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The Voice of UNB

**BOMBERS'
BIG GAME**

(see page four)

NFCUS PRESSES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR IMMEDIATE STUDENT TAX RELIEF

by ROY DAVIS

Editor's Note: The following report is both a news story and an editorial. We deem it of sufficient importance to print in full on the front page of the *Brunswickan* because its contents and thoughts directly affect all university students.

The National Federation of Canadian University Students (NFCUS) is a body representing the interests of Canadian students, just as its name implies. This organization has been pressing the Federal Government for a remedy to the present situation under which students and their parents are taxed on income which is intended to finance University education—both through Income Tax and through Unemployment Insurance deductions from the pay of students who work during the summer months (and cannot collect UIC benefits).

We are first to admit that there are both pros and cons to be considered in adopting any such program. Students do not want to create the impression of asking for a handout, but believe their cause is justified. In return, they rightfully expect their requests to be seriously considered by the Federal Cabinet.

At the recent NFCUS Congress held at Dalhousie University the story of this campaign was brought to light. Since it directly concerns every student it will be described here.

The topic of income tax exemptions came up for debate in the House of Commons on April 30, 1959. At that time, the Honorable Donald Fleming, Minister of Finance, seemed to think that students were doing very well indeed in their summer jobs. In response to a question on the topic from an Opposition MP, he said "if we had been able in our summers to earn the sums university students are able to earn today we would have considered ourselves very well off. In those days we did not earn more than a fraction of the sums we are discussing today."

It was after he made this statement that Mr. Fleming was reminded of the declining value of the dollar and the increased costs of a University education since the time he was a student.

He continued his remarks, "... the experience of those of us here who were university students ... was that there were not many students then who finished their university course without having incurred some debt which they had to work off in the early days of their earning careers."

Yes, Mr. Fleming, this may well be true. In fact it still holds true today. But that is the purpose of our request. You see, the fact that this situation is true does not mean it is just. Certainly (to use an oft cited example) thinking is much different in the USSR. Many Western democracies, such as Great Britain, recognize the value of a university education as an investment in one of their prime natural resources.

As a result of his remarks, Mr. Fleming was sent the following letter by NFCUS:

National Federation of Canadian University Students
National Secretariat
375 Rideau
Ottawa, Canada

August 30, 1960

The Honourable Donald Fleming
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Copies of the Hansard of April 30th, 1959, incorporating comments expressed during a debate with regard to income tax exemptions for parents of students enrolled in Canadian universities and married students, were included in the working papers of the NFCUS National Congress, held in Saskatoon in October, 1959.

At that time the delegates from 34 universities and colleges adopted the following resolution—the first of its kind in the history of the NFCUS:

"That the XXIII Congress go on record as deploring the remarks on university student problems made by the Honorable Donald Fleming in his speech in the House of Commons on the 30th of April, 1959, and that he is informed of this resolution."

Your comments irritated the delegates, not mainly because of the opposition to the NFCUS-CAMSI proposals, but in view of the logic which indicated that you did not seem to agree that Higher Education is prohibitive in cost. They implied in part that students today were earning fabulous sums of money during the summer recess. It is evident that to assess the condition objectively, we must rely upon averages, not upon particular cases.

If we relate the average cost to the parent and to the student of spending one year in university to the amounts contributed by parents and students, we cannot maintain a

passive or indifferent attitude to those who more than anyone else—and this must be made clear—contribute heavily to Higher Education: parents and students spend as much in one year as the combined operating expenditures incurred by our universities in one year.

In 1956-57, 59 per cent of the parents of a sample involving 10,000 university students contributed cash donations averaging \$552, while 88 per cent of the students who were working during the summer saved an average of \$507. If we relate the \$552 contributed by parents to the average earnings of Canadians in 1957 (approximately \$3,600), it is clear that since family income for "one half of the students was less than \$5,000, sending a son or daughter to college must have involved considerable sacrifice on the part of many families."

This is the reason for asking some relief and incentives for those who shoulder too large a burden of Higher Education's cost.

I remember stating at the conclusion of our interview during the spring of 1959 that unless our Government recognized that education deserved priority rating—as much at least as defence—we could discuss the issue endlessly without results.

University students face constant increases in expenditure. The cost of spending one year at university will reach from \$1500-\$2000 in 1960. The serious unemployment conditions have also considerably decreased the earning of students since 1956-57.

It is unfortunate that the selection of the most qualified students depends to such a degree upon a variable such as employment opportunities.

We noted in the April 30th Hansard report that you have left the question of tax exemptions open for review.

Although no action has been taken last year, perhaps some plans have been made during the interim. If so, we should be pleased to report them to our National Congress to be held September 17-22 at Dalhousie University, Halifax.

Thank you, Sir, for your kind attention.

Yours very truly,
André L'Heureux
Executive Secretary

This letter was sent to the Minister with the intention of obtaining some information as to the Government's plans. The importance which Mr. Fleming places on Canada's University students may be seen from his reply, reproduced in its entirety.

CANADA
MINISTER OF FINANCE

Ottawa, August 31, 1960

Mr. André L'Heureux
Executive Secretary
National Federation of Canadian University Students
Le Droit Building
375 Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. L'Heureux:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 30th. No changes affecting income tax exemptions for university students were made at the 1960 session of parliament.

Yours very truly,
Donald M. Fleming.

Mr. Edmund Morris, PC Member of Parliament for Halifax, told the NFCUS Congress that the recent change of government in Quebec brought a change in attitude toward Higher Education there. With a Federal Election nearing, we wonder if the same would apply in Ottawa.

DEADLINE—This year in an effort to get the student directory out as early as possible, the deadline for corrections has been set at noon, Saturday, October 1. Slips of paper with corrections clearly printed may be left in pouches to be found on campus or mailed to P.O. Box 95, Aitken House. If you missed filling out a card entirely, please provide the following details: name in full, home and Fredericton address, local telephone number, course and year. Should you fail to send in these corrections your listing will be incorrect or in some cases no listing will be possible.

Visiting Choir Sunday Feature

L'Orphéon des Trois Rivières, an excellent French-Canadian choir comes to sing at UNB this Sunday evening at 8.30 pm in Memorial Hall. This choir's delight in singing has been evident wherever they have gone; they are amateurs who sing for the love of it. Last year they sang in Ottawa, Syracuse and Albany. The previous years they have sung in Boston, Washington and New York. Although they are amateurs, their standards are of professional excellence, and their technique has been widely praised for its finish and brilliance. The choir's program gives a wide selection of the humorous and serious, ancient and modern, Russian and English songs. The *Song of the Volga Boatman*, for example, appears on their program as *Les Batailleurs de la Volga*.

This year, their concert tour is dedicated to the young people of the universities in the Province of New Brunswick and they will be at UNB this Sunday in the Memorial Hall Auditorium at 8.30 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Senior Photo Deadline Oct. 31

Yearbook officials report that unless all seniors immediately get on the ball and send in their photographs and writeups, they will have no alternative but to leave them out. Seniors have exactly one month, deadline October 31, to get their material to the Yearbook staff.

Following are details concerning photos and writeups which must be carefully noted.

Photos

Quotes have been received from both Harvey's and Stone's Studios. The quotes are posted on the bulletin boards in all the major buildings on the campus. Appointments must be made with the studios immediately, because of the large number of seniors. Gowns, bow ties and shirt fronts will be supplied by the photographer. The studios have requested that the male students

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Bridge Club Resumes Action

The UNB Duplicate Bridge Club will hold an organizational meeting next Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm in the Oak Room of the Student Centre.

Club President, Jim Murphy has reported that important items on the agenda are, election of a Secretary-Treasurer, establishment of a teaching schedule for beginners and advanced players, and preparation for an Intercollegiate Bridge Tournament.

All former members are urged to be present to voice their opinions in these vital matters. Other students wishing to learn the game or freshmen with Bridge experience are cordially invited.

A social evening will be held after the termination of business.