

The President's salary

New Brunswick's student aid program, because of reductions in the bursary, has come under a lot of fire in recent weeks from a newly formed New Brunswick Union of Students. To get action - and make no mistake, some action will be taken by the government - the union has had to spend a fair amount of money.

The money is, or rather was, yours. In UNB's case, no student council approval was given to the expenditures, although executive approval was sought and received. The establishment of the union and the expenditures that we have seen so far cannot be faulted. Student leaders all over the province are to be congratulated for their action and concern in this matter, and they've put in many long hours on our behalf. They are to be thanked most heartily for their efforts.

Roy Neale, the president of UNB's Students Representative Council, as the secretary of the union has put in a great deal of his own time, up until now without little or no financial recompense. There is a lot to be said both for and against salaries for student council presidents. Indeed, presidential salaries have been the subject of many a long debate in the student council chambers. But in this case there can be no question.

Neale, because of the pressing student union activities, had to leave his summer job with the university in mid-July and re-

turn, full-time, to the office of president. This was done even in the knowledge that he might not receive any pay, as the council refused to hire him for the full summer, as was proposed in March. The council turned him down, saying that there was not enough work during the summer for a full-time president. Instead, they said, you will be paid starting in mid-August.

Well it might have been true that there was nothing to do, particularly in the light of our experience last year with President Poore. But this summer has been different. The lives of many a New Brunswicker will be affected by the student union's actions, and for such a valuable task, the man must be paid.

So how much should we pay him?

When the council first decided to employ him only for two weeks in August, it was decided as well that his salary would be \$80 per week. We feel that that is not all too unreasonable an amount, and suggest that he now be paid for six weeks work, rather than two.

Last year we paid President Poore \$1,600 for his summer work, which amounted to next to nothing. If the council is to be consistent at all, Neale deserves something. That and money spent on the union itself will perhaps be the best new investment the SRC has made in a long time.



N.B. student aid

The Hatfield government, bent on immediately rectifying the provincial finance disaster engineered by Louis Robichaud, has found new ways to cut down on spending.

Take the money from the students.

This spring, the provincial bursary program, which provides free non-repayable bursaries to needy New Brunswick students, was cut in half. No other department's budget was cut in such a fashion. It seems quite apparent that Premier Hatfield

and his Minister of Youth, Brenda Robertson, have students at the bottom of their list of priorities.

Where do New Brunswick students stand?

Not too high in government circles, it seems. Because even after repeated attacks by the Opposition in the Legislature, and, more recently, the representations by the New Brunswick Union of Students in newspaper articles and ads, the government hasn't budged.

The word is that the bursary program will be put back at its old level. But is that enough? In view of the relatively good programs in other provinces, no. Students will still be forced to borrow \$1,400 before they can get any bursary money at all. Students in some other provinces have only to borrow \$800 before they receive provincial money.

Typically, Mrs. Robertson has said that she wants to wait and change the program on a national basis, to make sure that these province-to-province discrepancies no longer exist. Like many another provincial politician, Mrs. Robertson would like very much to dump the whole matter in the lap of the federal government.

No go, Brenda. The New Brunswick Union of Students has our full support in this endeavor, and, no doubt, the support of many parents. For once, let's deal with this problem ourselves, and not go to Ottawa, palming for more money.

BRUNSWICKAN

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