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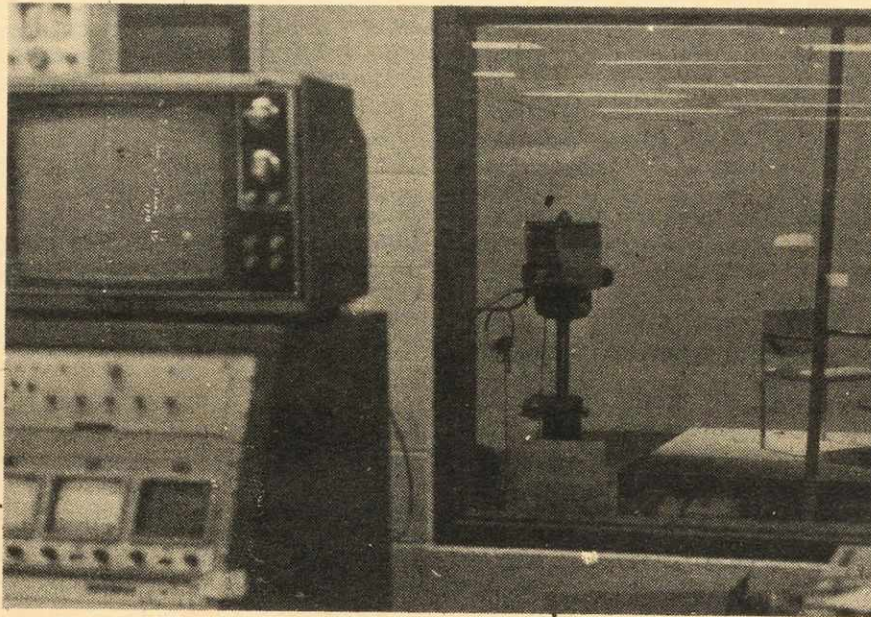
## Information on reactor incomplete?

by Mike Greenfield

When the Gazette published the story on the nuclear research reactor, Slowpoke, two weeks ago it proved to be the first time that many had heard about a reactor going in the Life Sciences Building. Since then many people on campus have been expressing concern about Slowpoke.

In many minds there is the question of the safety of the reactor. Some are concerned with the actual installation, the blasting, the disruption of A/V, etc. Still others are wondering about A/V and where a new Audio Visual headquarters will be set up.

As far as Dr. Ryan, who is in charge of Slowpoke, is concerned knowledge about the research reactor is and has always been satisfactorily available. He has met with professors from the Psychology dept. and says that anyone who is interested in Slowpoke can have all the information he has about it. A



Audio visual will have to move to make room for Slowpoke.

problem with this is that all the information he has is only what the AECL has given him. Many people feel this information may not totally complete and that AECL is the one that should be answering questions.

Still many people are today less concerned about the reactor and more about its installation. The installation could cause disruption in the adjacent areas - noise, shaking, messing up the electrical system. This causes worry among the adjacent departments who conduct experiments, labs, and classes in that area.

It seems that especially on the professorial level many questions are being raised about Slowpoke. Since the installation is still a few months away it is hope that all the problems can be worked out. And as the complex story of Slowpoke unravels the Gazette will be keeping you posted.

## Ontario students face tuition increase

TORONTO (CUP) --- The Special Committee on Government spending set up last June has recommended that the Ontario government trim \$1.7 billion off its budget for the next two years, and post-secondary education students are one of the major targets in the cutback campaign.

According to the report of the committee unveiled in the legislature on November 20, the province will save \$80 million annually by increasing tuition fees 65 percent - from an average of \$588 per year to \$970 per year for university students, and from \$225 to \$400 per year for community college students.

An additional 40 million will be saved by decreasing the maximum student grant/loan from \$3200 per year to \$2200 per year, and by increasing the amount of federal money a student must borrow before receiving a provincial grant from \$800 per year to \$1800, which would all but eliminate grants for most students.

This means that a student receiving full assistance who now graduates from a four year program with a \$3200 loan to repay would have a \$7200 loan if the recommendations of the committee are carried out by the government.

For the long term, the committee recommends that Ontario push for an abolition of grants to students and the establishment of a "loan only" student aid system when the Canada Student Loans Plan is renegotiated by the provinces and the federal government next year.

Only outstanding students from low-income families would receive aid in the form of grants.

The rationale for the increase in tuition and mandatory loans, according to the report, is that "no further public support should be directed towards increasing student participation rates" since "the open door policy ... tends to encourage the growth of both enrollment and public expenditure at rates that may result in higher taxes for citizens and businesses of Ontario."

**NO PRIORITY** Government expenditure figures, however, show that post-secondary education costs, of which the province pays only 15 percent have already been on the decrease as a provincial spending priority, and that student aid has also decreased as a percentage of the provincial budget.

As for taxation, personal taxes have been on the increase but corporate taxation has consistently declined as a percentage of total tax revenue.

But, according to the report, increasing the cost to the student and decreasing public support "is not only desirable but necessary."

Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough conceded when he tabled the report in the Legislature that the recommendations conflict with the stated government policy of increasing accessibility for low-income students.

He added that the fee hike "may even run counter to the guidelines of the federal anti-inflation program."

The mechanism suggested in the report to implement the tuition increase is to allow "universities and colleges, either collectively or individually, to determine appropriate levels", while the level of government support is "gradually

adjusted over a period of several years" to ensure the fee hikes are implemented by the institutions.

"If some colleges or universities are reluctant to increase tuition fees" the report states, then "attempts may be made to increase the efficiency and productivity of instructional programs" so as to meet the "target reduction of \$180 million."

The report notes that, to meet the target universities would have to fire 27 percent of the teaching staff, while the number of community college teachers would have to be reduced by 25 percent.

Since enrolments in colleges and universities will increase until 1982 if participation rates remain con-

## Grads support society by over 50per cent

by M.P. MacKenzie

The Council of the Dalhousie Assoc. of Graduate Students received over 50% of its membership support in a referendum held Tuesday, December 9. The referendum was to determine whether or not graduate students supported their society executive in hassles with the Student Union over a \$10. student fee rebate to be granted annually to D.A.G.S.

Of almost 1000 members of D.A.G.S. it is estimated that about 780 are actually in the Halifax area at the moment. 470 of the Halifax graduate students voted on Tuesday. The results were as follows: 409 yes, 55 no, 6 spoiled ballots.

The results of the referendum will

stant, cutting back on teachers is not viewed as feasible by the institutions.

The provincial minority government has not yet said if it intends to follow the recommendations of the committee, but speculation here is that it will at least implement parts of the report.

Since the recommendations concerning post-secondary education reflect the publicly expressed attitudes, if not the policies, already existing at Queen's Park, it is felt the government will likely attempt to implement these.

The only reference to the timing of the proposed policy changes in the report is the comment that "post-secondary institutions and their clients require considerable lead-time to respond to change, particularly in financial arrangements."

This suggests that implementation is intended to be a gradual process spanning the next few years.

be presented to the Students Union Executive this week. According to John Cheyne, the president of D.A.G.S., court proceedings will begin on January 9 but further negotiation with the Union is possible and if a satisfactory arrangement can be worked out the proceedings will be dropped.

Bruce Russell, the Student Union president, said he was aware of the results of the referendum but was hoping to be able to sit down with the grad students early in the new year and possibly work out a compromise of some kind. Obviously nothing can be done before Christmas because of exams and term paper deadlines.