

# Campaign for jobs, loans, and bursaries

The JLBT Committee (Jobs, Loans, Bursaries and against Tuition Increases Committee) was formed on Saturday March 27, 1976 by a group of students who participated in a show of interest at the Provincial Legislature on Thursday March 25. On that day, the students councils of Nova Scotia presented a brief and a petition with 5,000 students' signatures to the legislature, voicing students' concern about a direct decrease of at least 2584 summer jobs, changes in the Student Loan program, decreases in the student bursary program, tuition increases and residence cost increases. More than 75 students, representing most Nova Scotia universities sat in the gallery of the House. The opposition's questions on the subject of student problems met with favourable response from the students present. The government did not.

The JLBTC was formed to work against the educational cutbacks and to inform students of the situation facing us.

That situation is:

## JOBS

- The overall unemployment rate for Nova Scotia is, according to Nicholson's budget, 8%. The unemployment rate in Canada for the 14 - 24 age group is 15%.
- The summer make work pro-

jects, both provincially and federally are being cut back.

- OFY cutbacks mean the loss of 2384 jobs in Nova Scotia alone. (This figure represents 16% of the total student population enrolled in post-secondary institutions in N.S.)
- Cutbacks in the N.S. Social Services department mean the loss of 200 out of the total 300 jobs. There is no official word from the other government departments.
- Jobs lost due to the cutback in the LIP program are not yet public.

## LOANS AND BURSARIES:

- Overall expenditure is being cut by the N.S. government from \$6.1 million to \$4.5 million.
- The total allotment for bursaries is being cut by 24% so that either each student receives less money or there will be fewer bursaries given out. There has been no increase in the size of the bursary students receive in 3 years. In that time the cost of living has increased 39%.
- There is a possibility that the required student contribution from summer earnings will be raised from \$700. to \$1000. It is still unknown if the parent contribution will be increased.

## TUITION INCREASES:

- University administrations are raising tuition fees since the claim that the new grants from the provincial governments do not cover their increased costs even though the grants per university are higher.

### College

- College Ste. Anne
- Acadia
- Kings College
- Dalhousie**
- N.S. Technical College
- Mount St. Vincent
- St. Mary's
- N.S. College of Art & Design
- Agricultural College
- St. Francis Xavier
- College of Cape Breton
- N.S. Teachers' College

- Teachers' summer school courses at all institutions are being raised from \$75. to \$150. by the government.

## RESIDENCE AND FOOD INCREASES:

- The costs for living both on and off campus have skyrocketed. From 1971-1976 the increase in the cost of living in Halifax has been 55%. Further increases by the universities are planned.
- Dalhousie will continue its "experiment" in Howe Hall of putting 2 students in a single and 3 in a double.

Under these conditions some students are seriously talking about not being able to continue their education next year. The Graham Report advocated a drop in university enrollment of 30%. Unless we oppose this situation, this situation will be all too accurate.

### Tuition

- \$25 / term
- under discussion
- not public
- not public**
- not public
- proposed \$20 / term
- \$25 / term
- \$25 / semester
- \$25 / term
- \$20 / term
- not public
- \$100 / term

### Residence

- not public
- not public
- being raised
- \$165.**
- not public
- not public
- not public
- 
- not public
- not public
- not public
- \$25 / semester

All across Canada students are facing the same situation. In New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec, students are organizing. We cannot allow university education to become once again the privilege of the rich!

The JLBTC asks Nova Scotian students to actively oppose the educational cutbacks. We call on students, faculty and university workers to work together.

A Strategy session of the JLBTC will be held on Thursday April 1, 1976 in Room 316 of the Dal SUB, at 6:30 p.m. where we will present our program of action for discussion.

# B.C. gov't eliminates university

VANCOUVER (CUP) --- The acting administration president of Notre Dame University in Nelson B.C. failed March 16 to get a firm commitment from education minister Pat McGeer on the future of NDU.

Val George said McGeer told him any decisions on the future of NDU would have to be made through the Universities Council - not by the man responsible for making educational decisions in B.C.

"I was told what we had heard before, through press releases - that we must work through the council", George said.

He described the meeting as "fruitless".

"The last thing we heard from the council were their recommendations, and we thought this was an opportune time to talk to the minister."

"But he just threw it back in the Universities Council's lap," George said.

Early in March the Universities Council recommended the provincial government continue to fund NDU for the coming year, on the condition that NDU offer only third and fourth year courses, while Selkirk College in Castlegar take over the universities first and second year courses.

The Council also recommended that NDU share administrative costs with other institutions in the area, cut back on its faculty because of the program reductions, and transfer its capital assets, lands and buildings to the provincial government.

George said he agreed with some of the council's recommendations, but said the university could not make any plans "until we have some assurance we can continue to operate as a four-year degree granting institution."

"It is hard to discuss details about the immediate future without this assurance," George said.

George said he was aware that one of the council's major recommendations, if followed, assures that NDU will not continue to have a four year program, but said it was

the university's position that education in the Kootenay's would suffer if there is no guarantee of such a program.

"We think it (the Universities Council plan) doesn't give any basis for a cohesive four-year program. That is our main area of disagreement."

"The issue of the university's continuance is entirely financial to

them, but that is minor to the real educational issues," he said.

Deputy education minister Walter Hardwick has expressed concern over the high per student cost at NDU compared with costs at coastal universities. The University of British Columbia's per student cost is \$2,000, while NDU is almost \$4,000.

But George said the government

would actually save very little by its cutbacks at NDU.

"There is no very significant saving at all. By the time you've added up things like severance pay for terminated faculty members you don't save very much at all," he said.

"And there is no continued assurance of any continued funding after next year," he said.

# NUS annual meeting

OTTAWA (CUP) --- The fourth annual meeting of the National Union of Students this summer will probably be the most important in the four-year history of the revived national student organization.

The major issue which the expected 150 delegates will have to deal with when they meet at the University of Winnipeg May 12-16 is how the national union will serve its greatly increased membership and spend its vastly augmented resources next year.

At the start of the 1975-76 academic year, the national union had a membership of about 120 thousand post-secondary students from 20 institutions, and a budget of about \$58 thousand.

Next year, as a result of a referenda campaign approving an increase in annual fees from 30 cents per student to \$1.00 per student for member institutions and the budget for the 1976-77 academic year will almost triple to

approximately \$165 thousand.

NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor feels the "major overall issue" of the May meeting will be "how students of Canada are going to work together next year to deal with impending government decisions on financing post-secondary education, student aid, and the question of accessibility."

But this issue will surface in resolving the practical question of how NUS is going to allocate its new resources in providing national co-ordination for this work next year, "the first year in which NUS has reasonably adequate resources."

An almost certain result will be increasing the number of full-time staff. Presently NUS has two roving fieldworkers and one person in the Ottawa office. Next year the anticipated budget could provide for up to eight additional people, but the exact number will be decided at the Annual Meeting.

Another question will be how to allocate the new personnel, and the possible establishment of one or two regional offices outside of central Canada.

The delegates will also have to take a position on the possible restructuring of the national organization to provide for the amalgamation within NUS of the various provincial and regional student organizations across the country.

Besides all of the budgetary and organizational matters, the meeting will also have to establish and review NUS policies in a number of key areas, including housing, student unemployment, the effectiveness of federal manpower training programs, and the issue of changes in community college curricula which reflect more closely the needs of the labour market rather than the educational needs of the community.

