

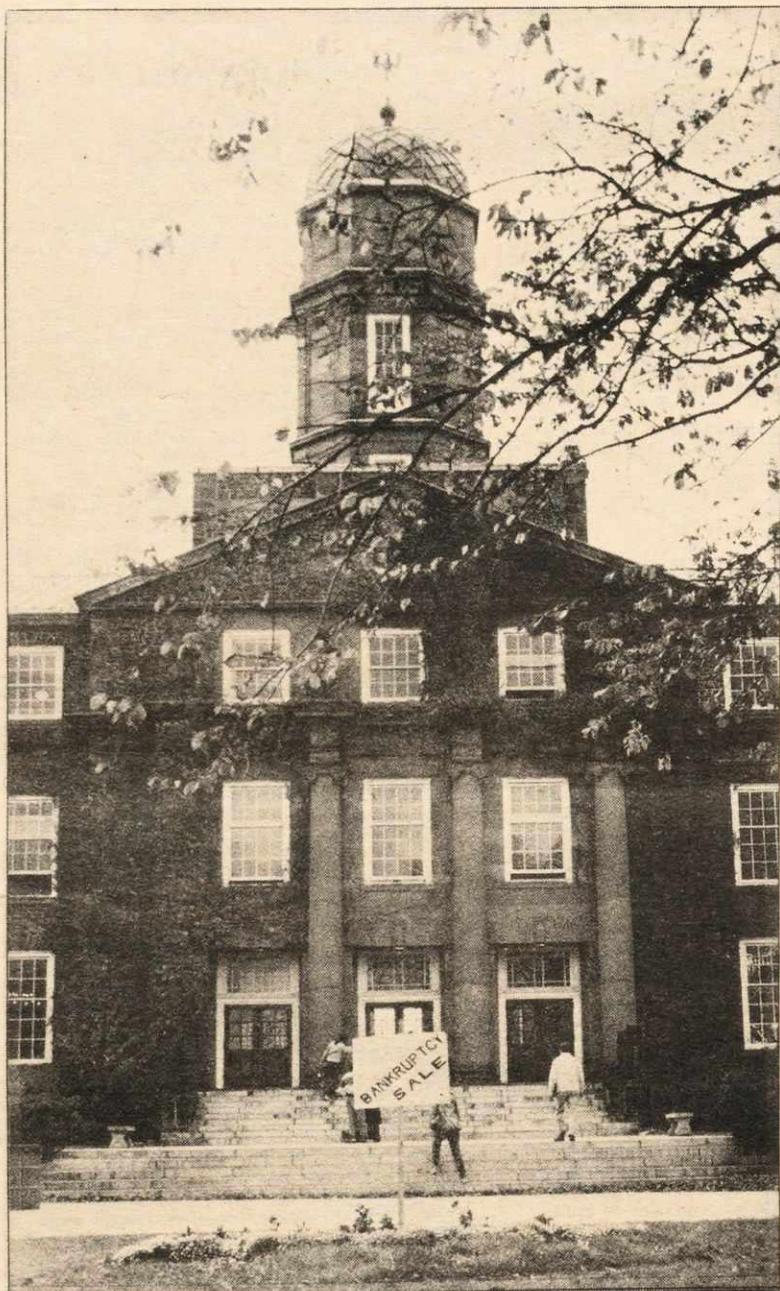
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Province caught with pants down, new committee studies cutbacks



Childerhose/Dal Photo

Is Dal for sale? Not yet but if the proposed EPF cuts go ahead this may be a sign in our future.

by Gregory Hamara

If the federal government proceeds with previously announced plans to lop-off \$1.5 billion in Established Program Financing (EPF) payments to provincial social and post-secondary education programs, the effect in Nova Scotia could result in "an immediate financial crisis for the provincial government," said the chairman of a committee examining the impact of such cut backs in an interview Tuesday.

Dr. Peter Butler, special advisor to Minister of Education Terrence Donahoe, estimated that the value of cut backs could amount to over \$26 million in federal funds to Nova Scotia's universities and colleges - a figure representing over 25 per cent of Ottawa's current education payments to the province.

"We really won't know the full amount, or effects until the finance minister (MacEachen) unveils his budget on Nov. 3," said Butler.

In the fiscal year 1980-81, the federal government contributed \$109,522,000 to the province in EPF education payments - 71 per cent of the department's operating and capital expenditures budget, according to statistics compiled by Butler.

He warned that if the government goes ahead with the cuts, "faculty, students and university administrators may have to prepare for some pretty extreme measures."

Specifically, he cited the possibility of neighboring universities melding similar courses with small student enrollment, in addition to further restrictions upon faculty hiring.

"And yes," he added, "tuition will go up." He refused, however, to speculate by what amount.

Approached by Donahoe in early August to head-up a committee which would serve as an advisory body on the EPF issue, Butler set-out to assemble a group representing faculty, students and administrators. He said that despite inviting the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) to participate in the initial planning meeting with the minister, "students have failed to come out to a single meeting since then."

Sandy Spencer, SUNS spokesperson, said all of the meetings were scheduled when student leaders were caught up in important events. The first meeting was scheduled for the day of the protest march in Halifax. Coincidentally, there were four meetings this last week when Spencer and students who had been studying the issues all summer, were attending the founding conference of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) in Ottawa.

Since August, the group of 22 has been broken down into four sub-committees, each investigating different aspects of how the province can tackle the federal proposals.

"What we're doing is looking at the strengths of the present Nova Scotia educational system, and its future objectives. We are also analysing the position of the federal government and the possible consequences of their plans," said Butler, a Dalhousie professor of sociology, currently on a two year leave of absence.

"It's not committees that we need," said Spencer, explaining that there have already been reports and studies, "most of the members of the committee already know what's going on."

Spencer called for more con-

certed action on the part of the provincial government.

Though he had hoped the committee would be prepared to hand down its final report by the end of October, Butler said a more realistic target date now would be mid-November.

"What we want to avoid is one sub-committee saying one thing and another saying 'that's garbage'," he said, "we want our position to be as solid as possible."

While he admitted that Ottawa's decision to cut back payments to the provinces - and in turn reduce its own financial deficit - was politically popular, Butler made it clear that it would put a province like Nova Scotia in a vulnerable position.

"We're not a province like Alberta, Saskatchewan or even B.C.," he said, "they grumble a bit, but realize they'll have to dig into their pockets a bit deeper. We just don't have the money to do that - and the feds know that."

"They're cutting back in an area where they think they can get the least amount of flak."

Butler blamed the mid-1960's tendency of Ottawa to pour lavish amounts of funds into the post-secondary system as central to the current financial dilemma. He said that they spent this money without calculating the future effects it would have on the provinces.

He was equally critical of recent recommendations made to the federal department of manpower and immigration calling for a re-allocation of funds into vocational and technical training.

"That's fine for a province like Ontario where private enterprise can assist in financial aid - but Nova Scotia's hardly an industrial giant."

Sexist language - unnecessary discrimination

by Nancy Alford

Sexual discrimination at the university level need not be confined to subjects of salary and rank. It can be linguistic also.

The Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Association's status of women committee has recently released a report entitled 'Her and His: Language of Equal Value' which deals with the use of sexist language in universities.

Toni Laidlaw, chairperson of the NSCUFA status of women committee, said, "The report is a significant movement towards the use of non-sexist language in universities and will be pub-

lished and distributed to all universities and community colleges across Canada."

The report states that linguistic sexual discrimination can be, for example, "in the use of the so-called generic man and the overworked third-person singular pronouns he, him, and his, in titles of address, in descriptive phraseology, and in various other verbal expressions."

This sort of language, which was fitted for the once all-male university institution, discriminates primarily, but not solely, by exclusion.

"It assumes, grammatically at least, that the audience or read-

ership is wholly male and serves, in this way, to support existing power structures," states the report. Females are shut out, or literally not perceived to exist.

The report was designed to examine the incidence and extent of such language in universities, with an eye to offering alternatives in the form of specific guidelines.

The attitude of the NSCUFA status of women committee is, in

The attitude of the NSCUFA status of women committee is, in brief, that language is shaped and reshaped by society; it is flexible and ever-changing. The

committee believes, too, that linguistic change accompanies social and political change; "The French were successful during their social revolution with the word citizen, the Russians with comrade, and the Negroes with Black."

The report was compiled from materials gathered from across Canada. It demonstrates that discriminatory language is used in both official and unofficial documents.

The report looks at a number of arguments for and against language reform, in the varied suggestions made in recent usage handbooks and the findings of current linguistic

research.

The Committee believes that universities across Canada should endorse the principle of non-discriminatory language and encourage the use of non-sexist alternatives.

The following are a few examples of alternatives to sexist: the word human would be used when talking of both sexes in general, man-made would be synthetic, manpower would be workforce, reference to a husband or wife would be spouse, a stewardess would be a flight attendant and the term ladies would be replaced by women, except when used in a parallel manner with gentlemen.