the C.B.C. Radio and Television. Their chief aim is to put the student views and opinions before the public. At the same time they want the man-in-the-street to realize the problems of Canadian education and the economic barriers which must be overcome for university education to be a success.

On the local level, on the other hand, there will be thirty-two universities in Canada interpreting the national picture to their own region. Each of these universities will present the role, purpose and problems of the student as these things pertain to its respective area.

Thus the public simultaneously receives the broad picture on the national level, as well as the local aspects of this same picture. The end result is to make more Canadians conscious and aware of Education, its many problems, and its importance to all. Besides this, Canadians will have a better perspective of the university student.

Here at Saint Dunstan's, the NFCUS committee, with the support of the faculty and civic leaders in Charlottetown, will contribute its share to National University Student Day. This will be in the form of publicity in the local newspapers and through the media of radio and television. The ideas and problems of the student must be open to the Canadian public. It is our hope that on National University Student Day these aims will be achieved, and that we will have a Canadian public more informed on education in the university today.

LOUIS DOUCETTE
NFCUS Chairman.

In this wide world the fondest and the best,
Are the most tried, most troubled and distressed.

—Crabbe