

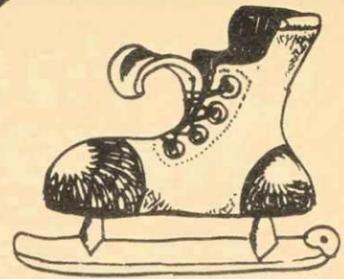
Killam Library,  
C/O Special Collections  
Department,  
Dalhousie University.

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## Moratorium lifted, maybe

# Nicholson promises \$5 million to Nova Scotia universities

In his speech to the Legislature on February 23, Finance Minister Nicholson gave away what amounted to the Nova Scotian university Christmas bonus (two months late), and coughed up \$5-million to the ever-waiting monoliths.

In a vaguely worded speech, Nicholson stipulated that the money was to be used for "capital and debt retirement."

Interpreted very rigidly, his speech meant that the universities could only use the money to retire capital debt. Apparently, no one was prepared to interpret rigidly. Before the speech was over, rumours were already flying that Dalhousie's share of the money would be used to help finance a new Athletic Complex, and perhaps even help to start the new Dental School.

Nicholson has said nothing to date on the subject to make anyone doubt that this interpretation is anything but the correct one. On March 1, at the reception for Intro-Dal '73, Nicholson, matching cocktails with a beaming Dr. Hicks, intimated that this was an attempt at partially lifting the building moratorium.

The money comes at a time when financial restrictions are making more than one university president start to loosen his collar. With the drop in enrolment, many universities have had to face faculty cut-backs and ad hoc departmental budgetary paring.

However, not one of them is apparently going to use the

money for anything other than expansionary purposes.

The week before the budget was presented, Dr. David Owen Carrigan, President of "the other place," had unveiled a proposed plan of expansion for St. Mary's. The plan included a

could be built, and one opposite the Tupper Building, where the Dental Building could be built.

Dalhousie will probably waste little time in beginning these facilities. The School of Physical Education is presently operating in substandard

### THE OTHER ITEMS

Nicholson's budget didn't just bring great tidings to the universities. Others benefited, as well.

\$200,000 was added to the amount of money available for hospital construction. Maybe

he'd stop having to worry about his "Chronicle-ly" ill Halifax Transit white elephant.

Perhaps Nicholson ignored our mayors, but he attempted not to ignore too many other regions of disparity. He provided for an increase of \$350,000 in Legal Aid expenditures by the province.

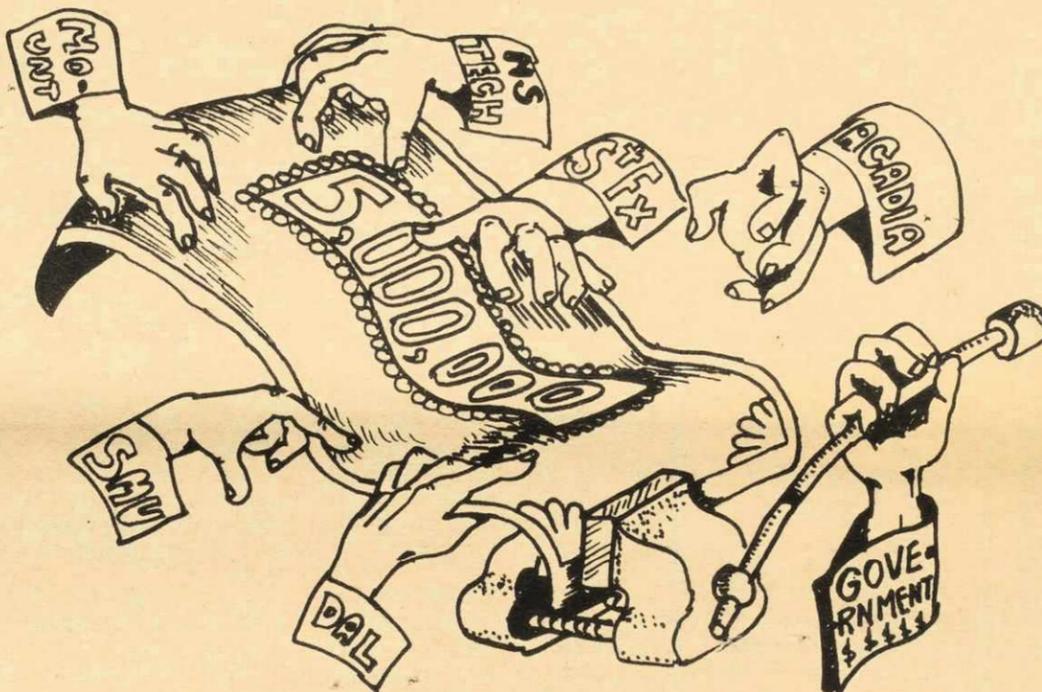
Nicholson stated that the money spent on Legal Aid would be "offset by projected recoveries from Canada." We took that to mean that we were now the sovereign state of Nova Scotia (?).

Other monies went to increasing probation services, while still more went to pay for R.C.M.P. costs and the new provincial magistrates and courts at Kentville and Digby. That just means that the new courts, etc., will help ensure that there are people to probate in the future, so that the provinces money can keep on being spent.

The province is expecting to increase the size of clothing that will be exempted from hospital tax, so that harried parents who might be paying extra as a result of children being taller and heavier at a particular age than they were when the tax first became effective, will be finally saving money.

Other tax cuts saw Indians on Reserve land exempted from paying hospital tax on everything, except automotive parts.

The budget was a balanced one, and provided for a slight surplus of \$65,680.



provision for a new library to be located next to the chapel reading room.

Although Dalhousie hasn't officially stated where their fair share will be going, it is pretty obvious that there are two vacant lots, one on South St., where the Athletic Complex

quarters, and needs the new complex as soon as possible. It will remain to be seen just how long it will be before the mysterious \$500,000 grant from an unidentified corporation, (which was to go towards building the new complex, if started before the end of 1972) will reappear, to make the building of this facility so much easier.

In addition, expansion of the Dental School will do much more than help to relieve the drastic shortage of dentists in the province. For every new dental student, the university can expect an additional 5 B.I.U. (basic income units). At approximately \$1,200 per B.I.U., this means an additional \$6,000 per student, or \$6,000 additional operating revenue for the university's near-empty coffers.

Since the emphasis now is on students to apply to professional schools, Dalhousie, with the only graduate and professional schools, in the province, will be the only university that could be expected to benefit from this minor lifting of monetary restrictions by the province. Libraries don't necessarily bring with them new classroom facilities, or guarantee new students.

Nicholson should have taken the entire fund and dumped it into Dartmouth Mayor Thornhill's lap, to give him a subtle hint.

\$576,000 will be used to write off the cost of main roads in the Sackville Housing Project. Maybe that money should have gone to Mayor Fitzgerald, so

## Budget

<b>Special Assistance to Municipalities</b>	<b>\$2,750,000</b>
<b>Dental Health</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Drug Dependency, Treatment and Rehabilitation</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Recreational Services</b>	<b>\$1,858,000</b>
<b>Assistance to the Aged</b>	<b>\$5,200,000</b>

## Highlights

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