

Higher

by Matt Adamson of Canadian University Press

The funding recommendations recently made public by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) were denounced by Student's Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) delegates during a conference at King's College in Halifax January 19 and 20.

"The recommendations were worked out without consideration of students' ability to pay," said SUNS chairperson Mike McNeil.

The MPHEC called for an 8.1 per cent increase in operating grants to colleges and universities and a raise in tuition comparable to the

increase in the cost of living.

McNeil said the MPHEC did not examine the ramifications of raising tuition fees, already the highest in the country, while students are working for the lowest minimum wage in Canada.

"The whole issue of student unemployment and underemployment was not addressed," McNeil said.

SUNS will be presenting a brief outlining their dissatisfaction with the funding report to the MPHEC when the commission meets with student council presidents on Monday, January 28. The brief will also be presented to the provincial government, along with postcards from

students calling for a freeze on tuition increases.

SUNS delegates said a 9.8 per cent increase in operating grants is needed to keep tuition at its present level. The organization plans to contact the Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations and the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) to discuss the funding level, arrive at a mutually agreeable figure, and make a joint announcement.

"An 8.1 per cent increase will cause a decline in education standards. It does not enable universities and colleges to create new programmes to help the Nova

Scotia economy survive the 1980's and 90's," McNeil said.

SUNS also criticized the MPHEC for not considering the inadequate assistance granted last year by the Nova Scotia government.

Last spring the provincial government cut a recommended 9.5 per cent increase to 5.5 per cent. Dalhousie University academic vice-president Guy Maclean resigned from the MPHEC and 3,000 students marched to the provincial legislature to protest the funding level.

McNeil also criticized the MPHEC for "continuing the discriminatory policy of differ-

ential fees for foreign students without regard to the financial and cultural benefits these students bring into the country."

He said the Canadian Bureau of International Education documents that while education of foreign students costs \$18 million per year they bring \$63 million into the country.

The SUNS steering committee will be formulating a series of proposals to be examined if the provincial operating grant is below their expectations. The next SUNS conference is scheduled for February 16 and 17 at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Kent named dean of administrative studies

by Brenda Nichols

Dalhousie will have a new Dean of Administrative Studies commencing July 1.

Tom Kent, the senior advisor to H.B. Nickerson and Son Ltd. in Sydney, will replace Dr. A.P. Ruderman who will be leaving to work in the field of health administration with the department of Health and Welfare in Ottawa.

The faculty of Administrative Studies includes the school of Business Administration, school of Social Work, school of Public Ad-

ministration, and school of Library Service. Kent said that he will try to support and develop all four subgroups of the Administrative faculty.

Kent has a B.A. degree with honors in philosophy, politics, and economics, and now will be involved in university life as a member of the faculty. Kent's wife is a professor of languages at the Cape Breton College.

Kent was the former president of Sydney Steel Corporation, and the Cape Breton Development Corporation. He served as the editorial writer of the Manchester Guardian

and the assistant editor of the Economist, a London weekly publication.

Upon moving to Canada, Kent became the editor of the Free Press in Winnipeg for five years, until he became the Vice-President of Chemcell Ltd. in Montreal, an international operation of Celanese Corporation.

Kent left Chemcell Ltd. to work with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, and soon became the Policy Secretary who was responsible for coordinating government programming and directing the special planning secretariat of

the Privy Council office. He was later appointed deputy minister of manpower and immigration in 1966.

From 1968 to 1971, Kent held the position of deputy minister of Regional Economic Expansion, but soon moved on to become the president and chief executive officer of the Cape Breton Development for six years.

Up until last year, Kent was the president of Sydney Steel Corporation. He is an active member of the Council of the Institute of Public Affairs, president of TWK Associated Consulting Ltd., and is on the

advisory board to Business Administration at Dalhousie.

Presently, Kent is a member of the board and chairman of the editorial board of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, a director of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, chairman of the Cape Breton Lamb Corporation, a member of the board of governors of the Bell Institute of the College of Cape Breton, and a member of the board of the Atlantic Management Institute. Last year, Kent was honored by being invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

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The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) is the provincial advisory body which the government currently uses to promote this inter-university co-operation.

"In the not too distant future, there will be some fairly significant statements made jointly by the Commission and myself, about the duplication of programming," he said.

These moves are not a limit to academic freedom, Donahoe said, but are rather an attempt to fill the void created when universities will not take the initiative upon themselves to greater co-operation.

"Academic freedom is a matter of attitude and not so much a matter of programming." A professor can teach the content of his course in the manner he chooses without any interference from government but he cannot necessarily dictate where and what cost he will teach it.

"Public funding is not a God-given right," he said. "It is a privilege which can be taken away when the public no longer wishes to offer its support."

After he spoke, Donahoe was questioned on this statement by the students. He said the MPHEC recommendation that tuition levels rise to keep pace with the rate of inflation is in keeping with general public opinion.

However, according to the Association of Atlantic Univer-

sities' (AAU) Public Survey Report released by the Atlantic Institute of Education, this is not the case. The report states that 41.2 per cent of Nova Scotians feel that present costs of tuition are too high, while 32.2 per cent felt students were currently paying too much. Only 3.1 per cent of those questioned felt that tuition levels were too low.

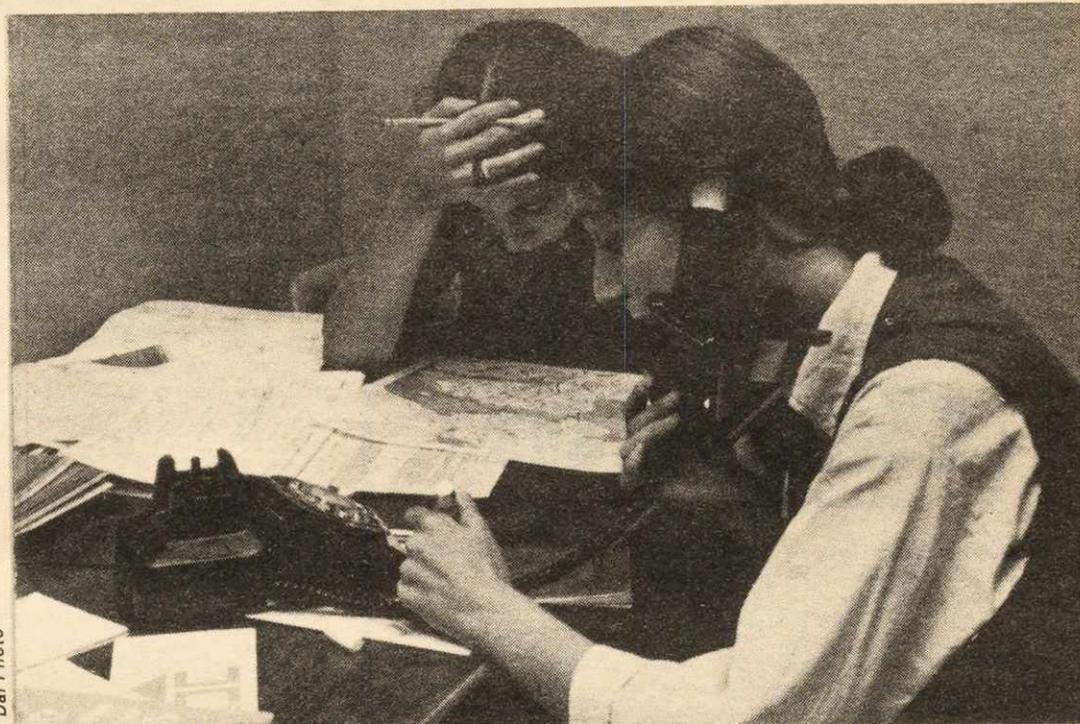
"Given that only an extremely small minority feels that current levels of tuition are too low, and indeed, that a considerable proportion deems them to be too high, any endeavor to raise tuition levels would clearly be out of step with general public opinion."

When Donahoe was questioned about the contradiction between his statement and the report, he questioned the validity of the report.

"One of the criticisms of the study is that so much of it was phrased or put to the public in such a way that you either have to be in or a product of or have a close relationship to the post-secondary situation to be able to accurately respond to some of the questions."

"There are some concerns about the accuracy and validity of the results (of the AAU report)," he said.

Donahoe assured the students present that he would do all in his power to ensure that the government's funding announcement, which is not expected for several weeks, would follow as closely as possible the MPHEC recommendations.



Dal Photo

Halifax to be polled

by Margaret Sutherland

From January twenty-first through the twenty-eighth, the GAZETTE, in conjunction with the King's School of Journalism, is conducting a telephone poll on the upcoming Federal election.

The poll is being taken from a random sampling of voters in the local riding of Halifax. Students from the School of Journalism are phoning during the evening between the hours of five and

ten o'clock when most people are at home.

Two major questions are being asked:

"Who do you feel would make the best National leader?" and

"If the election were tomorrow, who would you vote for?"

A complicated system of selection is being used to ensure that a representative cross-section of voters has been surveyed. This style of poll has an approximate error

margin of five per cent, so while it cannot give an exact prediction on the outcome of the election, the results will be able to show the general mood of the local electorate and if there has been any major shift of voters between parties.

The results of the opinion poll are expected to be published in an upcoming GAZETTE election supplement.