

Carleton gets mad

OTTAWA (CUP) More than 600 angry Carleton University students got a chance to ask Ontario Colleges and Universities Minister Bette Stephenson about the government's tuition fee increase in a bearpit meeting Tuesday.

But they left unhappy with the Minister's answers.

Stephenson stood her ground as student after student assailed provincial government cutbacks of post-secondary education funding and the 7.5 per cent tuition fee increase, to be implemented in 1980-81. The increase, announced on New Year's Eve, will be complemented by an additional fee increase of up to 10 per cent, to be introduced at the discretion of the individual institutions.

"How can you stand in front of us and defend what you and the Conservative government have done to the funding of universities?" asked one student exasperated by Stephenson's stonewalling of student questions.

But Stephenson refused to get upset, despite lengthy cheering and applause after the question and restated her

policies on educational funding.

"We all have to learn to live within our means," she replied.

"There is not an infinite amount of money to support all those institutions the government funds. Right at the present time it 'post-secondary education funding' will not meet the level of inflation.

Anne McGrath, University of Ottawa student president, introduced herself in French and then continued: "Now I'm going to switch to English because I know you don't understand French. And I'm not very sure you even understand English."

"What you call 'modifications', I call tuition fee increases. What you call 'accessibility', I call steaming and what you call 'challenges', I call obstacles," she said, referring to phrases used by Stephenson in her responses to questions.

The student audience erupted with several minutes of applause when McGrath finished.

Another student questioned Stephenson's claims that the province could not afford to spend more on education and mentioned the large profits of a multinational paper company operating in Ontario.

"It seems to me you and your government are too damned scared of big business."

"I'm not damned scared of anybody," Stephenson retorted in her only show of anger.

The Minister was also criticized for refusing to increase the weekly living allowance of students on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). OCUA had recommended to be increased to \$80 from the current \$65.

A representative of the Carleton Engineering students told the minister that the Civil Engineering Department faces the loss of accreditation by the professional engineering association because funding cuts have reduced facilities and increased the student-teacher ratio. He said the department was given only two years to rectify the situation.

"Oh really?" replied Stephenson, who said the engineers should take up their complaints with the university administration because it is responsible for directly funding the faculties.

Carleton student president Kirk Falconer summed up the feeling of students after the meeting.

"It's a big crock. The provincial government has not demonstrated a real financial commitment to universities. The fact is that we do not need more 'imagination'. We need more money."

Judge comes to campus

Young lawyers are even more eager than their counterparts fifty years ago, says a former Supreme Court judge lecturing on campus this week.

"Perhaps I shouldn't admit it, but I think they work harder," says The Honourable Wishart F. Spence, who has been lecturing law students on the Supreme Court since Monday.

Spence retired in late 1978 after serving as appointee from Ontario to the Court for fifteen years.

These are not his first lectures to a university class, though. "From time to time all of us (Supreme Court judges) did visit law schools, because it is our very real desire to have the law profession, and particularly students, aware of what is going on. We don't want to be a far-away, cloistered group in Ottawa."



The Honourable W.F. Spence

Spence received the gold medal at Osgoode Hall Law School in Ontario in 1928 and did graduate studies at Harvard.

He says the Canadian legal system is beginning to emphasize both corporate law and individual rights more than it has in the past.

"As a nation grows up, things change...but they don't also necessarily get more interesting."

Spence will lecture on various subjects connected with the Supreme Court's jurisdiction until Friday.

FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE

University regulations provide that the last day for payment of the second instalment of fees and for payment of fees for Second Term only registrants is January 15, 1980. A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment received after that date.

The regulations further state that should payment not be made by January 31st, registration will be subject to cancellation.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller, 3rd floor, Administration Building, or by mail addressed to the Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller, The University of Alberta.

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Salary: under review

For further information, please contact:
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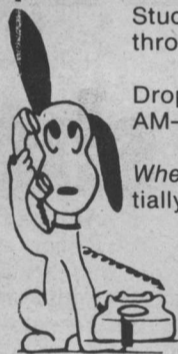
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