

If the government accepts another commission recommendation, the current loan-grant system will be scrapped. The proposed scheme works on a level of interest bearing loans for any student from a family whose income is above the median. In Ontario in 1970, the median income was \$10,000. For any students from families below this median income, grants and living expenses would be awarded.

A loan unpaid after 15 years for reasons of low income or other factors, would be forgiven. A woman, if she married, would not transfer her debt to her husband. Service in some government field could also serve as repayment. Someone who had never drawn a loan or grant from the government could get money from a proposed educational opportunities bank that would support some educational or cultural activity on the part of an individual or group, state other recommendations.

All evaluation of a student's status is made according to the parents' income. The cut-off point for grants is the median income. This new scheme will supposedly cut down abuses of the current scheme, but the inflexibility will discriminate against borderline cases. Grants are tenable for three years under the new plan. After that, further aid is available through interest bearing government loans only.

The commission claims the plan will help students from lower-income families get post-secondary education. Under its extension program, post-secondary aid would go to students in nursing, teaching, and other courses, as well as to those at universities and community colleges. Part-time students would receive equal status with full-time students.

Part-time studies are heartily endorsed by the commission. They recommend extended hours in post-secondary institutions to accommodate the working part-time student. They also recommend that an employee be given the choice of a salary increase or equivalent educational opportunities in a chosen course of study.

The commission wants to break the selective process employed by professional schools in choosing students. They recommend admission on lottery to graduate programs. Qualifying applicants would have an equal chance for entrance.

The rigid formal qualifications for certification protect the interests of an elite professional minority, says the commission. To break this inflexible structure, they recommend that classes of skill and responsibility within each profession be established. Examinations, not formal qualifications, would serve as criteria for advancement. Those without formal training, and para-professionals would be eligible for the examinations.

The commission, in recommending total government control of all facets of post-secondary education, stresses that the human touch is not to be lost. How to maintain autonomy in the face of political and financial control at such close quarters will be the jackpot question coming out of the report.

Students and faculty must have increasing participation in decision making, the report states. More lay and public scrutiny of administrative matters in post-secondary education is also needed, the commission says.

Student organizations with a province wide basis are needed, the commission says, to influence policy decisions. The Ontario Union of Students disbanded last year. Some action is afoot to establish a Toronto Union of Students, but the plan is afflicted with financial pains.

The commission's report will probably have significant bearing on the post-secondary scene over the next few years. The Ontario government invested two years and \$1,300,000 in producing it. Doug Wright, commission chairman, will also be deputy minister to education minister John White. Wright's position carries influential possibilities.

The recommendations of the report are not a radical departure from the existing post-secondary education root. The 13 commissioners make that quite plain in stating, "it would be wrong to conclude that the only way to correct social injustices and inequities is through a radical reform of our educational system."

The end result is a liberal report that is trying to stop up the chinks in a socio-economic milieu that is full of draughts. The patching job comes at the level of education. But the injustices the report tries to correct are too often compounded by extraneous conditions before it ever comes to the point of post-secondary education and all the compensating recommendations coming out of the report.



Not too many students will be cheering if the Wright Commission report is implemented.

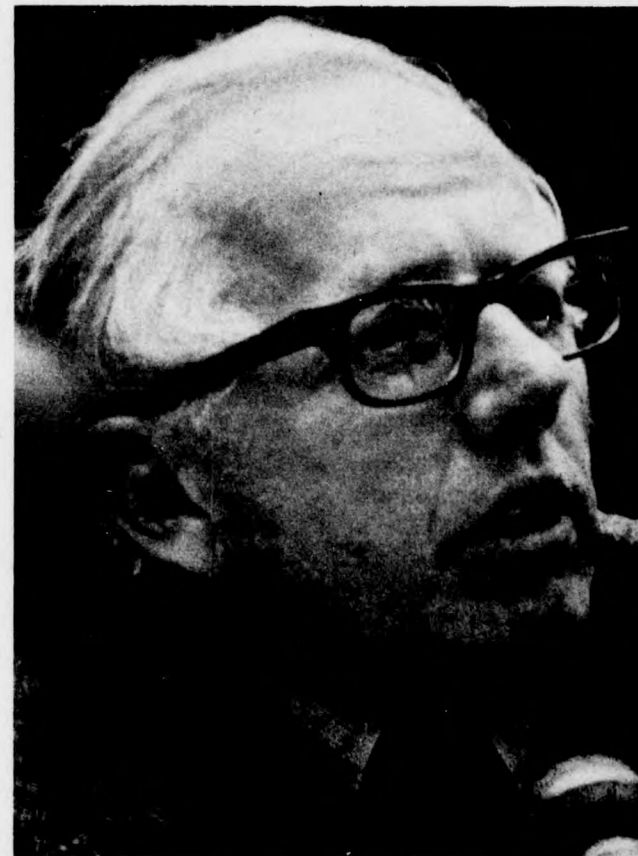
"The report is written to draw comment and fire, it's not a grey document. It could alter the lives of universities as teaching institutions. There's a setting out of roles for different institutions, but we shouldn't let ourselves be boxed into too narrow a set of roles. I'm enthusiastic about the broad recommendations of the report, the ideas are good, but there has to be careful

attention to the details. What's needed is a careful statement in response, constructive criticism. We have to be vigilant. Sections of the report have to be rewritten to indicate exactly what is meant. Until areas are clarified, it's too soon to say if we'll be threatened."

David Slater, President,
York University

Proposed Fees and Grants per Student for Education Services, Ontario Universities and Colleges (for two semesters; at 1970-71 cost level)

Enrolment category	Total educational cost per student \$	Proposed basic grant \$	Proposed fee \$
Universities:			
1. General Arts and Science			
Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology:	1,250	625	625
Applied Arts and Business			
Universities:			
2. Honours Arts, Commerce, Law, etc.			
Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology:	1,500	750	750
Technology			
Universities:			
3. Engineering, Architecture, etc.			
Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology	2,200	1,100	1,100
Applied Health			
Universities:			
4. Medicine, Dentistry, Post-Graduate Study	3,000	1,500	1,500



Chairman of The Commission on Post-Secondary Education Doug Wright.