

Donahoe says university at the crossroads

by **Ralph English**

Nova Scotia's universities, like those elsewhere, have financial problems.

The implications of those financial problems were examined by Terry Donahoe, Nova Scotia Minister of Education, in an address to 150 people attending a dinner sponsored by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. The November 23 dinner at Saint Mary's University concluded an afternoon series of

seminars entitled **Nova Scotia's Universities: At the crossroads.**

Donahoe said financial problems prevent universities from realizing all of their objectives. He said the universities must set priorities and "identify what they do well, and what they alone do best."

Accountability should be defined by the universities in order to preserve academic freedom, but "academic freedom does not mean budgeting great

sums of public money" without accounting to the public, said Donahoe.

He said although the university's first obligation is to educate its students, universities should also develop closer relations with business and industry.

As for the role of the federal government Donahoe said, "It is incumbent upon federal authorities to ensure that every part of the country has a viable and effective University system."

But along with federal funding comes the demand for accountability. Donahoe said the federal view of accountability has three components: visibility, the public awareness of the federal contribution; federal monies earmarked for that purpose only; meeting certain ill-defined "national objectives" which threaten to transform universities into "glorified Manpower training centers."

In describing the province's role Donahoe continued criticizing federal policy. He said Nova Scotia has its own unique culture, problems, resources and aspiration.

"The configuration of our university system isn't wrong just because it differs from other parts of the country. I will not accept any suggestion that the federal government sit in judgment of any of our Nova Scotia post-secondary institutions."

Women in politics—learning the process

by **Samantha Brennan**

"When women have political successes and are threatening the established order, no one wants to hear about it," said Dr. Berit As, Norwegian political activist and visiting professor at Mount Saint Vincent University.

About fifty people listened at the Halifax main branch library on Nov. 24, while As described her own political success in Norway, and urged women here to become more active in politics.

As refuted arguments that women have already achieved any sort of equality, citing the fact that in Halifax women earn, on the average, 52% of what men earn.

"Times are so bad and women are so depressed," said As. "We must work together, we have the power and now we must use it."

In Norway women learned that they could never succeed in passing social programs to help women unless they transcended party lines, said As. And so the women, regardless of any party

allegiance, voted together on specific issues.

"Men find that very threatening," said As.

As urged the women in the audience to learn to become political people. She said this is necessary for the advancement of the women's movement, adding that we shouldn't expect men to change things for us. Women must start to speak up for their rights, said As.

As has been involved in politics in Norway since 1967 from city council to Parliament. She started her own party, the Socialist Left, which hold 5-6% of the seats in Parliament. As is presently researching the role of women in politics on a global scale.

Ironically, after As finished speaking, the first three questions were asked by men, though the audience was predominantly female. As noted this and told the women in the audience that they must learn not to sit quietly and let men decide their fates.

U.P.E.I. vet college not the cow's meow

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP)—After a nine year battle to locate a veterinary college on the University of Prince Edward Island campus, some members of the university community are expressing reservations about the decision.

The 36.5 million addition to the UPEI campus is expected to begin this fall, despite objections from such UPEI faculty as political studies chair Gary Webster.

"The veterinary college is not primarily an education project, it

is a development scheme," says Webster.

Webster says the college has been promoted by politicians, business people and some farmers, but not a significant extent by academics.

The political studies chair says dissenting views on the college haven't been made public because of internal pressure to keep quiet.

Webster is concerned the school will end up costing so


much to run that funding for the veterinary college will be at the expense of the liberal arts and science programs at the university.

"In terms of paying for this, it's my guess that the province is going to find itself in big trouble," he says.

Webster fears that if the UPEI administration is not careful, the veterinary college could "bankrupt the entire secondary system on PEI."

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Ottawa creating Nfld. separatism?

ANTIGONISH (CUP)—Newfoundland separatism is a real and growing threat according to former Liberal MP Richard Cashin.

Cashin, current president of the Newfoundland Food and Fish Allied union, recently warned mainlanders at St. Francis Xavier University of the islander's malcontent.

Cashin said there is a "debilitating feeling" sweeping the province, and a cynicism toward Ottawa especially among the young.

To Cashin, Newfoundland premier Brian Peckford is the province's Rene Levesque.

"Brian Peckford speaks our language," says Cashin. "He has wrapped himself in the flag and his government sees itself as the personification of New-

foundland."

Cashin blames Ottawa's "arrogant and incompetent" attitude toward Newfoundland for the recent poll results which indicate that 19 per cent of Newfoundlanders favour secession from Canada.

"If the federal government deals with Newfoundland on oil like it did in fisheries, then not only do we have to get rid of this government, but we have to get rid of all governments like it," he said.

"Ottawa has not seriously considered or understood the danger of consorting with the quasi-separatist bureaucrats of the Newfoundland government who feed on the alienation of the province's population."

Says, Cashin, "if we strike oil, god help us."

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