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OFS condemns student awards proposals

Secret papers reveal loan increase plans

By DOUG TINDAL

Restricted government documents, now in the possession of the Ontario Federation of Students, reveal that the federal and provincial governments have agreed in principle to increase the Canada student loans (CSL) ceiling from \$1,400 to \$1,800, the OFS dis-

closed Friday.

The documents, a working paper and the minutes of a meeting of the federal-provincial task force on student assistance, also indicate the governments' intention to transfer more of the operating costs of universities to individual students, by increasing tuition and

establishing a programme of long-term student loans. Students would be required to repay these loans by pledging a fixed percentage of their incomes for up to 20 years after leaving school.

Ontario administers its own student awards programme (OSAP), using Canada student

loans money to supply loans of up to \$800, and then granting provincial funds to a possible award total of \$2,200.

But according to Harold Parrott, parliamentary assistant to minister of colleges and universities James Auld, if the CSL loan ceiling increases, Ontario will "most likely" follow suit, and raise its loan ceiling.

It is unclear whether the maximum award would be increased by an equal amount, or whether the loan would merely assume a greater proportion of the total award. York's director of student awards, Kaye MacDonald, told Excalibur the CSL move was "essentially very good for students".

"At least 10 per cent of the students at York who require financial assistance are ineligible for the OSAP programme," she said. "The CSL is all they can get, and \$1,400 is just not enough."

MacDonald said that she has not received any indication of plans to raise Ontario's loan ceiling, and suggested that the CSL increase is far from being implemented.

"Changing the loan ceiling involves changing the legislation, so it has to go through parliament," she said. "The last time the ceiling was changed, it took two and a half years to get it finalized."

The Canada student loans

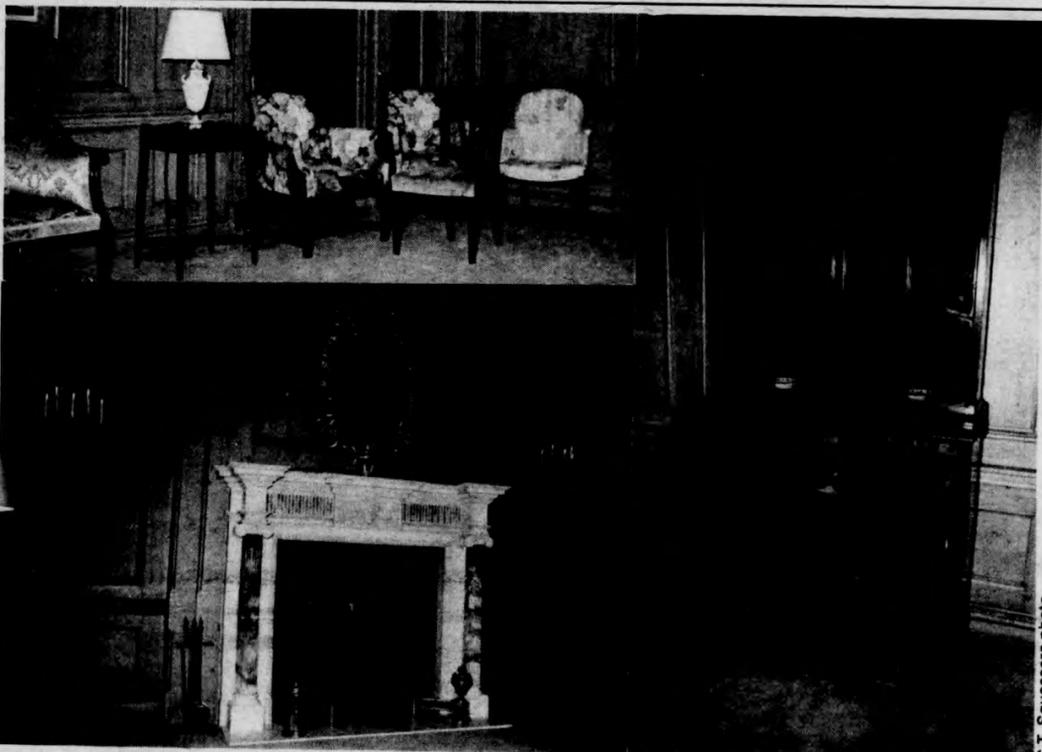
programme is controlled by the guaranteed loans administration, a division of the federal ministry of finance. Claude Passy, chief of the administration, told Excalibur in a telephone interview Tuesday that the OFS is wrong in referring to the task force as a "federal-provincial" group.

"The task force was commissioned by the council of provincial education ministers, and has no official status in the federal government," he said. Passy admitted, however, that he and several secretary of state employees sit on the body as "observers".

At the present time, the proposed change has been forwarded to finance minister John Turner for consideration; a decision is expected by the end of this month.

Passy said the government may be able to implement the increased ceiling "without opening up the (Canada Student Loans) Act for amendment, but this is still unclear". If so, a \$1,800 loan ceiling could, in fact, be in force by September, 1975.

The OFS has condemned "the regressive implications of loan schemes in financing an educational system that rely on a tax base of middle and lower middle income wage earners", and has called for a system that "removes tuition fees and provides living stipends to students".



Casa Loma? No, this Victorian parlour sits on the ninth floor of the Ross Building, as an old-country link with England's University of York, and any group at York can have access to it. Tea, anyone?

New lending code may be illegal

By OAKLAND ROSS

The legality of the university senate's recent decision to withhold the degrees of students who owe more than \$24 in library fines was called into question this week.

According to Eric Chesterley, a law student at Osgoode Hall, the senate does have the authority to determine criteria for graduation, but that authority is not absolute.

Article 12 (b) of the York Act (1965) states that senate has the power "to determine and regulate the standards for the admission of students to the University, the contents and curricula of all courses of study, and the requirements for graduation".

Chesterley pointed out, however, that "this does not mean that senate has the power, for example, to demand that all students must sleep

with faculty members or their spouses in order to graduate.

"Clearly, there is some limitation to the senate's discretion in the matter."

Chesterley cited the "McRuer Report on Civil Rights" as possible evidence for the illegality of the senate decision. The report states that "the power to make regulations does not include power to impose penalties or create offences, unless such power is expressly given".

"Article 12 of the York Act does not appear to 'expressly' give senate the power to withhold degrees for library offenses," he said.

Contacted this week, senate

library committee chairman Anthony Hopkins said that his committee had not concerned itself with whether the sanction would be discovered to be legal or not.

"We just assumed that the power to grant or withhold degrees rested with senate," he said. "Anyway, it isn't an uncommon regulation."

Osgoode dean Harry Arthurs said that the whole legality issue "is not crystal clear in any direction."

He said that he would be "a fool to give an off-the-cuff opinion," but added that he did not know of any Canadian legal precedents or test cases on which an opinion could be based.

Food survey results favour franchise

By JULIAN BELTRAME

Over 58 per cent of York students favour specialized franchised food (ethnic foods) being served on campus, and over half favour vending in Central Square, according to the recently compiled York food survey.

The survey, which York's food services committee chairman Peter Jarvis called a fair sampling of the overall food preferences at York, received 2,573 responses, including replies from 829 resident students.

The survey indicated that an overwhelming majority of students who responded to the questionnaire ate in Central Square (1,167). The second most frequented locations were the college dining halls (534).

Although the minimum meal plan for resident students is currently \$460, 61 per cent of students estimated their total food outlay at more than \$500 a year. Fifty-four per cent of the resident students favoured a meal plan.

The survey also indicates that a majority of resident students would be willing to spend upwards of \$2 if

more expensive food items were offered. Forty-four per cent of resident students said they would be willing to spend in excess of \$2.50.

As many as 64 per cent of those responding admitted to eating off campus because of the poor quality of food offered at York. Another 56 per cent gave the selection of food as a reason for eating off-campus.

How indicative the survey was of the more than 20,000 students at York was questioned by CYSF president Anne Scotton Monday.

"I don't think there was any scientific basis for this questionnaire at all," said Scotton. "I personally observed persons filling out more than one questionnaire."

Peter Charness, who collected the results and analyzed the computer print-out, conceded that the survey did not receive an overwhelming response, but added that "it can be taken as representative".

"It's all we've got to hang our hat on," added Jarvis.

•See page 3.

CUPE supports strike vote

By JULIAN BELTRAME

An estimated 200 bitter CUPE workers packed Stedman's lecture hall D last Wednesday, and rejected the university's offer of a nine per cent wage increase to the union, an offer already turned down by the union negotiators one week before.

Talks between the university and the York local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees broke off two weeks ago, with the groups split on the basic issues of incomes and other monetary benefits.

CUPE had asked for an across-the-board increase of \$1.37 over the next year, while the university conceded 30 cents to housemaids and as much as 54 cents to third class tradesmen (the highest classification in the union), over the same period.

Union negotiator Jack White told the workers that \$4 an hour, measured in light of escalating inflation, was in reality only worth \$2.28. He reminded them that few of them presently earned \$4 an hour.

"We must let the university know we are not happy with the nine per cent increases," he urged, "when we all know the cost of living has gone up 12 and 13 per cent, and when it is expected to go up at least that much this year."

The university has demanded some changes from the present contract, including a deletion of the Monday to Friday specification in the definition of the ordinary working week.

White informed the workers they would be required to work weekends like any other day, if the university proposal was accepted. The 200 strong crowd shouted down the proposal, and vigorously applauded the negotiators' rejection of the deletion.

When the strike vote was called, all but seven of those in attendance supported the strike.

White emphasized that the strike vote did not mean that CUPE was going on strike, but only that it was willing to strike if the administration did not increase its offer.

Informing the members that a conciliator had been called for by the union, White said CUPE would be in a position to strike 16 days following a report by the conciliator stating that no agreement between the union and the university had been reached.

"You will be in a position to strike by the end of February," White assured the workers.

Marwood wins

As about 55 per cent of the station members went to the polls last Friday, Scott Marwood was re-elected station manager of Radio York.

Marwood, who feels the station should be run on a professional basis, won by a margin of 21 to 13 over the second candidate, Homily, who feels the station should adopt a more flexible, free-form policy.

A vote for programme director resulted in a tie between Andy Haas and Dave Quick; a run-off election will be held tomorrow.