

"Red Herring" Fund



Prof. Tony Mardiros smells something fishy.

At the Saturday sessions on Spending Priorities with respect to the Alberta Conservative Government's proposed Heritage Savings Trust Fund, three speakers presented positions pertaining to Advanced Education and Research.

Max Nelson, Chairman of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) said "The quality of education of youth will determine the quality of our leaders tomorrow." Therefore, "investment is the key" and the best way to invest in today and tomorrow is to invest in education. As for the proposed fee hikes, now becoming the major issue facing students, Nelson proposed that the government "develop trust funds for students."

Nelson also expressed concern over the fate of the pool of money designated for the fund. "I don't want to lose it. I want to spend it." The best way of spending the money is to make it available to students who will ensure future returns.

Tony Mardiros, Professor of Philosophy at the U of A, had a different attitude toward the fund itself. "I think the Heritage Trust Fund is a Red Herring and a rather smelly Red Herring too." Mardiros was much more

concerned that such funds find their way to the Health, Education and Social Services in the Province.

He pointed out universities have a large claim to government monies and that at present university facilities are so limited that there is unequal access to them. Furthermore, university budgets are already shrinking and as such many key aspects of the university's activities are suffering.

Research money experienced a net decrease of 20% this year due to inflation. The library budget has been so severely axed that few books can now be bought and virtually no new periodicals have been subscribed to in the last two years.

When professors quit or retire no new hiring takes place.

With regards to the proposed 25% fee hike, Professor Mardiros suggested increased costs of education should come out of taxes of those who could afford it the most, companies and high income earners. In sum, "We don't need a Heritage Fund, we need some of that money."

Bill Pierce, representative of the Association of College Faculties, suggested it was "not politically wise to get at the funds" but rather, the "right tactic" is to "put the money into capital funds." Ask the government for buildings, new facilities, and expansion of present programs and structures. "Put money into specific projects as proposed by Worth."

Mr. Pierce pointed out the many inadequacies of the existing education system in Alberta, emphasizing that the "quality of education in Alberta is not so high as the government tries to claim." He has had experience teaching in every

province in Canada. In Alberta second language instruction programs rate very low in comparison to other provinces. Teachers here are also overworked, resulting in virtually illiterate high school graduates.

Mr. Pierce also complained about the money available for students to borrow. Loans are often inadequate for students to live on while attending college or university. Making loans more generous is necessary at a time when the student is faced with the increased burden of rising expenses, he said.

Calgary, Lethbridge- Edmonton to follow?

On the heels of a protest rally at the University of Calgary, the U of C Board of Governors voted Monday to propose a 25% increase in tuitions to the provincial government.

Last Friday, about 900 students waved placards and shouted denunciation of the tuition proposal and the provincial 11% ceiling on education spending, hoping to persuade the Board to hold out against financial pressures to increase tuitions.

Said Noel Jantzie, editor of the U of C student newspaper, *The Gauntlet*: "The demonstration was a success in that it brought to public attention the way students feel at the University of Calgary regarding university financing and tuition increases."

The U of C's decision to increase tuition followed a similar decision at the University of Lethbridge.

Tuition increases are to be discussed Friday at the U of A during its Board meeting, for

FAS faces Hohol

by Greg Neiman

At a meeting Monday with representatives of FAS (Federation of Alberta Students) Advanced Education Minister Bert Hohol denied that the provincial 11% ceiling on education spending was the cause of tuition increase proposals from Alberta's universities.

Terry Sharon, executive member of FAS, said in an interview that the minister "was deeply concerned" with what he saw as an incorrect view that government freezes on spend-

ing result in universities looking elsewhere for funds. "The government did not consider these ramifications of their policies when they were made," he said.

"Hohol said it was up to the Board of Governors to decide whether or not to increase tuitions," said Sharon.

Sharon reported that the minister held to the party policy of freezing university, municipal, and hospital budgets, saying the government was fighting inflation as best it could.

On other subjects, the minister seemed more willing to change existing policies, said Sharon.

The Student Temporary Employment (STEP) Program, will undergo some changes this summer, and will not be scrapped as have federal student employment programs.

Sharon said he was pleased that the minister was willing to discuss changes in the Student Finances Act in the light of projected high student unemployment this summer. FAS will be meeting with Hohol again to discuss striking of a clause in the act which says students must earn at least \$600 over the summer.

Minister Hohol also said a report on student housing will be released in two or three weeks, and Sharon reports FAS will be examining the report and construction a lobby on the issue this summer.

On the issue of quotas, Hohol said they were actions that universities might consider, but that they did not result from provincial policies and are those of university boards only.

The University of Calgary board passed a motion Monday proposing a 5% quota on all enrolment.

Cadieux to talk of Common Market

Marcel Cadieux, head of the Canadian Mission to the European Economic Community will lecture at the University of Alberta Thursday, February 5.

His lecture, "Canada's Upcoming Negotiations on a Contractual Link with the Common Market," will begin at 8 p.m. in TL B-2 of the Tory Lecture Theatre. The public is welcome to attend and there is no admission charge.

His lecture is sponsored by the department of economics and political science at the University of Alberta.

Mr. Cadieux will be leading a negotiating team which will be initiating talks in Brussels concerning Canada's involvement with the European Economic Community. Canada's position in these negotiations will be explained in the lecture.

Marcel Cadieux was born in

Montreal in 1915. He attended Grasset College in Montreal and the University of Montreal and holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees.

He joined the federal government department of external affairs in 1941 and became first secretary, Paris, in 1951.

Mr. Cadieux was named ambassador to the United States in 1970.

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