

# Confidential estimates disclosed

by Scott Vaughan

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) has recommended an 11 per cent increase in operating grants, as well as two 1.5 per cent increases aimed at reducing regional disparities in government funding of post-secondary education.

Sister Catherine Wallace, Chairperson of the MPHEC, has refused to confirm these figures, saying that they will be officially released next week. The *Gazette*, however has received confirmation from a Dalhousie Administrator.

Wallace also refused to comment on whether there had been a change

in MPHEC policy concerning tuition increases. Last year the MPHEC recommended that tuition fees remain frozen for a three year period to narrow the gap between fees in the Maritime region and the national average. These recommendations were subsequently rejected by the Council of Maritime Premiers, and most Maritime institutions were forced to raise their tuition fees in the range of 6 per cent.

Wallace said, however, that MPHEC policy recommendations are subject to change. "If the Council of Maritime Premiers rejects our

Commission's recommendations, then administrations are justified in making alterations", she said, commenting on last year's tuition increases.

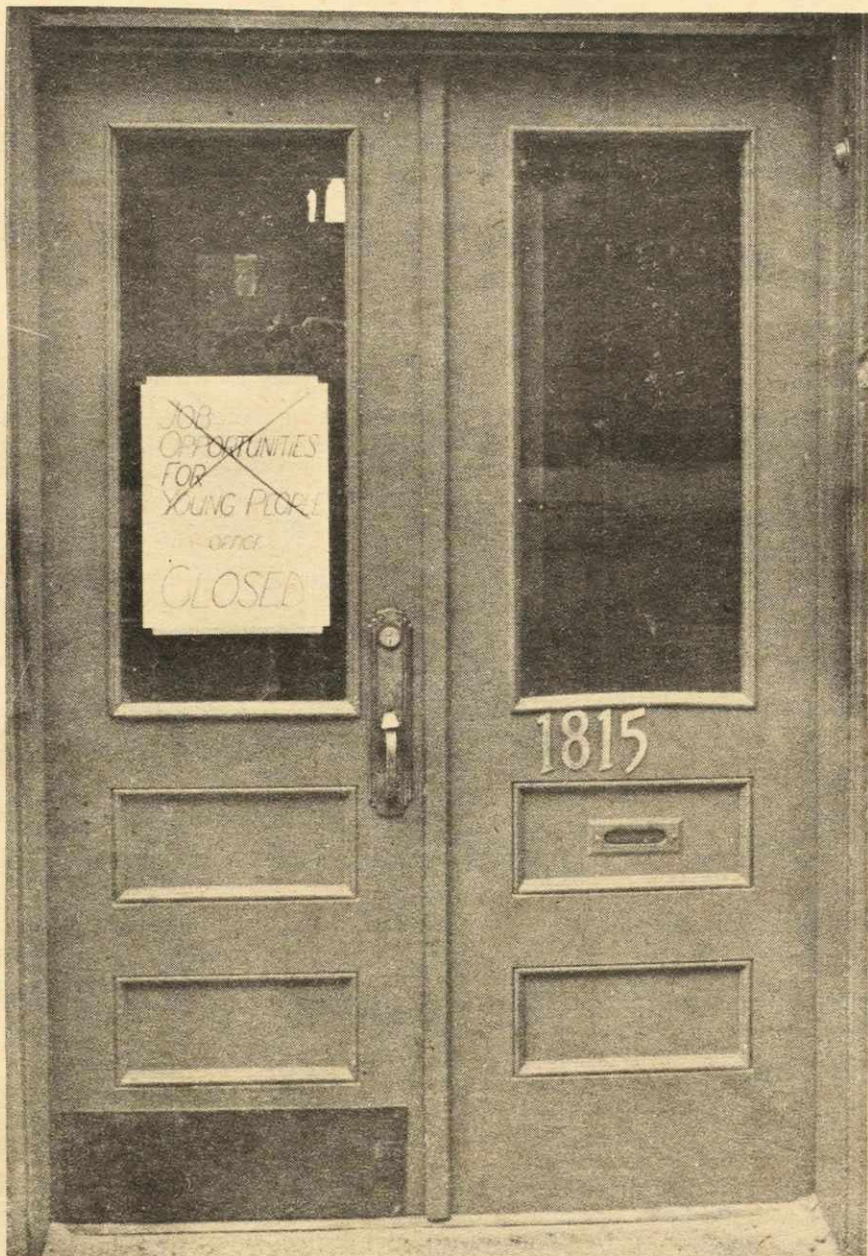
Marc Allain, chairperson of the N.S. caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students, said that "various university administrations in anticipation of insufficient government funding are already planning tuition increases".

A report presented to the Dalhousie Board of Governor's suggests that tuition increases be tied to operating costs as a means of offsetting budgetary deficits. Op-

erating costs are forecasted to increase in the vicinity of 6 to 10 per cent in the next academic year, according to the report.

"Administrations expect students, faculty, and support staff to compensate for government's inadequate funding by paying higher tuition and accepting lower wages and salaries," Allain said.

"The quality and accessibility of post-secondary education can only suffer," he said. Higher tuition will force many students to drop out while some of our best profs will leave the Maritimes because of comparatively low wages."



This picture says it all.

## Dalhousie Local can strike today

The Dalhousie Local of the International Operating Engineers, who are responsible for the maintenance to heating and electronic systems on campus, are in a legal position to strike as of today.

The union negotiating team rejected the administration's offer of a 5.5 per cent pay increase in June of this year. They then called in a conciliator from the Department of Labour to work out a settlement with the administration. According to the union, the administration has failed to negotiate with the conciliator, and will only talk with the union if money is not discussed.

Two weeks ago, the 75 member local voted 80 per cent in favour of strike action, but no date has yet been set.

The union has charged that the 5.5 per cent proposed pay increase does not apply to all members of the local. They have also said the administration is attempting to exclude two paid holidays which are presently in their contract. The local's biggest grievance is the administration's offer; "The proposed 5.5 per cent pay increase comes nowhere near the 8.5 per cent rise in the Consumer Price Index over the past twelve months. The administration's offer represents, in real terms, a decrease in our wages."

"The plain fact of the matter is the university doesn't want a settlement agreement," but according to the union "would rather force us to a strike position."

## the dalhousie gazette

3 November 1977

Number 9

Volume 110

## Local group opposes Coates for President

A Halifax anti-apartheid group is forming a national coalition to oppose the bid by Nova Scotia MP Robert Coates to become president of the national Progressive Conservative party because of his support for the white regime in South Africa.

The Southern Africa Information Group (SAIG) is attempting to muster public support and to urge delegates not to vote for Coates at the national PC convention in Quebec City Nov. 4-6.

The veteran MP for Cumberland Colchester North has visited South Africa as a guest of the white minority government and has publicly defended John Vorster's government.

SAIG chairperson Harvey MacKinnon said the campaign was begun because "Coates has continually supported the South African racist system which systematically oppresses the majority Black population. It is a country which has been condemned by the United Nations, the World Council of Churches and other international bodies."

MacKinnon said the coalition, supported by anti-apartheid groups across the country, CUSO, the student Christian movement and the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, does not expect Coates to lose, but does hope to alert Canadians to the fact that a person in his position supports an inhu-

mane and brutal system.

An official of the Nova Scotia PC Youth Federation has said that if elected party president, Coates would not be able to initiate policy. However, Coates wrote in an April issue of the Halifax Chronicle Herald that one of his specific responsibilities was to assist his party in deciding what its policy toward South Africa should be.

In the same article, Coates wrote: "The change in South Africa is not tokenism. It is not recognized as tokenism by the black South Africans. Why should we in Canada be conned into condemning it as that? Our attacks are like 'manna' to the communists and the black dictators to the north of South Africa."

And Coates termed the South African occupation of Namibia, which has been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice, "the most refreshing experiment in Black Africa today."

"I haven't read the article in question," said Keith Evans, Executive Vice-President of the Nova Scotia PC Youth Federation, "and doubt what is being said about it." "But I still wouldn't change my fine opinion of him gained over the years—even if the interpretation is correct."

"Everyone is entitled to their own opinion," Evans added.

Nigel Allen, coordinator of the Dalhousie PC Association, whose home is in Coates' riding, was

continued on page 2

### Inside This Week

Student Union Budget  
November 5—Day to Protest Rape

### Coming

Child Abuse  
More on Carleton House