

CUS Backs Student Salaries

(CUP) Student leaders have committed themselves to a long-term, two-pronged attack on inequality of educational opportunity in Canada by advocating student salaries and the abolition of tuition fees.

Delegates at the 30th Canadian Union of Students Congress in Halifax decided overwhelmingly to ask for more financial assistance than ever before, by passing a lengthy resolution designed to wipe out all social and financial barriers to post-secondary education.

Calling education a fundamental human right, and claiming responsibility in any fight to remove financial and social barriers to post-secondary education the congress resolved itself to:

*Reject in principle all systems of financial aid to students which involve loans, means test or conditions implying mandatory parental support.

*Advocate abolition of all tuition fees and establishment of a system of student stipends.

*Develop immediate programs to achieve the long term goals, and

*Carry out research studies and action programs at local, regional and national levels in an effort to drive home social inequalities in anadian education.

The resolution called for replacement of loans and grants by federal surrender of taxation power sufficient to allow federal governments to "fulfill their financial obligations in the field of education."

CUS, with its approval of student stipends, has now taken the final step toward adopting a policy of free education.

In addition CUS will now embark on attempts to improve the quality of secondary education.

Improvement in teaching standards, increased support for adult education, universal provision of preprimary education and provision of free medical, recreational and eating facilities for all Canadian school children are included

in the resolution's implementation sections, as are expansion of existing bursary schemes, conversion of existing loan schemes, to bursary schemes based solely on student need, and elimination of means tests.

The new CUS education resolution recommends also that "member institutions and organizations carry out a program of increasing public awareness of the problems of education in Canada and of the possible solutions to such problems."

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