Full of holes

by Michael Burns

"Blacks will no longer be conveniently dismissed from view", said Reverend Donald Skeir, during a frank discussion about minorities in the Maritimes. The discussion was held at the School of Social Work on Monday, where Skeir spoke about the blacks in the region, while Acadian activist Donatien Gaudet discussed the Acadians.

Skeir said that in the past 25 years, blacks in the Maritimes, influenced by the global unrest of blacks and especially by the civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., have been actively taking a stand against second-class citizenship. Skeir poured scorn on tokenism in hiring practices, adding that while this may serve to flatter the individual, it is useless to the race. He reminded the audience that the black man was brought here against his will, but insisted that "as long as he is here, he will settle for nothing less than equality." Skeir, having cautioned that no amount of legislation can change a person's thinking, ended on the note that "we are no longer docile, we are aggressive."

Donatien Gaudet from the centre culturel acadien was the second speaker to address the audience. After a short

Registration Form.

tend dinner.

review of Acadian history, Gaudet tackled the question of assimilation. He felt that the momentum of assimilation is too great, saying that only Quebec and Acadia are powerful enough to withstand it. He predicted that in 25 years all traces of French will have disappeared in all provinces other than New Brunswick and Quebec.

Gaudet said Acadians should press for autonomy, but said this is a hopeless task without their own political structures. He went on to describe the language bill as "un panier percé" (full of holes), and was concerned that neither the British North America Act nor the recent Pépin-Roberts report made any specific mention of the Acadians.

The following is a poem written and recited by Gaudet, which he feels sums up the land of Acadia, her people and her aspirations:

L'ACADIE, SON PEUPLE, SES ASPIRATIONS

Vous êtes les bienvenus en Acadie Dans cette Acadie ravagée diminuée étriquée et puis rapiécée. Cherchez son âme. Elle se glisse Dans les marais abandonnés Dans les villes anglicisées Dans les forêts saccagées Dans les mers presque vidées. Elle vit toujours Cette Acadie qu'on a voulu tuer. Elle est parfois en fête Cette Acadie qu'on a morcelée. Elle espère qu'un jour Elle verra tous ses enfants réunis Dans leur seule et unique patrie

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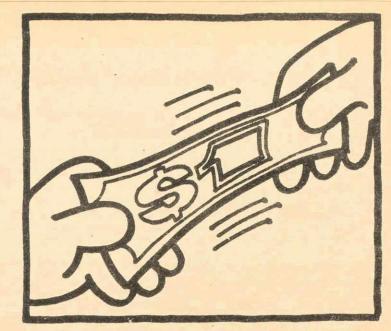
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Libraries safe

OTTAWA (CUP)—University and college libraries will continue to receive federal government documents, despite a \$2 million budget cut in government publications.

Federal Minister of Supply and Services Pierre de Bane announced February 8 that 217 university and college and the 396 public libraries will not have their depository status changed by the cut. Before his announcement, it had been expected that a large number of libraries would no longer receive free government publications.

However, strong lobbying by librarians across the country convinced the minister to make cuts elsewhere, according to Phillipe Leroux, director general of the federal Publishing Centre.

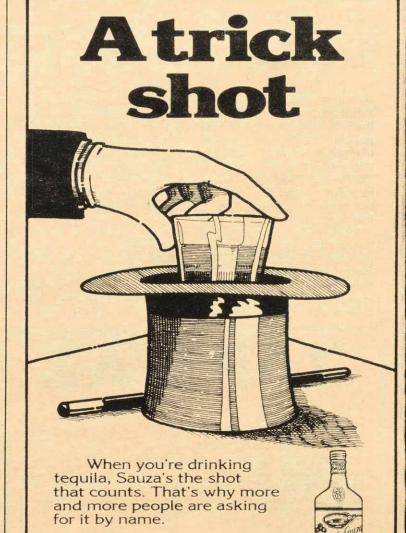
Instead, agencies and in-

dividuals who can afford the cost of publications, such as federal departments, special interest groups, and senior civil servants, will have to pay, Leroux said. As well, the price of Hansard and other parliamentary documents will no longer be subsidized.

At present, there are 28 university and college libraries with full depository status. These libraries receive free of charge every federal government publication printed by the Publishing Centre of the Department of Supply and Services.

They do not have to place specific orders for specific documents.

Another 189 university and college libraries have selective status, meaning they can receive federal publications free of charge, but must order them from a checklist.



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