

# Brunswickan

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

February 19, 1968

## N.B. Students Boycott Tuesday

University of New Brunswick students will boycott classes tomorrow. The move is in conjunction with a mass protest of tuition increases at most provincial universities.

In an emergency meeting Friday, the SRC voted unanimously in support of the boycott and demonstration.

The boycott will begin at 8:30 tomorrow morning. Picket lines at the university gates and round buildings will obstruct regular class routine.

The co-ordinating committee, set up Friday by the SRC, has attempted to win support from the faculty. According to Tom Murphy, committee head, "There appears to be widespread support (among the faculty) for the students' move."

It is hoped that the faculty will cancel lectures and join in the demonstration.

At 1:00 p.m. a mass demonstration will take place as students march on the legislative buildings, where a Liberal Party caucus is being held. Briefs will be presented by students of Université de Moncton and Mount Allison University.

The demonstration will have province-wide support. Delegations are expected from Mount Allison, Moncton, Collège de Bathurst, Collège maillet and other institutions throughout New Brunswick.

Most of the marchers will be from University of New Brunswick but Mount Allison has indicated that 800 students may be expected from their campus. Another 800 will come from Moncton, while St. Thomas has promised 300 and Bathurst 200.

Universite de Moncton students were told that they would have to

pay from \$35 to \$100 next year for tuition. A similar hike was announced for Mount Allison.

It has been indicated that there will also be a rise in fees here. The UNB Administration has said that their decision will not be announced until next month.

Moncton students have been boycotting classes since last Monday and plan to continue until fees are frozen at their present level. Meanwhile at Collège de Bathurst, affiliated with Moncton, students with faculty support boycotted classes Friday and start tomorrow on a four-day boycott.

The Canadian Union of Students has praised the action taken by the New Brunswick Universities, terming the strike of Moncton students as "courageous resistance". CUS President, Hugh Armstrong will be in Fredericton Tuesday.

## CUS Backs N.B. Students Move

The Canadian Union of Students last week issued a statement of solidarity with striking students at the Université de Moncton in Moncton, N. B.

The statement praised the Moncton's students' "courageous resistance to the threat of greater economic barriers to higher education in New Brunswick."

"The indefinite boycott approved by a 95 percent vote in a campus wide referendum demonstrates clearly that the Moncton students are no longer willing to compromise the right of education when faced with unjustified government austerity measures."

The New Brunswick government has refused this year to absorb the operating deficits of the province's universities — a practice the government has followed in the past. As a result tuition fees at Moncton have been increased \$75 to \$110, making the maximum fee \$625.

Ninety percent of the Moncton students voted Thursday and Friday in a referendum calling for strike action if the fees were not held at their present level. Ninety-five percent of those voting favored a strike if their demands were not met. Friday night the Board of Governors refused the demands, and the students struck en masse this morning.

"CUS finds it incomprehensible that the government of New Brun-

wick should place greater economic hardships directly on to students and their families after a year when federal spending on education has increased by 63 percent," the statement said.

"The traditional solution to the problem of educational budgeting has been to pass the burden to helpless and passive students. Drastic mass action in the form of demonstration or strike is the only effective means of retaliation. The Moncton students are correct in the stand they are taking and justified in their means of expressing it," the statement said. The students have vowed not to return to classes until the government accedes.

"A tuition fee increase symbolizes what lower income families in New Brunswick justifiably fear — the overwhelming financial burden of higher education. An additional \$110 in fees will reinforce the Université de Moncton as a preserve for the rich.

"The crisis in the financing of education must be met squarely by government if education is to become a fundamental human right equally available to all, regardless of social or economic background. The Canadian Union of Students strongly urges the New Brunswick government to re-examine its priorities and provide greater subsidy to the educational

## Education Number 1

(CUP) The province of New Brunswick spends more on education than on any other area.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics released an analysis of provincial finances (Feb. 5) which showed the surge of provincial education during 1967, was due mainly to a massive transfer of federal funds to the provinces.

Most dramatic increases in provincial education budgets are in the maritimes where New Brunswick's education spending increased 215 percent. They have picked up the complete tab for public education at all levels, except tuition at the university level.

Budget slices for education in provinces are: Ontario, 36 percent; Newfoundland, Alberta, and Manitoba, 35 percent; New Brunswick, 34 percent; and other provinces from 24 to 30 percent.

Per capita spending in the province looks like this: Newfoundland \$144, Manitoba, \$105; Nova Scotia, \$102; and Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, \$75.

The provinces together increased spending in education by 25 percent but only 7.4 percent of this was out of their own funds.

institutions of the province."

Students at Mount Allison University, the University of New Brunswick, and College de Bathurst are planning demonstrations in sympathy with the strikers. These schools are also threatened by the government's actions.