

# There's a sucker born...

by Greg Halinda

The federal government wants to lend two thousand dollars to any student running their own business this summer.

Such is the intent of Student Business Loans, one of several student summer employment programs funded by the Mulroney government this year.

The loans, interest-free until October 3, 1986, will be assessed by the Federal Business Development Bank (FBDB), and will be handled by the Royal Bank of Canada. The money must be repaid in full on or before October 3.

Since the money in question is not a grant but a 'real' loan, students must plan their business carefully to ensure a profit. "There is a high risk for the student whose venture bombs," says Ken Bosman, SU external commissioner. "The

program is scaring a lot of students away because it can affect their chances of getting a student loan next year."

Pat Hanson, program officer with the Employment Development Branch, realizes the responsibility the student assumes in taking out a Student Business Loan: "A student has to want to work, to have that commitment for setting up a business."

Help is available for the prospective student entrepreneur before the business gets rolling. "There will be training courses through the FBDB and the process of obtaining the loan is simpler than last year (less running around for the student). I think it's a really good program and students have lots of lead time to get ready," Hanson says.

Will the program create jobs? "The Student Business Loans pro-

gram won't reduce the student unemployment rate significantly," says Barb Donaldson, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"Last summer, \$1.1 million was spent on the program and 290 jobs resulted. The return in jobs isn't worth it. The PC's want to emphasize entrepreneurship, but are spending too much for the result — they're following a principle to an unproductive end," says Donaldson.

The CFS is not satisfied with the government's efforts to keep students working this summer. Donaldson says there were 16,000 unemployed students in Alberta last summer. "This summer, less money will be spent creating jobs and the unemployment rate will still be intolerably high," she says. "More money is needed."

# Koziak hopeful for youth

by K. Graham Bowers

Municipal Affairs Minister Julian Koziak estimated yesterday that 14,000 person-years of direct employment will be created by a new provincial government program announced Monday.

Koziak, who received his Arts and Law degrees here, came to speak to the University of Alberta Progressive Conservative Club on the topic of what last Thursday's Speech from the Throne contained for youth in Alberta. However, he actually concentrated on government programs and priorities. He pointed out that the Speech from the Throne provided a framework for the government, and that the details will be in the budget, which is being unveiled tonight.\*

The Municipal Partnership and Local Employment Program will provide \$500 million over 8 years to municipalities for job creation. Koziak says the money will be granted with no strings attached. The municipalities will be asked only to report what they did with the money so the government can assess the success of the program.

The Throne Speech identified the government's three main priorities as agriculture, jobs, and senior citizens.

In agriculture, the government is setting aside \$2 billion dollars for loans to Alberta farmers at 9% financing. According to Koziak, this is possible because Alberta can borrow at very low interest rates due to our \$14 billion Heritage Savings Trust Fund and a triple-A credit rating, the best rating that a government can have.

In the job creation field, there is the new municipal job creation program and promises that "water management, irrigation, and erosion programs will be funded to create construction jobs throughout the province. A large, extensive capital works program and road construction program will be detailed in the budget. Job creating major energy projects with long-term benefits to Alberta and Canada will be strongly supported."

Koziak said of job creation programs, "I'm not pleased that they're necessary, but I am pleased that we're able to respond."

He went on to say, "I won't talk here today about our third priority, which is senior citizens, although we all aspire to be there some day, I'm sure."

Instead he warned that we must not panic over oil prices because "we're not dealing with the buggy whip here. The demand is there and it will be there." He added that "we have the fiscal strength to deficit finance," although declining to say how much the provincial deficit will be.

In education, Koziak pointed out the commitment to match private donations to post-secondary institutions dollar for dollar, up to \$80 million in the next five years.

After briefly mentioning the three new departments of Forestry, Tourism, and Technology, Research, and Telecommunications,

Koziak closed by saying, "You're looking at me, but I'm looking at you, and the future of this province depends on where you take it."

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