PRESS RELEASE

After reading the Kamloops Sentinel Tuesday, January 26th, 1971, edition re the "attack" on Cariboo College Council meetings, I, as Chairman of that body, would like to comment.

Although I am not angry with the Chairman of the Board's remarks, I feel some things should be clarified. Some of the accusations like, and I quote, "typical high-handedness" are quotations of immature thinking on the part of the Chairman. I would remind the Chairman and other members of the Kamloops Board that, when they were presented with the draft copy of the College Budget November 18th, 1970, over two months ago, I made it very clear to the Chairman and Board members that, if they wished to go over the College Budget prior to the Department reviewing it, we, the Council and Bursar, would be only too pleased to answer any inquiries relating to that budget. I would humbly suggest that after the crucifying that went on at the last Board meeting, that, in fact, the Chairman of the Board, in his consistent haste to end School Board meetings as early as possible, was derelict in his duty in not charging the finance committee or some other ad hoc committee to study the College Budget and submit a report to the Board.

The subject of the College Budget was raised on several occasions at different meetings, and each time the offer was made to meet with the College Bursar for explanations, but the Board chose to wait. In view of this, I do not regard the criticism warranted.

As far as the setting of the meeting date is concerned, I would like to emphasize that there are five other School Boards besides the Kamloops Board, and if Department officials had to satisfy the whims of thirty or forty trustees, what effect would this have on the progress of any worthwhile endeavour. X insertion attached

Trustee Branchflower's comments on the situation is a very negative attitude, and I am sorry that it even received notice in the press.

We are trying our darndest to create a post secondary learning situation at the College level, and remarks of this nature only tend to undermine the whole basic philosophy of regional colleges.

With regard to closed Council meetings, I can only say that I am one of nine Council members and I do not have the final say on this matter.

The School Boards basically are responsible for the College affairs; many times the administrators of our district have been severely chastised for leakage of information to the new media regarding school affairs and functions before the Board hears about it. The same should hold true for College meetings, but in this case there are trustees from six Boards to give information to prior to public release. Also keep in mind that the College Council meet once a month as opposed to the weekly meetings of this Board.

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Cariboo College is very young in many respects as is the whole College movement in B. C., and in these growing years most of the Council discussions are centred around staff and money problems, that for obvious reasons should not be allowed to be used indiscriminantly because of changing patterns of development.

Perhaps I should give myself some criticism for not having the expertise in being able to communicate irrelevant situations and conditions to my fellow Board members, but we're not all perfect, thank God. I would hope that the newly elected representatives to Council will do a more complete and articulate job for the Board.

Dave Summers,
Chairman,
Cariboo College Council.

January 27th, 1971.

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Although we feel the Board Chairman's intentions were not to blame the College Council for the undetermined mill rate increase, the impression created through the news media tends to give the impression that the College's budget is solely responsible for the undetermined mill rate increase, where in actual fact, the non-shareable portion of the School Board budget far exceeds the total College budget - which, when broken down is shared roughly on at 60% government and a 40% shared by five separate school districts.

One of the greatest dangers to the success of a college of this nature are these attitudes that could create antagonism among participating boards.