

Tories criticized for limiting Bovey's options

By DAVID BYRNES

The Bovey Commission's long awaited report proposing a strategy for the future management of Ontario's universities has drawn a critical but optimistic response from York President Harry W. Arthurs.

In a written response to the Bovey Commission, Arthurs praised the commission for their thoughtful work but was critical of the provincial government's insistence on low funding for the universities.

"I regret that the government's restrictive mandate to the commission forced it to recommend that some degree of accessibility should be sacrificed . . . if the government cannot be persuaded to alter its basic position that the university system should continue to receive very low priority among its social programmes—much lower in Ontario than elsewhere in Canada—we will have to make the best of it," Arthurs said.

The commission's final report, *Ontario Universities: Options and Futures*, was released Tuesday and contains 51 recommendations comprising an integral two-phase strategy.

At a press conference Tuesday, Bovey said Education Minister Bette Stephenson has seen the report and is pleased with it.

"We received a very positive response from the Minister when we submitted to her a week ago," Bovey told the press. Stephenson said in a press release it is unlikely that decisions on the recommendations of the \$650,000 report will be implemented in the 1985-86 school year.

The commission's recommendations that tuition fees be increased over the next five years by 50 percent, and that universities be encouraged to temporarily restrict enrolment by as much as six percent, have drawn the most attention from the media.

The tuition increase, seen as an alternative to government funding, would mean that arts and science students would be paying \$1,736 by 1988-89, or 25 percent of the cost of their education, compared with the present 16 percent. The commission, however, only recommends the tuition hike on the condition that a pay-what-you-can loan scheme is also implemented, so that students entering low income careers would not be required to repay the entire cost of their education.

The commission emphasized the need for more funding, especially for research in the universities, and, in face of the conservative government's fiscal restraint policy, it is also recommending that universities be allowed to cut enrolment from four to eight percent without a decrease in government funding. This arrangement is intended to provide the universities with more revenue with which to improve their facilities and support increased research.

Critics claim an undesirable consequence of this recommendation is that general accessibility to Ontario universities could be reduced by as much as six percent. Ontario Liberal leader David Peterson has lashed out against the Bovey report because of the compromise in accessibility.

"The Bovey report takes the last chance for a good job away from as many as eleven thousand people," he said in a preliminary draft to his written reaction, arguing that "Ontario has a crisis of youth unemployment," and that the recommendation for slashing enrolment is untimely since university graduates now have the best opportunity for employment in the suffering economy.

The report also recommends that province-wide entrance examinations be re-established for university entrance.

Despite the provinces' mandate that the commission should not recommend increased funding, the report recommends a 'one time' faculty renewal and adjustment fund that would cost \$196-million in addition to the regular funding. The fund would pay for 550 new faculty and about as many part-time faculty hired between 1985 and 1989, to replace a large number of faculty hired in the boom years of the '60s and early '70s who will soon be facing retirement.

The fund would be bolstered by \$20-million to pay salaries of professors that chose not to retire under the protection of the new Charter of Rights.

In the second phase of their strategy, the commission recommends that more government money be allocated to meet some "urgent needs" in the universities. The report criticizes the deterioration of physical plant facilities in the universities and suggests \$26-million more, per annum, be allocated for their renovation and upkeep.

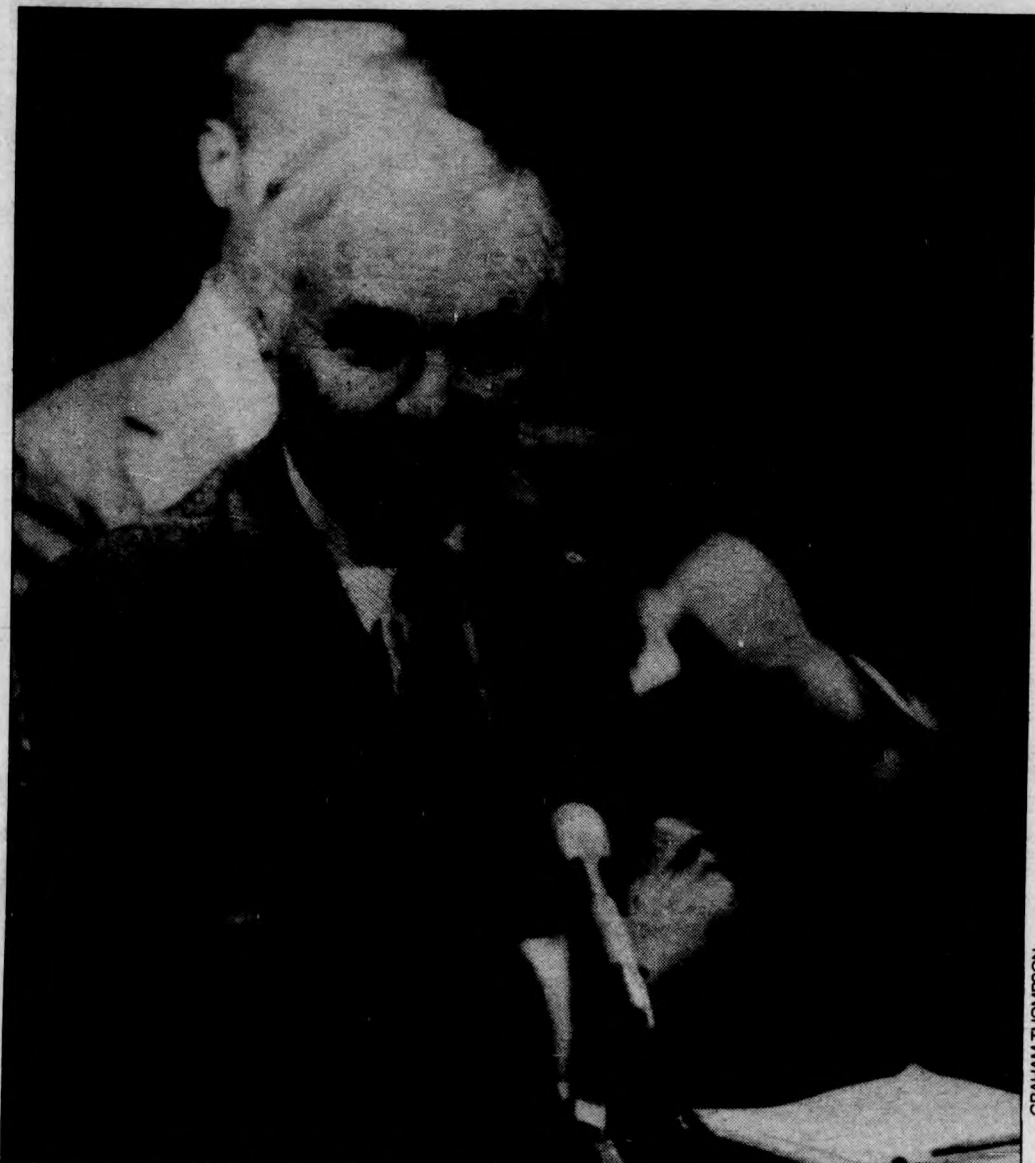
The emphasis on the vital importance of the universities in the report disarmed fears that the commission would recommend that the existing system be pared down. The general perception of the commissioners was that "the first element in the proposed strategy is the recognition of the vital importance of higher education, in an increasingly knowledge-based society, and international economy, as an investment in the development in valuable human capital."

Instead of paring down the universities, as was suggested by the Fisher Commission in 1981, and forcing them to undertake specialized functions, the report favors a *laissez-faire* system where universities would "evolve" and determine their own unique functions.

"We reject the notion," reads the report, "that universities should be formally designated by a central body as to their type, or placed in rigid categories. Emphasis should rather be placed upon a competitive system within which institutions are rewarded for the distinctive functions they perform and the quality of their activities and in addition are provided with the capacity to be flexible and innovative."

In his response to the report, York president Arthurs said that York, which has special "underfunding" problems, will have to "make the best of it" if the recommendations are implemented.

"We intend to look very carefully at the suggestions in the Report," he said, "and to use responsibly and imaginatively the opportunity for independent initiatives that it insists we should have."



GRAHAM THOMPSON

SHOWDOWN AT QUEEN'S PARK: Commissioner Edmund Bovey punches home a point during Tuesday's press conference, when long-awaited Bovey Report was released.

Tories cut youth job program

By GARY SYMONS

The provincial government cancelled the Ontario Youth Employment Program (OYEP) last month as part of the budget released last month, evoking a storm of criticism from the Liberal opposition.

Youth Commission Communications Officer Carol Franks said the \$30 million program was replaced by a new program called Ontario Youth Works.

"The emphasis (of the new program) is on disadvantaged young people who are out of work and out of school," Franks said.

Liberal leader David Peterson attacked the move. "To save \$30 million," Peterson said, "the Conservatives are effectively condemning thousands of needy secondary and post-secondary students to joblessness."

Saying that OYEP has assisted almost 300,000 young people to obtain summer jobs since its inception in 1977, including 53,000 last year, Peterson goes on to say, "The elimination of support for student summer employment will have an even greater impact given the rising costs of post-secondary education."

"It just shows he (Peterson) doesn't understand what happened at the time," Franks responded. "When the government cancelled

the program, the federal government still had programs in place for summer and student employment. The needs were being met by another level of government."

Franks added that the federal Conservative Minister of Employment and Immigration Flora MacDonald met with provincial ministers in early December, and said programs will be in place for summer.

Ontario Liberal researcher Phil Dewan disagreed, however, saying, "As far as I know, the negotiations have provided nothing of substance so far."

"Unless they get something together before May," he added, "you might as well forget it for this summer." Dewan said many businessmen plan ahead to meet their summer hiring needs, so to put a new employment program in place after May would be ineffective.

"If the program is not replaced," Dewan said, "and it looks like it won't be by anything of the same magnitude, there's no doubt youth unemployment will increase substantially this summer. If even half of those normally covered by the program (about 25,000 people) are unemployed this summer, that would have quite an impact."

Proposal to sell York's art rejected

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

A proposal to dispose of works of art on campus in order to fund the construction of the Art Gallery was presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Art at the December 4 York Board of Governors meeting. The idea was soundly rejected by the Board.

Vice President George Bell said approximately \$110,000 is still needed to complete the current phase of construction of the Art Gallery which is located on the first floor of the Ross Building.

"It was just one of the many possible means of raising capital when funds are not around," Bell said.

"The Board was virtually unanimously opposed to the selling of art work on campus," University Secretary Mel Ransom said.

Despite the possible revenue generated from the sale of the artwork Bell said that he

agreed with the decision not to take up the proposal, saying that "it would be a poor precedent for future donations."

The artworks on campus in question include the Alexander Calder Stabile which was given to the university as a gift by INCO. Michael Greenwood, past curator of the York University art collection, estimated the statue's worth at \$500,000. Also, the George Rickey sculpture which was originally purchased out of building funds for \$30,000 US was appraised by Greenwood at \$160,000. In addition, the Anthony Caron sculpture, also a gift to the university, was appraised at \$40,000 to \$60,000.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Art was responding to former President H. Ian Macdonald's request for information on how a sale might be arranged should that course of action be decided upon by the Board.



Paul Hamstra

NOT FOR SALE: Anthony Caro sculpture was considered for proposed sale to fund new art gallery.

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