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students are part of another phenomenon. This is the education spending cut-backs and tuition fee increases that are occurring right across Canada and internationally. Governments in many countries are attempting to decrease the amount they spend on social services, in order to put them in a better position in the inter-capitalist competition. Foreign students are one of the first targets of the government. For example, at McGill, which has the largest number of foreign students of any university in the Commonwealth, tuition fees for foreign students were upped to around \$2000! **These moves against foreign students represent the leading edge of the cut-backs.**

The government would undoubtedly like us to jump on a Canadian nationalist bandwagon with them, calling for 'Canadians to be hired first'. Doing so would only play into the hands of the government. The education cut-backs that are hitting foreign students in one form this year, will hit Canadian students next year. We must unite in action all the way along the line to fight against the cut-backs. We must allow no group such as foreign students to be victimized by our government because that government finds it economically profitable to do so.

Many people talk as though Canada is being so exceedingly kind-hearted in allowing foreign students to come to Canada. Let's put this in perspective. Canada is one of the leading imperialist countries in the world, making millions out of its investments in Third World countries, through the super-exploitation of the workers of those countries. As well, Canada supports reactionary regimes, such as South Africa and Portugal, throughout the world.

Allowing foreign students to come here to study is the least — and I mean the **very** least — that the Canadian government can do.

People like Greg Noval should spare their righteousness about foreign students abusing the "privilege" of studying in Canada. Perhaps a little indignation about the role the Canadian government plays in the pillage of the Third World would be more appropriate.

It should be clear that Canadian students have absolutely no interests in supporting the attacks on foreign students. The government would like Canadian students to think it is concerned about our welfare. We must reply that our interests are the same as those of foreign students in Canada, and students in other countries.

We must give complete support to the foreign students as they fight against the new restrictive regulations.

We must demand:

1) Abolish the new restrictive regulations against foreign students — foreign students are not the cause of unemployment; the government's policy of creating unemployment is.

2) Jobs for all students — if the corporations and government can't provide enough jobs, then the corporations should be taxed to pay students to create their own jobs.

3) No cut-backs—tax the corporations; no cut-backs on foreign students; no tuition fee increases.

Don Wiley
Young Socialists

Which way out?

the Ph. D. Quagmire

by M. W. Jackson, a graduate student doing research on national science policy

Since 1964 Canada has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the West. Our rate has been second only to that of Ireland where chronic unemployment has driven more than one man to drink. The general thrust of unemployment is beginning to make itself felt in corners of the manpower market hitherto unaffected, especially highly qualified manpower including qualified scientists and engineers.

"There have been recent reports of current large scale unemployment of persons holding Ph. D. degrees, as well as forecasts suggesting future employment difficulties." So says a report of the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools (CAGS).

CAGS finds new Ph. D. unemployment in 1970-71 to have been only 4%. This was below the general 6% level of that time. The report concludes that Ph. D. employment difficulties are exaggerated.

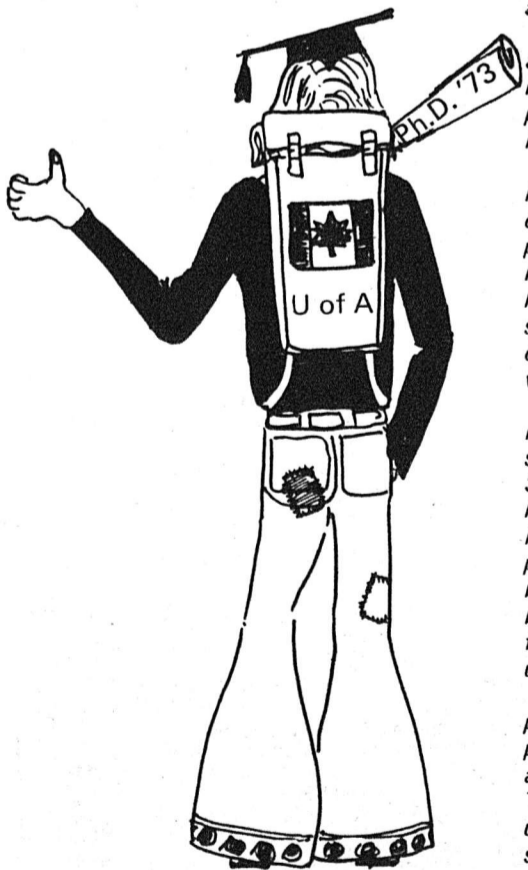
Though, employment of Ph. D's in industry and university is falling according to the CAGS survey. These two have been the main employers of Ph.D's in the past. However, the slack created here has been taken up, CAGS says, by expanded Ph.D. employment elsewhere. Elsewhere is shown in the tables of the CAGS report to be "other" and consists of self-employment, consultation, high school teaching and "a variety of other jobs."

No cause for optimism seems warranted by these findings. The expanded areas of Ph.D. employment identified by CAGS are neither expansive nor elastic.

They are not expansive because no new employment opportunities are being created and occupied by Ph.D.'s. Rather Ph.D.'s are superceding other persons qualified for those jobs, as in the case of high school teaching.

They are not elastic because they are contingent upon factors like interest rates which are just as tied to the general economic state as Ph.D. employment in university is.

That some Ph.D.'s have been absorbed in this way is certainly true. It is equally true that it has not been many and often it has been at the expense of other highly qualified workers. Further such employment is not likely to make the fullest use of



the Ph.D.'s training. Hence it is underemployment.

Moreover, although acknowledging the existence of over 500 Canadians who received the Ph.D. in the U.S.A. in 1970-71, more than half of whom returned immediately to Canada, CAGS does not report on their employment rate. Nor does CAGS report on their impact on the total Ph.D. situation.

Yet surely there is a considerable impact since this group represents a 20% increase in the Ph.D. stock. The percent of Canadians returning can be expected to rise as the U.S.A. bars foreigners from employment to protect domestic labor.

Worse remains to come for the crunch in Ph.D. employment has yet to be felt. Perusal of Statistics Canada, Economic Council and Science Council data reveals that the explosion of Ph.D.'s onto the market begins this year. The example of 1971 will be inapplicable now.

Between 1969 and 1971 the increase in Ph.D. production was about 100, from 1400 in 1969 to 1500 in 1971. The 1973 increase over 1971 will be 1,000, from 1,500 to 2,500. The nebulous employment category of "other" may absorb 96 of 100. Will it absorb 960 or 1,000?

Graduating Ph.D.'s in 1976 are estimated at 4,500. And of course all the while there will be similar increases in the number of Canadians returning with foreign degrees.

Most discussions of this problem usually attempt to place the blame for Ph.D. unemployment somewhere. Politics being what it is, the politically disorganized Ph.D.'s and the politically inept universities that engaged in mindless and selfish expansion, as if government did not approve the budgets and industrial captains did not sit on boards of governors.

Assignment of blame does not solve the problem of course. Still it may not be an altogether fruitless task. Those who can be implicated in the guilt may be moved to shoulder some of the responsibility of rectification.

To this point, let it be remembered that in the 1960's there existed an unlimited faith in the social benefits of education. None pronounced this faith more tirelessly than government and industry. The Economic Council saw education as underlying all economic expansion. A wide variety of policies were pursued with the aim of enriching the skill of the labor force. Among the more obvious of these were immigration policies which sought and favored the highly educated. And of course where universities existed they were expanded. Where none existed they were built.

Surpluses of highly qualified manpower such as Ph.D.'s were regarded as preferable to shortage. A whole range of government policies arose to ensure that end.

When the policy of surplus was arrived at in the 1960's demand for Ph.D.'s far exceeded indigenous production. Thus Ph.D.'s were imported.

Meanwhile, hastening to raise indigenous production led to a considerable investment in Ph.D. production. Once the basic threshold of Ph.D. employment was reached, however, the demand grew much more slowly in the latter 1960's. Now it is clear, but only in retrospect, that there was an overinvestment.

It is also clear that the present reductions in Ph.D. programs will be seen at some later time as excessive. Some years from now a shortage of Ph.D.'s will exist. Ph.D.'s will again be imported. Surplus Ph.D.'s from this period will have grown obsolete between now and then and so will not be suitable. Nothing grows obsolete faster than unused knowledge and unfertilized intellect.

In choosing a policy of surplus in preference to the risk of shortage, a policy was chosen which adversely affects individuals and not collectivities. The unemployment and underemployment which results from surplus is born by individuals separately. Contrastingly, the slowdown affect of shortage is born upon broader collective shoulders.

No less important than the individual suffering involved in this unemployment is the considerable economic waste which results. Waste not in having trained these Ph.D.'s, that is water under the bridge, waste in not utilizing them.

While government and industry have complained and still complain that Ph.D.'s eschew the practical work of governing or making money, any Ph.D. or near Ph.D. who has applied for such jobs knows that it is the potential employers who are uninterested and not the potential employees.

Fenny wise and pound foolish is the present policy of freezing university growth. Depending on discipline, it costs between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to produce a Ph.D. Ph.D.'d constitute 3% of students and absorb about 25% of costs.



Of the forthcoming 10,000 Ph.D.'s it is safe to say that the majority will never be fully utilized as either producers or consumers. That is an investment of one billion tax dollars which is sacrificed.

Failure to take advantage of this costly human resource by seeing the opportunity it offers, that is the waste. The first step is for university administrators and government educationalists to see the Ph.D. surplus as an opportunity and not a disaster for which someone (else) must be made to pay.

Further impetus is given to the desire for the utilization of the anticipated Ph.D.'s when it is realized that they are more qualified than their predecessors of the 1960's. Such is the course of educational progress by which students surpass their teachers. This is especially true since so many of our employed Ph.D.'s are imported. Imports generally are those less able to penetrate and adjust to their domestic market. Unpleasant but inescapable is the reality that our 1960's imports are the less skilled of a less advanced period as compared to the Canadian Ph.D.'s now produced.

Finally, the unemployed Ph.D.'s which are anticipated are more likely than their predecessors to have either a Canadian Ph.D. or citizenship. Stabilizing universities now effectively keeps non-Canadians in and Canadians out.

It is not odd that at a time of national awakening when cultural awareness is at a peak, universities, the traditional purveyors of most of Western culture, are attacked or, even worse, ignored by an unholy alliance of self-styled radical students and plainly conservative governments? How can there be a Canadian culture if there is no institution whose task it exclusively is to value, collect, expand and understand that culture? If there is no culture, then is there a nation?

Who is going to read all those Canadian books the Government of Ontario's Commission on Book Publishing is going to see published, if it is not people educated in universities? Are people going to be exposed to the development of Canadian ideas if Canadian Ph.D.'s are not in universities?

Universities have a place in our culture if our culture is to consist of more than Icelandic dancing or German cooking. If culture is more than picturesque ways imported from other lands, then perhaps it is ideas. Where else are ideas valued and stored if not in universities? Where then are Canada's ideas? Partly in a crop of forthcoming Ph.D.'s whose ideas may never reach fruition.