



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Today the University of New Brunswick is under attack. The future of our education, and our future usefulness to the province and the nation are in jeopardy. There are those who, for their own reasons, claim that this situation has been created by the students themselves or by a some group from outside the province which cares nothing for our future. We are writing you this letter to explain what is really happening at the University — and why you should be concerned about it.

You should try to understand the facts because the University belongs to you and was built to serve you. The New Brunswick Higher Education Commission refers to the role of the University as an "investment in the future". It is the graduates of the province's universities who will supply leadership for the future if New Brunswick is to adapt to a rapidly changing world. And the task of supplying this leadership costs you — the tax payer — a lot of money. \$19,720,000 in provincial grants in 1968-69 alone.

We are afraid that if the present situation continues we will not be able to serve you in the future as we should. If we are to cope with the future, we must be taught by the professors best qualified to help us understand the nature of modern technology and the ways it can be made to serve the people. This means we must be ready to examine every new idea and pass judgement on it, no matter how different and outlandish it may appear.

The Administration and Board of Governors of the University are not sufficiently aware of this point. They are tied to a set of ideas, and refuse to allow students the opportunity to appraise new ideas put forward by professors who disagree with them. That is why they suspended Dr. Strax. That is why they refuse to recognize the CAUT's demands that a faculty member not be arbitrarily dismissed. The Board of Governors claims that the censure of the University by CAUT will have no effect — that they will still be able to hire new faculty. But we are concerned that the type of professors who will disregard the Censure will not be the men who can prepare us for the challenges of the future.

The Administration and Board of Governors has placed our future and the future of your University and your province in jeopardy. We ask that you support us in our request that the CAUT's demands be met, and the academic freedom of students and faculty be respected, before any more harm is done.