

Cutback chants in Alberta

EDMONTON (CUP) -- Alberta premier Peter Lougheed found himself gazing out through a heavy March snowfall at 1,500 to 2,000 students in front of the provincial legislature. The crowd was protesting federal and provincial underfunding of post-secondary education, marching as part of the Canadian Federation of Students national Week of Action.

The demonstration had formed at the University of Alberta, where classes were cancelled for the march. It included representatives of students at universities, colleges and technical institutes in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. The biggest contingent came from the University of Alberta.

Students massed in the cold weather, with the wet snowfall greeting the start of the milelong trek to the provincial legislature. As they marched, they chanted "No More Cutbacks", "They say cut back -- we say fight back", and "Hey, hey, ho, ho -- Jim Horsman's got to go." Horsman is Alberta's advanced education and manpower minister.

Most of the past activity among Alberta students on education funding has been directed at the provincial government. But the message of this march — and similar Week of Action events staged at centres across the country — was that both levels of government share blame for underfunding.

Though both Lougheed and Horsman spoke to the crowd, the federal government reneged on a promise to send a representative.

On the legislature steps,

Lougheed said little, though he disputed claims that the federal government pays for 50 to 60 per cent of advanced education costs in the province. The figure has not topped 20 per cent since 1977, said Lougheed.

Jim Horsman was loudly booed and interrupted with shouts of "Snow job, snow job." He told the crowd, "If you don't want to listen, I'll just talk to the media." Later he added, "there's none so deaf as those who refuse to hear, none so blind as those who refuse to see."

Horsman said a generous increase is in store for Alberta institutions in the budget he would unveil in a week. "We will not pass on the federal government cutbacks," he pledged.

"If things don't shape up, we'll be back," concluded Mitchell. "We'll be back, we'll be back," chanted the students.

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AND THE WINNERS ARE

JANICE WAGNER, Queen's University, Kingston.

MARIE PERKINS, Concordia University, JILL BARNARD, York University, Toronto.

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Dallas

(RNR/CUP) Who would have guessed? It turns out sneaky J.R. Ewing on T.V.'s "Dallas" is a communist dupe -- at least according to Danish member of parliament Erhard Jacobsen.

Jacobsen, head of a watchdog group guarding against "creeping leftist infiltration" of Danish T.V., says something's rotten in Dallas.

The dastardly J.R., he claims, is part of a "malicious slander of American family life, produced by leftists."

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