



Student representatives from across the city prepare to march from NSCAD to the World Trade and Convention Centre to protest education cutbacks. Photo by Todd K. Miller, Dal Photo

## Students protest cuts

By LOIS CORBETT

TWENTY STUDENT POLITICIANS carrying placards and chanting "stop the cuts" marched on the opening of the Canadian first ministers' conference in Halifax on Thursday.

The protestors, from the city's universities and colleges, delivered telegrams from student unions across Canada protesting the federal government's proposed cuts to education funding.

James LeBlanc, chair of the Student's Union of Nova Scotia, said the proposed cuts to Established Program Funding, \$2 billion altogether by 1991, will be "incredibly devastating" to the provinces' universities and students.

"Nova Scotia students are already paying the highest tuition in the country. There's no room for any cutbacks to education," said LeBlanc.

The protest telegrams, shoved into Manitoba premier Howard Pawley's hand by the Canadian Federation of Students chair, Barb Donaldson, were sent by student governments across the country.

"We want to meet with federal finance minister Michael Wilson, to get our own message to him. We want to deliver some letters from Nova Scotia students," said LeBlanc.

SUNS collected 1500 letters

from Nova Scotia university and college students asking Wilson to "reconsider his intention to reduce federal funding to the provinces."

Of all the first ministers arriving early on the first day of the two-day meeting, only Pawley crossed the street to meet with the student protestors.

"It's not just education, it's health too," said Pawley. "We're on your side."

Daniel Cross, a student council member at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, was disappointed with the protest.

Cross said he wanted more than just student politicians at the rally.

"This is student education we're talking about, so we needed the students here," he says.

Cross said he doesn't care if the media listened, as long as he got the attention of the politicians.

"It's our fault this is so pathetic. We want to be respected in the eyes of the politicians, but they're not even looking at us," said Cross.

Cross said he hopes the "study-in" planned by NSCAD students to disrupt the meeting Friday, will be better attended.

If they can't get into the World Trade and Convention centre, where the conference is being held, "We'll have to sit on the steps," said Cross.

for Canadian University Press



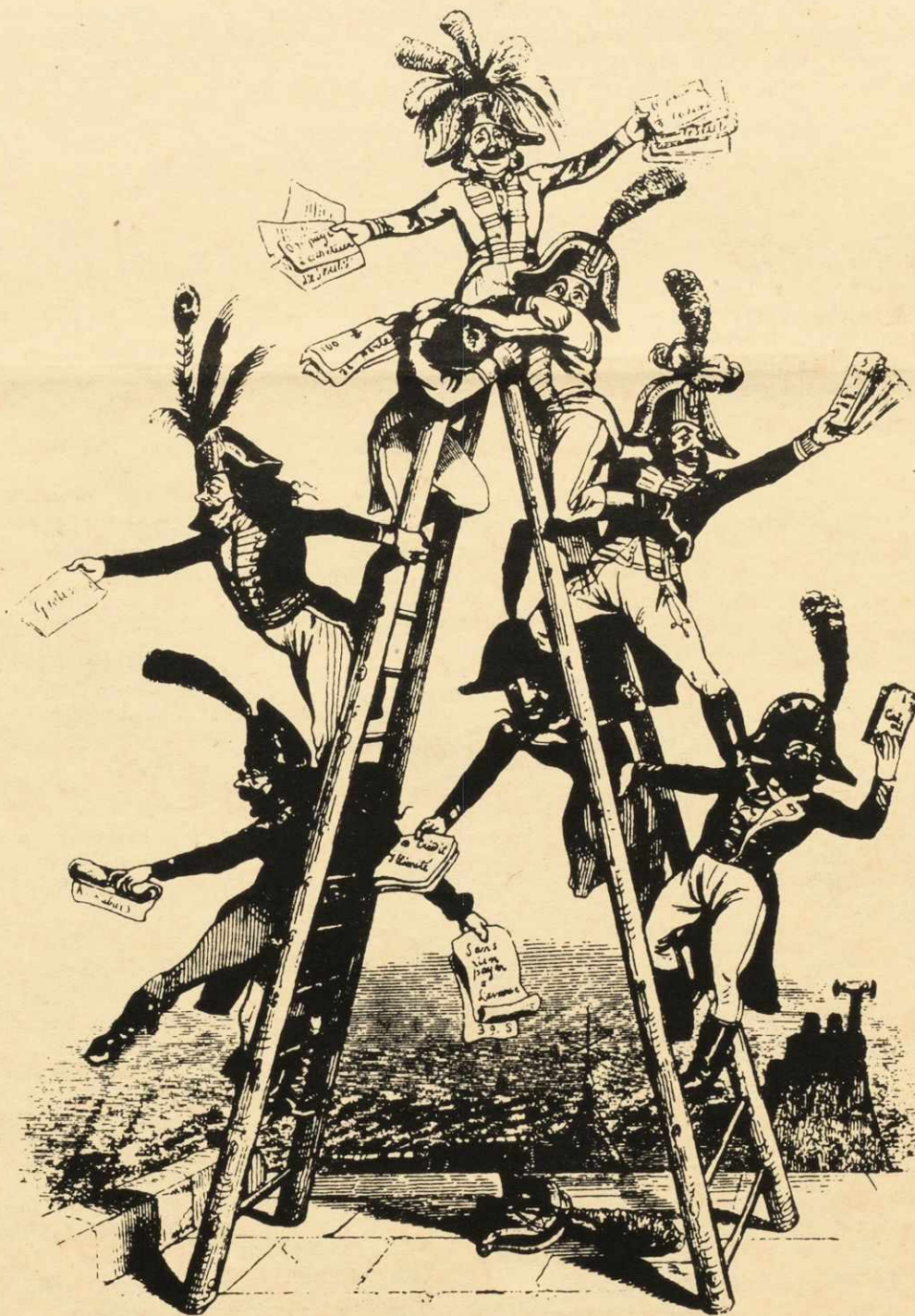
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