

The 1965 Brief

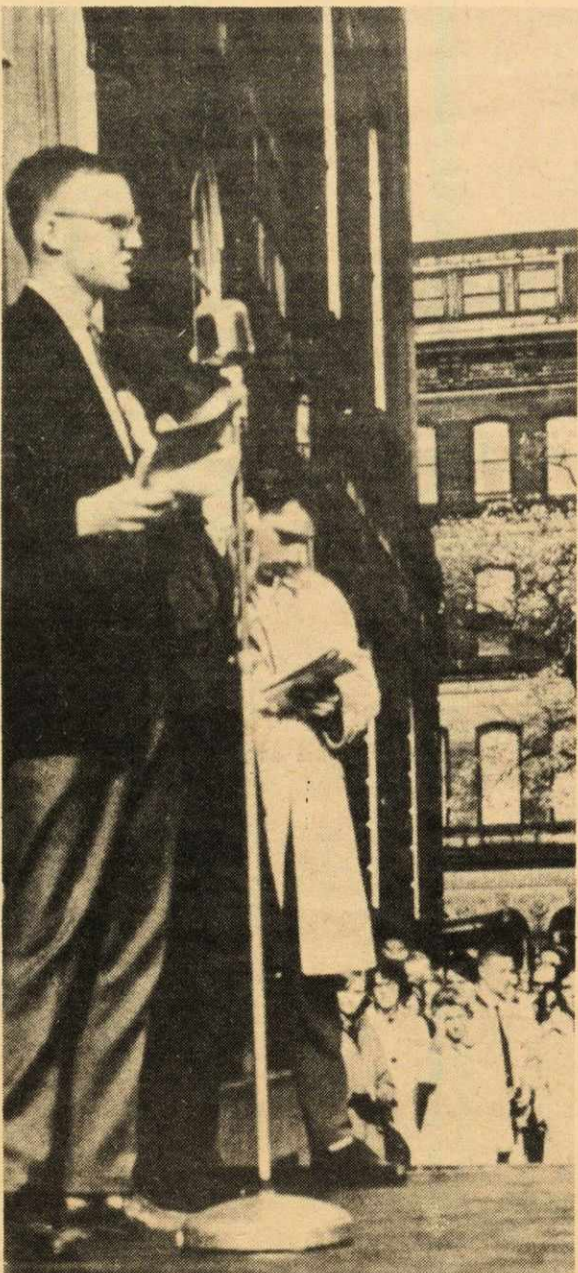
1,000 students join in stirring march

Thursday's descent upon the legislature will not represent Nova Scotian Students' first expression of concern to the Government. In 1965 our students participated in National Student Day. The following year at least one request was observed. Nova Scotia bursaries were granted for the first time.



Eight universities go; present brief

TIM FOLEY
News Editor



Wet, cold Nova Scotia weather failed to stop 1,000 university students from marching on the provincial legislature today in support of National Student Day.

Marching four abreast, the students representing eight N.S. universities followed a twisting two-mile route from the Dalhousie campus to the provincial buildings in the heart of Halifax.

In accordance with rules laid down by the National Student Day committee marchers were prohibited from carrying placards or singing.

Dalhousie had the largest body of marchers - approximately half the total - but small in comparison to its total enrollment of almost 4,000. In contrast, smaller colleges such as Mt. St. Vincent and King's were represented by 250 and 120 students. For King's this represents almost one-half of its total enrollment.

At the legislature a brief was presented to representatives of the provincial government and the opposition parties.

Marchers lined the street and legislature grounds to hear the remarks of the politicians.

Gerald Regan, provincial leader of the Liberal party, called for Premier Stanfield to relinquish his portfolio as minister of education.

Regan said Premier Stanfield's absence was an example of the impracticability of combining the premiership with the ministry of education.

The Liberal leader said his party is in general agreement with the aim of the student brief outlined by six recommendations.

The brief asked:

(1) that provinces and universities support high school visits whereby university students seek to promote the value of higher education.

(2) that students be officially consulted through committees as to the means of distributing student aid,

(3) an increase in financial aid from both the Federal and Provincial governments; especially an increase in the per capita grants to \$5 using the equalization formula proposed by the AAU and the AUCC.

(4) an increase in student aid in the form of scholarships and bursaries.

(5) an immediate reduction of fees.

(6) that a federal-provincial conference on higher education be called immediately after the forthcoming federal election to delineate federal-provincial responsibilities in higher education.

Prof. James Aitchison, acting leader of Nova Scotia's Democratic Party, told students his party would go beyond the aims of the brief and abolish tuition fees.

Speaking for the government, Nova Scotia finance minister G. I. Smith and Richard Donahoe, attorney general for the province, agreed that education is a "great public problem" today but stressed the limited financial resources of the province.

After the marchers dispersed, Attorney General Donahoe held a meeting in his office with the eight student council presidents.

He said he could not give a "yes or no" answer to the question of whether or not the recommendations of the brief would be adopted.

"All I can tell you," he said, "is that it will receive sympathetic consideration."

Robbie Shaw, Dalhousie Student Council president, warned unless the government acts on the brief there will be "a bigger and better march next Spring."

Shaw said he was "extremely" pleased with the turnout of students and believes "the-man-on-the-street" was impressed by the large and orderly demonstration.

He said he held little hope for immediate government action.

"It appears the province doesn't truly see education as an investment," Shaw said.