

What's missing from this?

It's not you. But the person who sat beside you in class last year isn't back this year.

That is the idea behind the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS / FEA) campaign for National Student Day November 9th.

During the course of the summer the provincial government started cutting back on student aid and making other, related, decisions that restricted access to post secondary education.

Well, somebody has to make decisions. Who is going to be able to work where? Who is going to be allowed to pursue their education? What are they going to be allowed to learn? How much is it going to cost them?

And so on.

It is going to have to be decided. If you don't want to do it, then somebody is going to have to do it for you. If you let them, then you'll have to share the responsibility if the decisions they make happen to go against your interests.

That's the way the government is, unless they are forced to make a decision favorable to students they will make the decision that is most convenient to make.

This past summer, student union executive members met with Nova Scotia Education Minister Maynard MacAskill. Their purpose was to iron out some of the problems with Student Aid.

Many will say that the Minister did not bargain in good faith. Certain changes were made that were different than what the students were led to believe would not be made.

Filling out an application form for a job or a school is one of the last steps in these decisions. Deciding



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the type and quantity of jobs or the socio-economic background needed to go to the school is one of the first.

Saying that you are not involved in politics is not going to help you remain unaffected by them. If you think that you are unaffected by the rules and regulations which run society, then you are fooling yourself.

A pre-requisite for having viable input into a situation is an

awareness of that situation. Many students have taken on the job of spreading this awareness.

Some people who should be in school this year were not able to return because of these changes.

During National Student Day, it is hoped that more students become aware of these situations. If we have an aware student leader and an equally aware student body, government officials will not be able to

afford to continue ignoring our needs.

Pressure is mounting to have the government re-allocate some of its money the money it calously slashed from its job programs. Pressure is being mounted to have equal access to post-secondary education.

These matters are going to affect most of us. National Student Day is a good place to start doing something about it.

Throne speech

Gov't promises students nothing

OTTAWA (CUP) — Fighting inflation and unemployment remains a federal government priority, but the Liberals are just as vague about solutions as they were two years ago.

The throne speech opening the second session of Canada's thirtieth parliament reiterated government legislation that has been in the offing for years and promised little that is new.

The continued reduction of inflation and the creation of many more employment opportunities for Canadians are and will continue to be the government's highest priorities the speech says. But the government still cannot be more specific than that.

Government restraint is seen as the key to stopping inflation but the restraint continues to take the form of social service cutbacks.

All the contradictions remain. While the government will cut down on growth in the civil service through amalgamating departments like the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Manpower and Immigration Department, and therefore provide poorer service, the speech promises more grants for small business, job creation programs and a new national institution "dedicated to improving the quality of life in the workplace".

Referring to Fiscal Arrangements Act negotiations it says: "In the areas of medical insurance and post-secondary education, negotiations will continue with the provinces concerning the gradual introduction of new financial and administrative arrangements.

"These changes would not only allow the provinces to exercise

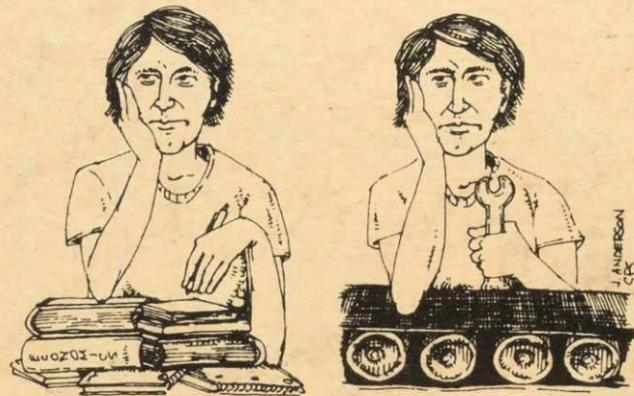
greater flexibility in the provision of services, but would also serve the federal government's goal of co-operative restraint upon the rising cost of health and social security programs".

The speech gives no indication that the standard method of cutting health and social service costs — reducing services instead of working towards preventative health care — will change.

"Other programs will provide more job opportunities and improved employment counselling for young people".

Again, given recent government actions, it is not unreasonable to

COLLEGE: INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.



Gov't funding of education

WINNIPEG (CUP) — National Student Day should be postponed until the federal-provincial governments agree on the five-year formula for funding post-secondary education, according to new federal secretary of state John Roberts.

Roberts, who first heard of the day Oct. 5, called the Nov. 9 date "bizarre".

Student leaders should wait until the Fiscal Arrangements Act (FAA), which controls most cost-sharing agreements between the federal and provincial governments, is negotiated before reacting, he said.

National Union of Students (NUS) president Riel Miller said it actually makes more sense to have the day before negotiations are complete, so

students can have some "democratic" input into the discussions. All FAA negotiations are secret.

The day is not dependent on the FAA, Miller said, because it deals with many outside issues such as unemployment and the role and quality of higher education.

Although the secretary of state is responsible for post-secondary education, Roberts refused to comment on current FAA negotiations, saying it is the responsibility of the minister of finance.

Currently, the federal government gives direct grants to the provinces for higher education, however education ministers have discussed replacing this with a transfer of tax points.

Several smaller, poorer provinces say their smaller tax bases will mean decreased funding for higher education if the new system is introduced.

"Maybe it will or maybe it will mean a better direction of money", Roberts said.

The federal government wants, he said, is to establish an interface between federal programs and provincial education responsibilities. They want to discuss, not direct.

Riel Miller expressed surprise that Roberts was not aware of National Students Day, since NUS had informed his predecessor Hugh Faulkner.