

TRINITY TO SEE STAFF REALIZES RESPONSIBILITY

**Provost Assures Simpson
Statement Attributed to
Professor Will Be Placed
Before College Executive**

U. OF T. ALSO ACTING

Assurance that Trinity College will co-operate fully with the Ontario Government in seeing that members of its staff show proper responsibility "for the good name of the institutions with which they are connected and the dignity of their profession," was formally conveyed to Hon. Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, in a letter from Provost F. H. Cosgrave yesterday.

Referring to the issue raised in the Legislature on Thursday concerning remarks attributed to two Toronto professors, Dr. Simpson announced that the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto and officials of Trinity College had both signified their intention of taking immediate action.

He read a letter from Provost Cosgrave which stated that opinions attributed to Professor G. M. A. Grube were "not shared by those responsible for Trinity College." The provost announced that full consideration would be given to the state-

ment at a meeting of the Executive Committee early next week.

To Stress Significance.

"Trinity College, while recognizing the right of every citizen to express his sincere opinions on public questions," the letter read, "will insist that members of its teaching and administrative staff, when they speak in public, will do so under a deep sense of responsibility for the good name of the institutions with which they are connected and the dignity of their professions.

"Having regard to the present critical state of affairs in all parts of the world, Trinity College will co-operate fully in securing that this sense of responsibility is not forgotten."

Dr. Simpson expressed pleasure at the fact that action in both cases had been instituted by university and college authorities independently of Thursday's debate in the House. The board of governors of the university, he said, had discussed the statement attributed to Professor Frank Underhill at the very moment that the subject was being discussed in the Legislature.

Dr. H. J. Cody, president of the university, he said, had been requested by the board to obtain a statement from Professor Underhill as to whether the quotation attributed to him was a true quotation, and, if so, regarding the circumstances under which it was made.

Drew Sees Misunderstanding.

Colonel George A. Drew, Leader of the Opposition, concurred in the minister's expression of satisfaction.

The Conservative Leader reaffirmed his attitude in connection with the "incidents" as he announced that messages he had received since Thursday indicated that the action of the House was being misinterpreted in some quarters.

"I would like to clear up the misunderstanding," he said. "From my own standpoint at least, and, I believe, that of the Prime Minister, there has been and there is no evident intention that we wanted to sit in control of university affairs. I would hesitate to support any measure that would take power away from those who are in control of our educational institutions. I only raised the issue because it

illustrated the necessity of taking some steps to ensure that the youth of Ontario receives its education from those who believe in the preservation of our democratic system. I do not believe any threat should be held over the university as to dismissals, but we should express condemnation of remarks of this nature when they cast reflection on British institutions."

Said Part of Resolution.

The Provincial Executive of the C.C.F. came to the defense of Professor Grube yesterday with a formal statement which absolved the educationist from all responsibility for the remarks attributed to him.

"The description of the federal defense budget as a 'waste of public funds in the interests of British imperialism' was not the comment of Mr. Grube," the statement said, "but was part of a resolution presented by Mr. Grube to the C.C.F. convention on behalf of a C.C.F. Club. The Ontario C.C.F. takes full responsibility for the statement."

The executive members averred that neither the resolution nor the professor's remarks carried any implication that Canada should not be prepared to defend herself against aggression, but objected to the "wasteful manner in which the present defense funds are being used," a waste which the statement termed "particularly horrifying in view of the widespread unemployment, want and misery, from which millions of our fellow-Canadians are now suffering."

The statement declared that the real issue raised by Thursday's debate in the Legislature was not what Mr. Grube did or did not say, but the fact that "the Government of Ontario is threatening to interfere in the private affairs of Trinity College because the leader of that government happens to dislike the political views of a member of the college staff."

The Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada voiced a similar protest in a resolution passed unanimously yesterday.

"This board views with great uneasiness an attack made in the Ontario Legislature upon certain university professors on account of statements on international affairs alleged to have been made by these gentlemen," said the resolution. "We have no information as to whether these statements have been made or not, nor do we at any time express any opinion with reference thereto. This board feels in duty bound, however, to affirm that freedom of speech is one of the basic requirements of a sound democracy. We deeply resent the suggestion

that because men are employed in our universities or other educational institutions they should be denied the right enjoyed by other citizens of expressing their views on public matters."

Professor Grube last night issued a statement claiming "the vital democratic right to freely criticize the policies of the Canadian or any other government."

"I believe nonintervention in any European war to be the best policy for Canada," he said, "but the majority of my fellow-countrymen may decide otherwise, and Canada may find herself at war. I am a democrat before anything else and would accept the majority decision, so that, if called upon for military service, I should respond to the call. I was a soldier in the last war and if necessary will be a soldier in the next. But until that day comes, and indeed beyond it, I shall fight for democracy, freedom of speech and civil liberties every step of the way. Which is more than can be said for most of my critics."