

CME proposes student aid amendments

REGINA (CUP) - The Council of Ministers of Education (CME) announced following its closed meetings in Regina on September 9 - 10 they are requesting "immediate amendments" to the Canada Student Loans Act.

But the Council, which consists of the Education Ministers from all ten provinces, refused at a press conference following the meetings to say anything about the substance of

the amendments being requested.

And the chairperson of the CME, BC Education Minister Eileen Dailly, in response to questions about open decision-making, took a hard line against student or public participation in the Council's student aid policy making.

At the Regina meetings, the CME received what was intended to be the final report of the

secret Federal-Provincial Task Force on Student Aid. According to a CME document however, the work of the Task Force will continue in the upcoming year, and will result in a more detailed report "in order for the Council to have a clearer understanding of the financial and social implications" of new student aid policies.

Student aid consideration will also form part of the discussion this November when CME and federal ministers meet, again in closed session.

Although CME refuses to detail what the proposed student aid amendments entail, they did state that aid for part-

time students and students taking "short courses" forms a part of the proposal.

It is also believed the recommendations deal with tying in student aid to other income maintenance programs such as welfare and manpower retraining schemes.

As well, sources say the report deals with the possible creation of a National Loans Commission to oversee student aid programs in Canada.

These sources also revealed that the report and recommendations of the Task Force were forwarded to Secretary of State Hugh Faulkner on August 12, prior to

the CME meeting and the provinces feel the decision for implementation new rests with the federal government.

The letter, which was sent under the signature of last year's CME chairperson Thomas Wells of Ontario, apparently stated that the provinces wanted the Students Loans Act reopened "if necessary" to deal with the recommendations.

The CME press release, however, clearly calls for "amendments" to the Act, but whether this will happen or the changes will be pushed through as new administrative procedures is still unclear.

Alberta Education Minister Bert Hohol told the press conference it was possible to deal with the proposed charges administratively rather than by changing the legislation.

The difference in the two approaches is that if amendments to the Act are required the whole subject of student aid could be thrown open for public debate, something most federal and provincial officials appear intent on avoiding.

Jim Gray and Elspeth Guild of the University of Regina Student Union passed out releases at the press conference from the National Union of Students calling for student and public participation in student aid decision-making.

The most vocal supporter of closed decision-making, the NEW CME chairperson Eileen Dailly, said student participation was not discussed by the Council, despite repeated requests from NUS last year that students be included on the Task Force.

She argued that students should not complain about being excluded because other groups, such as teachers and trustees, were also excluded from the Task Force, which consists entirely of senior student aid officials.

"They are excluded so as to expediate our national goals far better," she explained.

As far as CME is concerned "it's far better for each provincial deputy minister to get feedback from their students which can then be passed on collectively to the Council of Ministers," she said.

Dailly was not able to speak for the whole CME on the possibility that the Task Force hold public hearings in preparing its report to the CME.

Responding to a student question on this, Bert Hohol said that although he did not favour "active student participation" ON THE Task Force, he called public hearings where "interest groups like NUS" could state their views, "an excellent idea."

Gordon MacMurchy of Saskatchewan said he was "open to the idea", but Dailly claimed that public hearings would be "too much", adding that public hearings were not the business of the Task Force.

fridays

Can't
afford
to eat?

Try our Breakfast Special
Bacon, 2 eggs, toast and coffee

1.59

Lunch & Dinner Specials Daily

1.49

Open: 7:30 - 6:30
Beverages: 3:00 - 11:00 Mon - Thurs
3:00 - 12:00 Fri & Sat

OPTOMETRISTS

DRS. LeDrew, Rowand, Jones, Rooney,
Bain and associates

CAMPUS OFFICE		
HUB Mall 8922-112 St.		439-5878
SOUTH OFFICE		
10903-80 Ave.		433-7305
MAIN OFFICE		
12318-Jasper Ave.		488-0944

Office hours by appointment Monday thru Saturday
Convenient Parking

CANADA MANPOWER CENTRE ON CAMPUS

4th Floor SUB Ph. 432-4291

PROVIDING: Employment Counselling
Employer brochures and Job descriptions
Permanent, Part-time and Summer jobs

CREATIVE JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUE

will commence on a daily basis September 29,
1975 at 3:30 p.m.

Topics include:

How to prepare a resume

The interview

On-campus recruiting procedures

Appointments for these sessions may be arranged
in the Canada Manpower Centre

4th Floor Students' Union Building

For permanent (and some summer) employment,
please check the bulletin boards in the centre or
outside your Faculty General Office beginning
September 22, 1975. The first interviews will be
conducted October 27, 1975.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CENTRE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Tory Building, Main Lobby
10 AM-3:30 PM September 22 and 23, 1975

Arts Building, Main Rotunda
10 AM-3:30 PM September 24, 1975

Central Academic Building, Main Floor
10 AM-3:30 PM September 25 and 26, 1975

Central Academic Building, Room 301
10 AM-3:30 PM September 29 and 30, 1975
Household Economics Building, Room B19
10 AM-3:30 PM October 1 and 2, 1975

STUDENTS ARE URGED TO COMMENCE
USING THIS SERVICE EARLY EACH YEAR!

Transcendental
Meditation
FREE
PUBLIC
LECTURE

12:00 Noon Daily
Rm. 104 SUB
Ph. 465-6620