

Hohol gives statement...

Students may share housing

Students may share government-subsidized housing with other lower-income groups in the future, Alberta's minister of advanced education said recently.

"One of the problems with housing designed for a particular occupational group is there is a down period, i.e. the summer time for student housing," Dr. Bert Hohol said in an interview.

"This causes a real problem, economically, in making public housing feasible."

Dr. Hohol said one of the ways he individually recommends for alleviating such economic "down" periods is by balancing different occupational groups within single housing projects.

He said any government housing projects, either on or off-campus, would likely be large enough to house students and other people on low incomes.

But he said, whichever decision the government makes with regards to student housing, it must be made very soon.

"We'll have to come to grips with the problem quickly," he said. "That there should be a housing policy for students is a fact."

Hohol said government studies, such as a final report on student housing issued by his department this summer, and student group representations to his office, had shown him the need for a housing policy.

But he said policy adopted by the government would not include the type of specifics recommended by the departmental report issued this summer.

The report said it required a great deal more information on student housing preferences before final policy could be established.

And although the report was supposedly a "springboard" for a student housing policy in the near future, it did not indicate to the government specific areas for improvement.

Instead, the report gave housing reports for most post-secondary campuses in Alberta.

"I won't say I didn't like the report," said Dr. Hohol, "because it catalogues

some useful content and information. But it did work within terms of reference that were established before I came into the department.

"And policy with the specificity implied in the report will be impossible to establish."

Hohol said the government would probably make only a general, broad policy statement because the locations and situations of Alta's post-secondary campuses are so different.

But he said his government would be examining the situation closely and make a policy statement quickly.

He would not say how soon "quickly" would be.

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Red Deer students' unions say no walk-out on Oct. 14

College and high school students in Red Deer have rejected a request by the Red Deer General Strike Committee to walk out of their classrooms Oct. 14.

In written statements compiled Friday afternoon, following the strike committee's Friday morning request to walk out, students' union presidents at Red Deer College and Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School said they would not support labor in its day of protest.

College SU president Randy Preece said the request "was not in the best interests of students."

"Although we recognize that wage and price controls are fallable, we also recognize that controls, properly instituted, are the best way for regaining pre-1970 growth and inflation patterns."

High school student president Ted McNamee was much harsher on the strike committee than was the college executive.

"We believe that in a democracy the elected government should run the country, not organized unions."

At Camille J. Lerouge Collegiate, Red Deer's other high school, the student council will meet this week to discuss the issue said SU president Margaret Miller.

Dr. Bill Forbes, president of Red Deer College, said Friday students would be making better use of their energies by supporting National Student Day Nov. 9, than the Oct. 14 day of protest.

"Since half the students at the college are in university transfer programs they will not be entering the working force until long after the federal government's control period will have ended," he said.

The majority of the other half, said Dr. Forbes, are first-year students, and thus will not enter the working force full time until the restraint period has ended.

Not only have students in Red Deer rejected the day of protest, but the Public School Board has as well.

In a meeting held earlier this month the school board passed a motion going on record as opposing the Canadian Labor Congress' day of protest.

Frances Craigie, school board chairman, said the move was in line with previous motions by the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Alberta School Trustees' Association

Senate disputes fee hike

The plight of foreign students touched off a wave of concern among the members of Senate on Friday.

Foreign students are facing increased tuition fees for next year if Bert Hohol, minister for Advanced Education, is able to push it through the legislature.

Howard Hoggins, SU executive vp, emphasized the small proportion (4.62%) of foreign students at the U of A. A foreign student, he explained, holds a student visa and a student with landed immigrant status has legal residence status in Canada.

"It's imperative for everyone to understand that a 'foreign face' does not necessarily mean a foreign student," said Hoggins.

One member of Senate, Ed Lewis, felt that anti-foreign student feelings were related to an emotionalistic and nationalistic trend in Canada. "The facts are interesting, the statistics are nice, but somehow you've got to get past this (emotional barrier)," he stated.

"If our government would take actual leadership and point out the facts to the people much of this irrational fear of foreign students would disappear," Pres. Gunning asserted.

"There is a tendency to develop a scapegoat. Unfortunately the facts do not quite bear it out," added Gunning.

According to Hoggins, in the year 72-73, the foreign student population accounted for 6.62% of the U of A student population. The following year the foreign student population declined to 4.28%. The year 75-76 saw a further decline to 4.26%. Charles Lockwood made

reference to a "visible well-heeled minority" saying "I think we're going to have to look more at the financial ability of foreign students."

SU Executive refuses support

The U of A Students' Union executive Mon. announced they will not support the Canadian Labor Congress in its day of protest Oct. 14 against the federal government's wage and price controls.

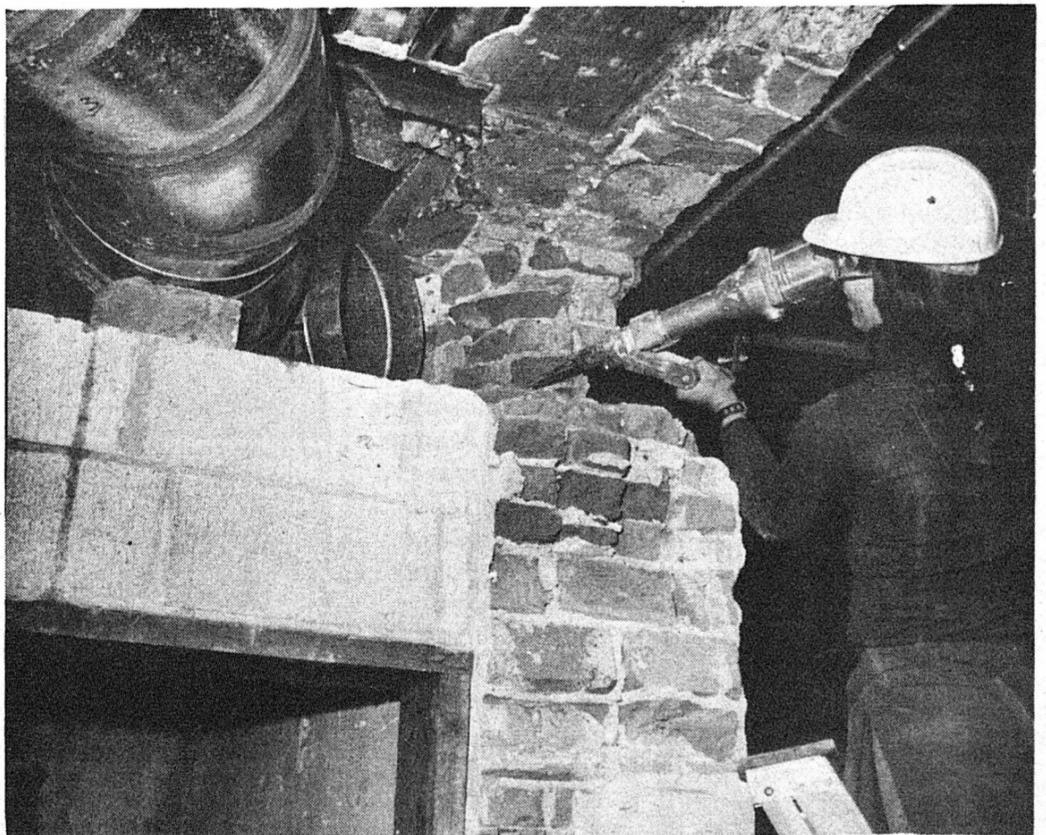
Although the executive admitted that "such controls have not been adequately instituted to date," they said they could not support involvement in a national walkout which might be illegal, and which would have a detrimental effect on the Canadian economy.

"We can't say whether our

opinions reflect the opinions of the 20,000 students on campus," SU president Len Zoeteman said, "and students will have to abide by their own consciences on Oct. 14."

"But we can't support a protest of questionable legal outcome where, in a number of cases, people are breaking contractual agreements."

Zoeteman said his executive also felt students had nothing to gain by walking out of class because they are paying to study on campus and are not workers.



Athabasca Hall gets \$1.8 million facelift.

Jackhammers jolt the foundations of Athabasca Hall, making room for upgraded ventilation. The entire interior of the building is being demolished, leaving only the outer shell of one of the oldest buildings on campus.

When the sixteen month renovation job is completed next summer, Athabasca will house academic

and administrative offices.

Assiniboia Hall is next in line to be restored, though structural alterations make it a much more expensive operation. Still, renovations have been approved by the Board of Governors' Building Committee. The Hall will serve as residence but until funding for renovations is available, it continue to be used by the university as office space.

Photo Don Truckey