

MINUTES: Trail Status of Women Meeting.

Submitted by: M. Rock.

The monthly meeting of the Trail Status of Women was held at the Trail Junior High School on April 2, 1974.

Dr. Fraser from Selkirk College spoke to us about the changes outlined in the Cowan Commission report.

If anyone had asked me two weeks ago what I thought of the report, I'd have given them a very blank look. I was very surprised to learn that everyone was invited to submit briefs last year and that hearings were held in the area last August. Maybe they picked that time because everyone was away on holidays. It turned out that out of approximately 1,500 briefs submitted, 1,300 came from Nelson, 180 from Cranbrook and 13 from Trail. Dr. Fraser stated that Notre Dame University in Nelson is on the verge of bankruptcy and unless drastic changes are made, it will have to fold. The Cowan report suggests that three universities be built - one in Nelson (increase the size of NDU), one in Castlegar (increase the size of Selkirk) and one in Cranbrook. There would be three sets of administrators who would report to another Council who would administer the entire Kootenays. It sounded to me like an administrator's dream and a taxpayer's nightmare. Of course, there aren't enough students in the area to support three universities so each university would have to specialize in a certain area to attract outside students - which brings up the question of housing - apparently no mention was made but I could visualize more money being spent on campus housing as we're already having problems finding accommodations for short term students such as those at the Rossland Mining BCIT School and ~~xxxxxx~~ at Nelson.

Dr. Fraser's alternatives to the Cowan report were very interesting. The main theme is to bring the school to the people not the people to the school. He envisioned tractor trailer rigs pulling mobile classrooms to the various communities - such as Fernie, Grand Forks or smaller communities up the Slocan valley and bringing in specialists from the Coast or even Alberta. The emphasis would be on continuing education throughout a person's life rather than between the ages of 18 to 24. Courses would not be restricted to what was available from the limited number of teachers that one school could afford to hire.

He suggested that NDU model itself after the Banff School of Fine Arts.

During the discussion afterwards, it was revealed that there is a letter writing campaign going on between the proponents and opponents of this report and, of course, everyone was urged to mail their views to Victoria. With the usual apathy apparent in this town, I don't expect to see a flood of mail descend on Dailley's desk. There were less than 40 people at the meeting.

We then adjourned to a short business meeting at one of the local establishments. Amidst clinking glasses, blaring jukebox and stares from the male dominated premises, we argued the merits??? of allowing men to come to our meetings and join in the discussion groups. I, personally, am against it for several reasons - such as my lack of self confidence in projecting my personal feelings in the presence of a man or that men dominate any conversation. However, my husband says I am perpetuating the system. If it is wrong to have men's only clubs, then it is also wrong to have women only clubs. And I can see his point

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In any event, the issue will be brought up at our next meeting and a formal vote will be taken - and perhaps our Constitution amended.

Our last meeting before we adjourn for the summer will be at Marion Hurd's house. It will be in the form of a party and everyone should bring some refreshments and/or food.

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