

Cutbacks to Nova Scotia transfer payments are higher than first calculated

by Gregory Hamara

Unless future federal-provincial negotiations succeed in revising the figures, federal Established Program Financing (EPF) cutbacks to Nova Scotia will amount to six million dollars in 1981-1982, an increase of four million dollars over earlier provincial estimates.

In addition, EPF losses to the provinces could escalate to over \$100 million by 1986-87 -- a 41 per cent hike over the federal government's original prediction of \$71 million as outlined in the November 12 budget.

The new figures were announced last Friday by Dep-

uty Finance Minister Richard Brookfield at a meeting of deputy ministers of EPF-affected departments: health, social services and education.

The revised federal cutback was brought about largely as a result of a \$600 million miscalculation in the original budget figures. Instead of a \$1.9 billion reduction in EPF aid to the provinces, Finance Minister Allan MacEachen conceded, on the eve of last week's finance ministers meeting in Halifax, that Ottawa would be cutting back \$2.5 billion over the next five years.

Nova Scotia post-secondary education policy advisor Dr. Peter Butler said the deputy ministers meeting discussed Ottawa's intention of splitting future federal-provincial education negotiations along separate financial and policy lines.

Under the federal proposal, there would be a January 1982 deadline for settling the question of EPF financial arrangements between Ottawa and the provinces, followed, in April, with negotiations over the future direction of post-secondary education. The federal government hopes to more closely align its national economic objectives with greater university and college emphasis upon technical and vocational training.

To this end, it is expected that the federal secretary of state will announce the establishment of the "Hicks Commission" at next

week's education ministers conference in Toronto. Under the chairmanship of Peter Hicks, an Ottawa civil servant who earlier this year sat as a commissioner on the federal task force on student aid, the commission represents another attempt by Ottawa to grapple with the issue of education and economics.

Butler said that Nova Scotia was firmly opposed to any federal initiatives to separate financing and policy.

"It is a further example of how the feds are attempting to orchestrate matters to their own liking," he said.

At the recent finance ministers meetings, MacEachen stonewalled provincial proposals to extend his January and April deadlines.

In an EPF-related matter, Butler said that, contrary to earlier plans, the reports prepared by his EPF advisory committee

would not be made public prior to Minister of Education Terrence Donahoe's trip to the Toronto education meeting. He said that the December 7 meeting had not been designed as a negotiation session, and that the assembled ministers were not expected to present counter-proposals to the federal government.

"At this point they (the committee's reports) are a bit unnecessary," said Butler.

The committee, composed of university administrators, faculty and student representatives, was created last August to advise Donahoe on the impact of EPF cutbacks on post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. Butler had originally hoped that the committee's report would be released in October, a deadline he subsequently extended a number of times

Senate says 'sorry' to short-term suggestions

by Bruce Galloway

After ten hours of debate spaced over a month long period, Senate voted to reject a report from their own financial planning committee at a special meeting last Friday afternoon.

The controversial report which contained ten short-term recommendations aimed at cutting Dalhousie's growing operating deficit was defeated by a vote of 38 - 26. The report's rejection has led to some serious questions about just what Senate's role is in the university's operations. At Friday's meeting Professor Jones, chairperson of the financial planning committee, told the Senate that unless they approved the report they would be divorcing themselves from the budget process.

Jones warned that the administration would probably carry out many of the report's recommendations regardless of how the Senate voted and to ensure some input into this year's budget a yes vote was essential. His argument failed, however, to convince a majority of senators at the meeting.

Opposition to the report centred on the fact that the majority of the short term recommendations dealt with freezes in the replacing of faculty who leave the university. Professor Chris Axworthy, president of the D.F.A. and who voted against the report, termed it "ill-conceived and lacking any sort of long range planning for academic programs."

Professor Pat Kerans characterized the situation as an attempt to take problems created by past mismanage-

ment on the part of the administration out of the hides of academic programs. Kerans added, "as the situation stands now the Senate has no teeth when dealing with the Board of Governors. The D.F.A. has at least one - our collective agreement."

Pamela Barron, one of the five student representatives on the Senate, voted against the report because she felt that the administration just wanted the blessing of Senate upon recommendations which will be carried out anyway.

At Friday's meeting Vice-President of Finance Robbie Shaw attempted to answer charges from some senators that the administration was dragging its feet in cutting back in non-academic areas. Shaw explained that besides selling two million dollars worth of property the university is liquidating some of the bonds held by Dalhousie. In addition the university is increasing the budget in many areas of the administration by four per cent, a decrease of eight per cent in real terms.

These attempts by administration to reduce the deficit convinced some senators to support the report. Reema Duggal, a student representative felt that the administration was making a conscientious attempt at reducing their budget and voted to approve the report. "Something has to be done somewhere," said Duggal after the meeting, "and some of the recommendations were pretty good." However, she noted that a few of the recommendations were shaky and called her decision "a tough one."

Health team builds unity, starting with a 'Pub in the SUB'

by Cathy McDonald

Lower campus students converged en masse last Thursday night in the Green Room to get their yahoos out at a 'Pub in the Sub' for the health profession faculties.

Nursing, physiotherapy, medicine, dentistry, recreation and pharmacy students were all there, kicking their feet in the air to the music of that grand party-maker, Terry Kelly.

This was a special event, the first co-sponsored by the faculties, to bring the health students together. Judging by the cheers and the dancing, those who came out to the pub were pleased with the idea.

Representatives of each faculty formed a committee two years ago to "promote unity among the health professions and to make students of these faculties aware of each other's roles in patient care". They want to "promote good working relations, respect and appreciation of the members of the health team", and to have some fun, according to Krista Connel, a physio student.

Formed to address the isolation of the various faculties, the committee seeks to reduce misconceptions of each other's responsibilities that can lead to unfounded abuse.

The physiotherapists-in-training seem to have the biggest complaint, that doctors "treat them like shit". The professionals automatically transfer this attitude to the students and



Cheney/Dal Photo

Terry Kelly entertained students from the health profession faculties at the 'Pub in the SUB' in the Green Room last Thursday.

the disrespect continues, explained one physio student.

A medical student said "It's not that the (med students) won't come down off their high horses, it's that we don't know what other people are responsible for."

Pharmacy students described their society as "getting along with everybody" but as introverted and "very involved with itself and its own activities".

To achieve the committee's second goal, faculties will be setting up booths or tables some time in the coming term to inform each other of what the different professions do.

Many thought that "For the

Health of It", a series of skits put on by health faculty students this term at the Queen Elizabeth High School, was an excellent time, and that more people from the Dalhousie community should have come.

A unanimous opinion among persons interviewed was that students taking courses on lower campus are extremely cut off from the rest of Dalhousie.

"There's nothing you can do about it," said one woman. She lamented that although she used to be involved with campus activities when living at Shirreff Hall, she now only makes it up to the SUB for the occasional splash.