

# THIS CONCERNS

# YOU

# G.S.M. VOTED PROSH RAG PROCEEDS TO

## ABSCHOL and the PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT Sth VIETNAM general student meeting to reconsider decision 2b held MON JULY 24 1-00pm BARR LAWNS

STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE **LETTERS**

20th July, 1972

Mr. R.W. Arland,  
Town Clerk,  
Corporation of the City of Adelaide,

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter 118/72 of 20th June 1972, I would like to inform you of the decision of a General Student Meeting which was held to-day.

The Motion "that War Veterans Home should be given \$600 from the proceeds of Prosh Rag" was lost.

The charities nominated by the Meeting are:

ABSCHOL  
Provisional Revolutionary Government  
of South Vietnam.

Yours sincerely,

R.E. Osman,  
P. Lloyd,  
Prosh Co-ordinators.

### THE REASONS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

To some it may seem to be high handed to hold an Extraordinary G.S.M. to reconsider a decision made at a previous student meeting. Then to bring the meeting forward so that it hasn't the required three days notice would seem to be not only high handed but also unconstitutional.

The reasons for calling the meeting are as follows:

- (1) The probable effect of the decision to give money to the P.R.G. is to jeopardise the chance of selling the Prosh rags.
- (2) The result has been that the Adelaide City Council has withdrawn its permit for Prosh which means that anyone selling the Prosh Rag or collecting funds for Prosh will be liable for prosecution.

On the first matter there will be fifteen thousand Prosh Rags printed at a total cost of about \$1,600 and from the reaction from the public so far many people won't buy the Rag if part of the money goes to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. If this occurs then it may be difficult to cover costs and even if costs are covered it could mean that the proceeds to ABSCHOL will be reduced.

There is also the point that it may be difficult to get enough students to sell the Rag if the decision to devote the half of the proceeds to the

Provisional Revolutionary Government did not have popular student support. After all it was only about 60 students who voted for it in the first place.

### HOW THE MEETING WAS CALLED

Because of this, there was talk within the S.A.U.A. of abandoning the Prosh Rag altogether but I argued that we couldn't do this without incurring considerable expense as the printer had already ordered the materials and arranged the typesetting.

I arranged to have another meeting by discussing the matter with the Publications committee who unanimously decided to request another meeting (according to the constitution) for Wednesday (also according to the constitution three days notice and all that). Lyndon Owen and I arranged to bring out a notice for the Friday and it was already planned to bring out a broadsheet Monday for the referendum.

A rather hasty notice was prepared which was altered so that the General Student meeting was to be held on Monday. This was decided by a combined Prosh Committee - C.E.C. Meeting.

### THE REASONS FOR CALLING THE MEETING EARLY

These are:

- (1) The Adelaide City Council had rescinded the permit for prosh.

(2) It would give less time for the issue to build up in the press. Already Brigadier Eastick had condemned the action publicly, Lyndon Owen was to appear on This Day Tonight (see transcript), and the matter had been the subject of Neil Adcocks talk back session on 5DN. There was talk that the News planned to make a feature of it on Wednesday. The State Cabinet is said to be discussing it on Monday. Prosh has received a lot of unfavourable activity over recent years and the committee meeting wanted the publicity of this issue to be minimised as much as possible.

### THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE MEETING

While the constitution says that three days notice must be given for a general student meeting, it also gives the President special powers to act in the interest of students. It was felt that an early meeting was in the interest of students.

### FINALLY

It doesn't really concern me if the G.S.M. decides to give half the proceeds to the P.R.G.. But if it does it should also accept the fact that the S.A.U.A. will have to pay for any loss if the rag does not sell and may also have to pay the fines and court costs incurred in selling a publication on the city streets and collecting money without a permit.

Peter Love

### THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE

21st July, 1972

Miss R.E. Osman & Mr. P. Lloyd,  
"Prosh"Co-ordinators

Dear Madam and Sir,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 20th instant relating to the decision reached by the General Student Meeting on that date, and you are advised that as a result, the Collection Permit issued by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor on 20th June, 1972, has been withdrawn and is hereby cancelled. This means that any collection made by the students on the 28th July, 1972, would be unauthorised.

You are advised that the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor would consider issuing a Permit if the beneficiary was ABSCHOL and any other recognised charitable body or bodies, preferably including the War Veterans' Homes who were granted a button day on the day selected by the Prosh Committee for its activities. If the Students' Association wishes to reconsider its decision and make another approach to the City Council, such application would be favourably considered provided the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam is not included.

As a matter of urgency, would you please confirm in writing your decision in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. ARLAND, TOWN CLERK

### LYNDON OWEN INTERVIEWED ON THIS DAY TONIGHT

FRIDAY JULY 21st.

The following is a transcript of that talk.

**BOB WILLCOX:** Prosh week is a week of fun and games at Adelaide University. For some students it is just that; an excuse to let off steam after two terms work. But for others it is an opportunity to raise money for charity albeit in a light-hearted way. In the past, money raised has gone for charities such as the Animal Welfare League, The Guide Dogs Association and pretty regularly the War Veterans Home. But this year students and Prosh organisers at a meeting decided to allocate fifty per cent of the money to Abschol and the remainder of the money to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam which many people associate with the Viet Cong. That decision brought an instant and sharp reaction. R.S.L. State President, Mr. Tom Eastick denounced it and referred it to the Chief Secretary, Mr. Shard. The Adelaide City Council has refused to provide Prosh organisers with a permit so what happens now?

Darrell Warren speaks with the President of the Adelaide University Students Association, Mr. Lyndon Owen.

**WARREN:** In the past, Prosh Day has usually provided money for recognised charities, why all of a sudden has the decision been made to pass the money over to a communist organisation like P.R.G.?

**OWEN:** It was the mood of the students at the time, that made the decision as to where charitable funds for Prosh were to go this year.

**WARREN:** Well, some of it is going to Abschol. Why all of a sudden do you think the mood of the students has changed?

**OWEN:** Well, I don't know. It might have been that at the meeting a certain letter from the P.R.G. was read out beforehand and certainly elicited a considerable sympathy from students.

**WARREN:** They were asking for money?

**OWEN:** No the P.R.G., in fact, thanked us very much for the money we had given in the past, not from Prosh funds but from the V.M.C., and students really realised for the first time what sort of plight people of South Vietnam were in.

**WARREN:** Well how many people were at the meeting?

**OWEN:** I would say there were 200 and a few more observers around the place looking on with interest.

**WARREN:** And how many were in favour of giving money to the P.R.G.?

**OWEN:** Oh, I would say 70?

**WARREN:** Well aren't you concerned or some of the students concerned that maybe this money that is going to P.R.G. may be used for arms to fight in Vietnam?

**OWEN:** I was not really aware that the Viet Cong were moving in the same area as the P.R.G. Two entirely different things entirely.

**WARREN:** In which way?

**OWEN:** Well the P.R.G. is in Sweden for a start.

**WARREN:** The money is still going into Vietnam.

**OWEN:** Yes but the money that we have provided already has not been used and will not be used really until the settlement has been reached in South

Vietnam when people in South Vietnam can be rehabilitated properly.

**WARREN:** Are you absolutely sure at this point that it won't be used until there is some settlement?

**OWEN:** I am as sure as one can be about any organisation that they are using the funds that you give to them for the right reason.

**WARREN:** In this case why has the city council all at once decided not to give a permit for the whole Prosh day this year?

**OWEN:** Quite possibly because there is considerable pressure on the City Council from, well, the R.S.L.

**WARREN:** In which way is this being applied?

**OWEN:** I couldn't really say for sure in which way it was applied, but I think that the city council has been susceptible to R.S.L. pressure. I know we have had instances before especially with the collection for the War Veterans Home which we certainly don't object to. We don't really like being pressured into things.

**WARREN:** Well what has the City Council told you now?

**OWEN:** The City Council has told us that we no longer have a permit to hold our Prosh day and to collect funds for charities until such time as we delete P.R.G.

**WARREN:** It seems in the past people have probably enjoyed Prosh days and have enjoyed giving money, but don't you think this year that people will probably be hesitant about giving money to Prosh for an organisation like the P.R.G.?

**OWEN:** I don't know, this is what students have to face when they make a decision. These are things they must weigh up when they make a decision, what the public reaction will be. The Australian Government whether we like it or not has seen fit to bring our boys from Vietnam, therefore if people disagree with the government for sending the boys back, well and good, but I don't think that this has anything to do with sending money to P.R.G.

**WARREN:** Do you think the students would reconsider their vote and perhaps nominate another charity?

**OWEN:** It is quite possible. It depends what happens next week.

**WARREN:** Is it constitutional? Are they allowed to do this?

**OWEN:** Well, a decision has been made; strictly speaking there has to be three days notice, for a meeting to be held to reconsider, we also come into problems whether previous decisions should be overruled, because a couple of people disagree with it.

**WARREN:** What are the chances that if the permit is still refused and you go ahead, what happens then?

**OWEN:** Well we still have students who are prepared to sell the rag on the streets because they feel strongly that the P.R.G. is a charitable thing to give money to.

**WARREN:** And they are prepared to face the consequences?

**OWEN:** Well, I presume so.

**WARREN:** Thank you very much.

**BOB WILLCOX:** Lyndon Owen with Daryl Warren.

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**REFERENDUM JULY 26-28**

A REFERENDUM on the motion " THAT THE S.A.U.A. BE ABOLISHED AND THE UNION TAKE OVER IT'S ACTIVITIES " is to be held Wednesday July 26 to Friday July 28.

# S.A.U.A.?

**NO**

**YES**

STUDENTS GET WHAT THEY DESERVE;

The General Student Meeting last Thursday on the Barr Smith Lawns was the ultimate demonstration of the farcical nature of student affairs at present in the University.

The Students Association was conceived a year ago to do away with the elitish bureaucratic nature of student representative government, by encouraging participation by all students in that government. After twelve months of the new system, it is painfully obvious that this system hasn't worked- students in general have taken for granted the activities organized by the Students Association without showing the slightest interest in taking part in its workings.

For this reason, it is ironic and ludicrous that any students, let alone the fifty mindless, manipulated but supposedly liberated freaks who stalked the meeting on the Lawns on Thursday should have behaved as they did. Furthermore, it is frightening to think that there were another hundred students present at the meeting who were unwilling to walk even 20 yards to take part in the divisions on the voting.

Thus, the fact that the Students Association is in danger of being abolished due to the activities of a few callous professional student manipulators is indeed ironic justice. Students are most surely getting what they deserve - absolutely nothing!

A referendum will be held next Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th in the Students Association Office on the question that the Students Association Constitution should be abolished and that the Union should take over its activities. The tragedy and absurdity of this is obvious. It is in fact saying that the child is too lazy and immature to organize its own life and it wants its parents to do the thinking and organizing for it.

For 26 years the Union has encouraged students to look after their own government and has given them the necessary autonomy to do so so Students are now saying that they no longer feel responsible and eager enough to conduct their own activities any longer.

- The Students Association this year has:
- published On Dit
  - organized Orientation Week and published the Freshers' Guide
  - made Social Action's and Abschol's activities possible
  - co-ordinated A.U.S. activities including a Secondary Students Campaign, Aquarium Concerts and cheap travel.
  - provided finance and office facilities for many political and educational campaigns e.g. Bangla Desh, Aboriginal Rights and Friends of the Earth
  - prepared submissions on Student Participation in University Government and invited successful discussions with many other university groups.
  - defeated the adoption of the Rights and Responsibilities Report.
  - administered student welfare, such as loans and housing.
  - organized Prosh
  - made facilities available to any student who could use them.
  - generally kept student activity alive in the University.

The continuation of these sorts of activities now lies in the balance, thanks to a few brainless stirrers who rely upon general student apathy to achieve their hollow petulant desires. There is a crisis in student government in this University. Unless students become aware of this crisis very soon the University will become nothing more than an efficient degree factory supplying a consumer-oriented capitalist society. If this is what students deserve, don't bother to vote. If they deserve more than this - VOTE NO

VOTE YES IN THE REFERENDUM

"That the S.A.U.A. be abolished and the Union take over its activities.

Student Organizational Reform.

For many years students have been dissatisfied with their organizational activities and structure. Last year the S.R.C. was abolished and the Student's Association established to fill the gap. This change gave the student populace a greater opportunity to participate in the decision making areas of the student organization. Students could become involved in specific activities i.e. Education and Welfare; Public Affairs, Social Activities and Publications. These activities were to be co-ordinated by the Central Executive, which consisted of five students. However, because the Central Co-ordinating body was the principal body in the Uni-student, Union-student hierarchy it generally made the important decision which affected students rather than the larger, specialized bodies of the Student Association. In effect this change resulted in the decision making process being taken away from the old S.R.C. with 26 members and given to a committee of 5 students, with the concessional greater student participation without real effective power in the other committees of the student association. But within the Uni. hierarchy the importance of the decision by the co-ordinating executive was more imaginary than real.

The Students association has failed to initiate grass roots participation, one important reason for this is that students don't want to have participation without real and effective power, which generally lies in the University bodies and the Union Council.

The petty bureaucrats must realise their irrelevance to the student body politics. Reforms must be made to give students a voice where it counts and not allow the Student Association to act as a buffer between that power and the general student populace.

The proposed revised constitution in On Dit 17 which was rejected at G.S.M. sets up a two head body - an administrative council and public affairs council. The administrative council will in effect act as the old S.R.C. or as the co-ordinating executive have done in the past. It will allow the student bureaucrats to play their petty irrelevant power games. The only effect being to syphan away direct student participation from the union council.

Mothered by necessity and sired by desperation the current move to abolish the student association must be carried out before the student association fades into the mist of total irrelevance and the dream time.

Or else, the current farce will stay current for the next X years and the student politics will stay impotent.

Power must be given to the people and if it is not then the people should go to where the real seat of power is - in this instance the Union Council.

VOTE YES AND WHAT HAPPENS.

The union would then carry out the general administrative activities of the student association and it would not mean that students would have less say because of Union reform is carried out it would give students greater responsibility than they have had previously. It would lead the way for union reform. A change in composition of the Union of delegates from constituent bodies to a council of elected members from the university community - staff, students and ancillary staff. (also possibly graduates).

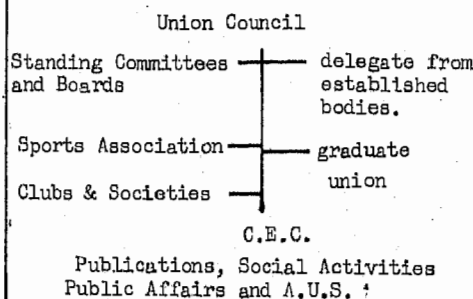
It must be remembered that the reform proposals for the union councils have been mooted for a number of years.

In 1969 a reform sub-committee was set up which recommended a proposed reform constitution but because of lack of support from the university community the constitution was not implemented. The underlying premise of the proposed constitution is based on the doctrine of participatory democracy. This needs the grass roots support of all union members.

AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE UNION COUNCIL A CO-ORDINATING SUB-COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO INITIATE REFORM PROCESS. THE EFFECT OF A YES VOTE TO THE REFERENDUM AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL ABOLISHON OF THE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION WOULD GIVE A GREATER IMPUTUS TO THE NOTION OF THE UNIVERSITY AS A COMMUNITY OF CO-EQUAL INDIVIDUALS AND THE REFORM OF THE UNION COUNCIL SOULD GIVE EFFECT TO THIS NOTION. THIS IMPUTUS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE STUDENT POPULUS TO BECOME INVOLVED

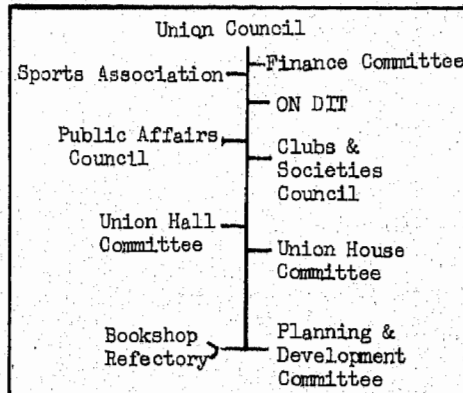
IN THE REFORM OF THE REAL SEAT OF POWER IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, THE FINANCE AND CONTROL WHICH THE UNION HAS.

Diagram showing the present Union Council in relation to the student council.



All allocations of monies for committees of the student association is made through the central co-ordinating executive at the beginning of each financial year. The co-ordinating executive then decides on their submission to the Union Council. In turn the Union finance committee then recommends to the Union Council the amount the student association should get. In this way submissions of student groups are approved or cut back by the student association without allowing affective representation of those groups who the Union Council directly for special financial needs, This also applied to the revised S.A.U.A. constitution.

A viable alternative of the Union - student hierarchy is suggested below if the S.A.U.A. was abolished.



The union council members would be elected by the university community. It would generally co-ordinate the activities of the standing committees in receiving reports from each of them and referring ideas. The union council would allocate money on the advise of a finance committee elected by the council. A percentage of the statutory fee would be held by the finance committee and any of the standing committees could apply for supplementary allocations of additional grants for special needs. The Public Affairs Council would be elected from the General University community or the students. This would generally be involved in the areas of the public affairs committee suggested in the proposed revised constitution.

A FEW STIRRING.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL STUDENT MEETING HELD THURSDAY 20TH JULY.

About 200 people were wandering around the vicinity of the Barr Smith Lawns when the meeting began. The first main item to be discussed was the giving of the proceeds of the Prosh Rag to the various charities.

PROSH RAG PROCEEDS.

A letter from the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam was read to the meeting (see Lyndons Reference to it).

After objections were raised to having the Animal Welfare League as beneficiaries the name was struck off the list of proposed names of charities to receive a share of the proceeds of the sale of the Prosh Rag. The revised list was submitted to the meeting and was narrowly passed with about 60 people voting. The matter was then re opened for discussion because people were asking what was going on. At that stage someone suggested giving money to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. Eventually this was carried by about a majority of ten with about 100 people voting.

This seemed to set the mood for the remainder of the meeting.

ABOLITION OF THE S.A.U.A.

The chairman of the meeting Roy Green explained the reasons for the proposed constitution as set out in ON DIT. Mick Davis then introduced this constitution and put the motion 'That the following question be put to a referendum'.

"That the old constitution be abolished and the new constitution adopted." At that time there were no speakers against the motion though again some of the crowd were asking what was going on.

When the motion was put it looked as though it was carried.

David Johnson called for division on the division the motion was lost though it was a bit difficult to count because people were calling their mates to join them.

David Johnson then put up his motion to abolish the Student's Association. After a lot of procedural hassles the motion to submit the following to a referendum was carried

'THAT THE S.A.U.A. BE ABOLISHED AND THE UNION TAKE OVER ITS ACTIVITIES.'

No figures have been given but about 140 people voted

Because of the usual student apathy a meeting consisting of only one or two percent of the students on campus was able to make decisions which had far reaching consequences and undid a lot of patient work and planning done by other students over the last few months.

Peter Love.

Each body beneath the council would be as autoumous as possible, both in finances (within their budget allocation), and within their areas of operation. In the remote cases where grave differences arise between bodies within the union or between the students and the union a general union meeting would be called, which could possibly requisition a referendum which would be binding on the union council and its axillary bodies.

Thats it, the balls in your Court if you know where the Courts is

David Johnson