

Papers show force will advise students take costs

OTTAWA (CUP) -- The Ontario Federation of Students at a Jan. 31 press conference, released restricted government documents in their possession that show a federal provincial task force on student aid will recommend that students bear the full cost of post-secondary education almost entirely through loans.

The task force has been meeting in private since last August, releases no minutes of its meetings and does not allow press coverage. The task force is composed of

federal, Canada Student Loan Plan reps and reps of provincial education ministries.

The documents reveal that the government intends to reverse its long-stated policy of universal accessibility to post-secondary institutions.

Those students who are not independently wealthy will be expected to finance their educations through massive loans. For each \$1,000 they have to borrow, they will have to pledge a certain percentage of their annual income

for a stated number of years, probably 15 to 20, after leaving school.

"For over a decade students in this country have pointed out the regressive implications of loan schemes in financing and educational system that relies on a tax base of middle and lower middle income wage earners.

"By their very nature loan schemes discriminate against lower income students, making education a luxury product. An

income contingency repayment scheme will further restrict access to post-secondary institutions," stated an OFS release distributed at the press conference.

Repeatedly, students have shown that the only way to achieve an open and universally accessible post-secondary system is by removing tuition fees and providing living stipends to students.

Education, students have said, is a social right and should be financed through a progressive income tax, rather than through, in effect, doubly taxing those who enter the post-secondary system, the release continued.

OFS is also concerned with the documents' thrust to arbitrarily divide the costs students incur into so-called "educational" and

"social" or subsistence costs.

Apparently members of the task force do not consider a student's living expenses and the costs of supporting any dependents legitimate concerns of a student aid program. OFS points out that these major expenditures for students and cannot be considered apart from the cost of tuition and books.

"The fact that the task force supports such a wholly unjustifiable division clearly demonstrates that the concern of the task force and of the governments that have mandated it, is only to provide a mechanism for increasing tuition fees, not for exploring equitable student support plans or for increasing accessibility to post-secondary institutions," stated the release.

Roberts urges letter campaign

WATERLOO (CUP) -- An Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) executive member at the University of Waterloo is urging students on his campus and across Ontario to write to their local members of provincial Parliament protesting the Ontario government's financial cutbacks and to urge their parents to do the same.

Sahen Roberts, the executive member, says that mass street demonstrations, like those urged by Brock University students is not the best or only way to protest the cuts.

"It's far more effective to write your MPP's than to spend a few noisy hours outside Queen's Park demonstrating," he said.

Roberts asked the University of

Waterloo (UW) Federation of Students' Council Feb. 2 to send a telegram to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, James Auld, saying that "the cutbacks, with one abstention, passed the motion.

"We must stand up now," he argued, "or the government will mount up more cutbacks." The current cutbacks are just the "beginning of a trend," Roberts stated.

He also called on the student newspaper, the *Chevron* to produce a special issue, as well as placing ads in the local newspaper, the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, to publicly explain the effects the cutbacks will have on the universities.

But Roberts alerted student councillors to the possible negative reaction from the community to the university's financial plight, by quoting a Feb. 1 editorial from the *Record* that condemned students and professors at Carleton University for protesting the provincial cutbacks.

The *Record* editorial charged students and faculty with disrespect for the average taxpayer by staging strikes to debate reduced government spending in education, Roberts said.

The cutbacks in education were triggered Nov. 18 when Auld said that overall grants to the university-college system for 1975-76 would be increased by about 16 percent. Ontario university presidents were unanimous in condemning the increase as being in effect, with raging inflation, a cutback, they argued that on a per student basis the provincial grants increased by only 7.4 percent.

OFS spokespersons in Toronto say that while the letter writing isn't really official as it has only been talked about at several meetings they have held, they think it is a good idea and that students should write the letters.

Alberta New Democrat calls for loan abolition

CALGARY (CUP) -- The Alberta New Democratic Party has called for the abolition of student loans and their replacement with a grant system adequate to support post-secondary students through their period of studies.

The proposal was part of a comprehensive education policy adopted at the pre-election

convention held here Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

NDP Leader Grant Notley, criticized Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed's government for spending even a smaller percentage of the provincial budget on education than the Social Credit government ever did.

Notley said, "the objective should not be second class education, but the finest education anywhere in Canada."

Included in the new education policy statement were a series of recommendations aimed at ending sexual and racial inequality in present Alberta school curriculum and counselling practices.

As part of its post-secondary educational policy the NDP called for the re-establishment of the universities and colleges commission with representation from all post-secondary institutions within the province.

This commission would remove the control of post-secondary institutions from the Department of Advanced Education and restore a greater measure of autonomy to the various campuses.

The convention also called for the introduction of non-sexist educational material into Alberta Classrooms.

Sexist curriculum material would not be recommended by a NDP Department of Education. Funding would be provided for the development of alternative material.

The Department of Education would also provide money for community workshops to enable women to develop an understanding of their own life experiences.

Lemay pledges more aid

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Quebec students will get more student aid next year and have less trouble getting it according to Martial Lemay, director of the Quebec Student Loans and Bursaries Program.

Lemay told an audience on the Loyola campus of Concordia University that the 1975-76 loan program would eliminate the use of parental contributions to students in calculating loans and diminish the importance of parents income in determining bursaries.

He also said that while there had been delays in the aid program recently, 3,000 replies had been mailed out, "that should clear up the backlog."

Over 53,000 loan applications were received this year and of that 88 percent received loans with 73 percent getting bursaries as well.

Lemay said the government would not completely remove consideration of parents income in making loans and grants because lower and middle income families expect the rich to support their children's education.

The average parent is expected to contribute \$300 towards their child's education, down from \$500 last year.

Students face large debts

OTTAWA (CUP) -- If the student groups who claim that the government intends to make students pay for the whole cost of their education through loans are right, then students are going to graduate in the future with a mammoth debt to repay.

Using Ontario as an example, the government currently estimates the basic cost per university student per year to be \$2100 for the BA program. If tuitions were raised to this level, as the Ontario Federation of Students predicts, and the living allowance of \$1600 per year were to remain constant, then the total amount that the student would have to borrow for a year's worth of education would be a whopping \$3700.

That means that a support who was not independently wealthy would have to borrow \$11,100 to get a three year BA, and \$14,800 to complete and honours degree.

Students in other programs where course costs are higher would have to borrow even more.



Summer

economy of sharing and develop their pride in and heritage.

ection we have to go now turning our backs on fluences. The only help dian can do is to leave us develop in our own he said.

f T heads

TO (CUP)--The University administration has own on its proposed \$10 to cover costs of the athletic complex. Instead may have to pay more the building is built.

ck down

ly vice-president Jill id that it might not be to ask students to cover and operating costs, so stration has apparently find the \$4 million for x from "other sources."

ern prexy

(CUP)--A wrapped containing a loaded, shotgun, addressed to of Western student ident Mike Janigan, by a student here on

eatened

g to police, the booby- have killed or maimed b handled, opened, or package.

re bore a label reading, return immediately to sity Students' Council el Janigan."

aid that he knew of no uld want to kill him. like that was "really realm of what the ncil deals in," he said, ponded to the call from who found the 18-inch g beside a water college building.

ests revealed that the been wiped clean of and other clues which the person or persons the package.

y they are "at a n their investigation.