

Caut: Will the Tories deliver?

OTTAWA(CUP)—Canadian university teachers hope the new Tory government will make good on its promises to maintain post-secondary education funding levels.

Before the Tories painted the electoral map blue, they promised they would fund universities and colleges with a greater degree of co-operation from the provinces.

The Progressive Conservatives assured the Canadian Association of University Teachers that they would negotiate with provincial governments on the basis of the 1977 federal-provincial agreement. The deal called for the creation of a forum between the two levels of government on post-secondary education.

CAUT executive-secretary Donald Savage said he does not expect the Tories to cut education funding but pointed out that they have said they will not restore the losses resulting from amendments to the Established Programs Financing Act (Bill C-12).

Through the bill passed in the spring, the Liberal government imposed the six and five restraint program on federal transfer payments to education, causing a loss of \$116 million in the 1983-84 funding year and \$250 million in 1984-85. The bill was retroactive.

Savage says he thinks it is ironic

ment, not for the kind of discouragement which (Bill C-12) is bringing. If Canada really wants to maintain its standard of living and be more than a mere supplier of natural resources for other industrialized countries, we must develop our own technology... without enough highly trained people that will be impossible."

"Universities are without doubt the major training ground for these people," she added.

Savage says a forum between the two levels of government will encourage greater debate on the funding issue and might end the acrimonious fights that sprang up over education this year.

"They have promised a new era in federal and provincial co-operation. But if the Tories cut education that the Tories will not pump more money into education to make up for the loss, when they vigorously criticized the Liberals in Parliament for introducing the bill. PC MP Flora MacDonald, who was re-elected in her riding of Kingston and the Islands, was particularly outspoken.

Savage said he hopes Tory education policies will reflect the sentiments in a speech made in the House of Commons by MacDonald, in which she said: "Surely this is the time and place for invest-

tion funding, that would end the era right they and there."

Savage said he also anticipates an increase in federal money to university research and development in an area where Tories have continually pledged their support.

The association has been lobbying politicians throughout the summer to set up a federal post-secondary act that would stop provinces from diverting federal grants away from education.

"We don't want the federal government to simply throw money to the provinces and not know whether it's being used to build roads or support universities," Savage said at the CAUT's annual

general meeting held recently.

The education act would ensure that the federal government specifically earmarks transfer payments directly to institutions. The act also calls for a post-secondary education advisory council, made up of politicians, teachers and students, and for a new parliamentary standing committee on science, research and education.

"We have been lobbying candidates in all parts of the country to set up the financing, etc. We're hoping that when we knock on their doors when they arrive in Ottawa they'll still remember," Savage says.

Line up at the Impeachment Booth

by Neal Watson

The SU political season kicked off on the very first day of classes yesterday with the circulation of a handbill calling for the impeachment of three members of the SU Executive.

A group of students distributed the pamphlet which urged students to sign a petition removing SU President Floyd Hodgins, VP External Paul Alpern and VP Internal Gord Stamp from office.

Students Lorraine Mitchell and Danica Frazer said they initiated the action because they felt the SU Executives were spending their time "playing political games" and were ignoring the concerns of students. They said the Executive promised change and action on quotas and cutbacks of student loans, but so far had done nothing.

VP Finance Christine Ens and VP Academic Donna Kassian were not mentioned in the pamphlet. Ac-

cording to Frazer, Hodgins, Stamp and Alpern were the Executive members that had failed in dealing with student issues.

Frazer called Stamp "unco-operative" and Mitchell said Alpern and Hodgins were "in the pocket of the Tory government."

Danica and Mitchell said they did not represent any organization, but said they were not alone in their action.

They promised that an "Impeach-

ment Booth" would be set up in CAB today where they would explain further their position.

VP External Paul Alpern dismissed the petition and said he had no desire to become involved in playing politics and was only concerned with representing student issues.

Alpern rejected the accusation that the Executive had not acted on student loans and said they were in constant contact with the Student's Finance Board, individual students and the office of Dick Johnston, the Minister for Advanced Education.

He also pointed to the development of an Appeal Board for students to plead their case as an example of the Executive's commitment to students.

VP Internal Gord Stamp spent part of the morning removing the pamphlets from bulletin boards in SUB because the students had failed to receive permission to post them. Students must obtain permission from the VP Internal before posting handbills in SUB.

Stamp rejected the various charges and said he would consider taking the students to the University Disciplinary Board. He called the charges slanderous.

Stamp said the SU Executive was responsive and that all Executive members were working hard.

"I defy any five people to do the work we've done," Stamp said. Both Stamp and Alpern said that the students had failed to get the facts straight in their pamphlet and had not bothered to discuss their concern with them.

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building open in a bid to attract residents and students interested in re-establishing DTUC.

The occupation prompted the government to hand over the keys to DTUC's library to the city of Nelson. A community reference library, containing historical and educational resources, will likely be opened this fall, said Betty Daniels, spokesperson for the 80 activists involved in the occupation.

Selkirk College, an educational institution nearby, now is responsible for the DTUC buildings. Once Selkirk removes the equipment it wants, the government and Nelson residents will negotiate on the facility's future. The city has already offered to buy the centre.

But although some former students are optimistic about setting up the centre again, hundreds of people are leaving Nelson because the closure meant many lost jobs. The centre was the second largest employer in the city.

About 1000 more people are expected to leave Nelson by the end of the year.

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