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Indignant students confront government

by M.P. MacKenzie

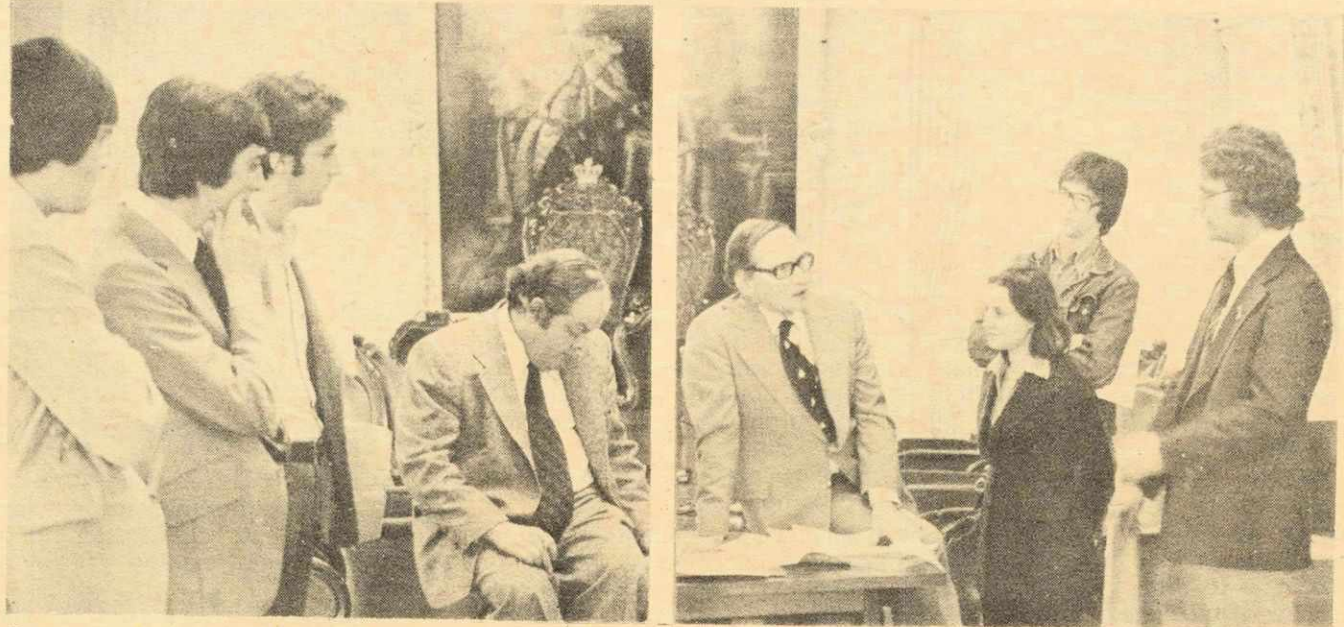
Student aid was the topic of discussion at two meetings held this week between government officials and student leaders.

The first meeting was held last Thursday at Province House between student leaders from across the province and Premier Regan. The students presented the Premier with a brief regarding student aid and the bleak employment outlook for job-seeking students this summer. The Premier and the Honorable Allan Sullivan, the Minister of Health, spent about forty-five minutes discussing areas of concern with the students. Just before the meeting took place both the Premier and the Finance Minister, Peter Nicholson, had been subjected to extensive questioning in the House about cutbacks in the aid program.

The second meeting was held at the Dalhousie Student Union on Tuesday night between Dalhousie student-leaders and the Minister of Education, Dr. MacAskill. Dr. MacAskill spent over three hours discussing the changes in the student aid program and answering questions about the government's policy. The good news that came out of that meeting was that students eligible for financial assistance will receive an across the board increase of 12% on next year's loans. The increase will apply to living allowances, miscellaneous allowances, etc.

Before too much jubilation sets in, however, it should be pointed out that students will be expected to contribute 12% more from their summer savings and parents of dependent students will also have to contribute 12% more.

Mr. MacAskill denied that the loan bursary structure will be changed this year. At the meeting



Representatives of Nova Scotia's Post - Secondary Educational Institutions Student Unions went to the Legislature last Thursday to meet with Premier Reagan and present a petition and brief on Student Aid. From left they are: Mike Gallagher, President of Acadia, Geoff Flood, President of St. Francis Xavier, Avard Bishop, Chairperson of the Atlantic Federation of Students, Premier Gerald Reagan, Francis Long, the Atlantic representative to NUS, Kevin Whalley, President of Saint Mary's, and Bruce Russell, President of Dalhousie.

last Thursday Mr. Sullivan had said that the new program would alter the present structure. The "sandwich plan" (\$1400. loan/\$1000. bursary/\$400. loan) was being abolished according to Mr. Sullivan and instead students would receive \$1800. in loan before they could receive any bursary funding.

The Standing Committee of the House on Education also met this week to discuss student aid. On Wednesday morning they discussed the changes outlined to Dal students the night before by Mr.

Student position misrepresented

Wednesday's March 4 edition of the Chronicle-Herald/Mail-Star carried a front page interview with Student Union President Bruce Russell concerning Student Aid. Herald reporter Joe Knychka not only misquoted Russell, but misrepresented his position.

At a meeting last Thursday (March 25) in the Legislature, Premier Reagan had suggested a change in the Student Aid program. The original program, \$1400 federal loan, \$1000 provincial bursary, and \$400 federal loan would, Reagan suggested, be changed to \$1800 federal loan, \$1000 provincial bursary and \$0 federal loan.

However, in a Tuesday night meeting with Education Minister Maynard MacAskill, students were told that the aid program would remain \$1400, \$1000, \$400.

Russell was quoted in the Herald as stating, "This [MacAskill's announcement] makes a bit of difference in our opposition to proposed education changes"; however, in an interview with the Gazette, Russell said that the statement misrepresented his meaning. Russell said opposition is as strong as ever.

The attitude now is the same as the one which was adopted prior to the Thursday (March 25) Legislature meeting.

The students will now focus on the three major issues outlined in the Student Aid Brief [see story and editorial].

Silverman violates law and ethics

by Heather McQuarry

Allan Silverman, is evicting Porter Scoby from the premises to raise the rent for the next tenants. Scoby is currently paying \$225 for a one bedroom apartment, but the Gazette learned that his apartment will now rent for upwards of \$280 - an increase of 20% or more, well above the 8% limit set by the Rent Review Commission. Residential Tenancies Act stipulates that residents may withhold rent above the 8% limit, yet it is clear that tenants such as Scoby are not being protected from unscrupulous actions.

Initially, Porter Scoby was to have a hearing before the Residential

Tenancies' Board, on the ground that he was interfering with other tenants by circulating his complaint. On termination of his lease Scoby was given notice to quit, and simply desired to know why he was not permitted to renew the lease. This seems a reasonable request, yet under the provisions of the Tenancies' Act, it is one which landlords are not bound to answer. Considerable media attention (through the 4th Estate and the Mail Star) was generated on this point; possibly this is what prompted Silverman to cancel the hearing with the Tenancies Board, and instead appeal to the Provincial

Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader will be speaking in Halifax tonight.

The lecture, on "Canada's responsibility in selling CANDU reactors" and, of course "Consumer Pro-

tection" will be held in the theatre auditorium of Saint Mary's Auditorium at 7:30. Tickets are \$1.00 for all students and \$2.00 for the general public.

Only one more issue of the Gazette.
Get submissions in soon.

Gazette staff meeting Friday afternoon at 3:00