

Student occupation begins to show results

The nine-day occupation of the Centennial Building is finally starting to produce some results, although student leaders regard the recent government announcement as a limited success at best.

The government retreated from its stance of a firm "no" to all student demands, indicated willingness to appoint students to an advisory committee and an-

nounced that some additional funds may be available for next year.

The shift in the government stand is a success for the students, but not enough of a success to end the occupation.

The government also admitted concern about the possible shortage of summer jobs for students in light of the present condition of the economy. The

shortage of summer jobs will be a problem next summer which cannot be overemphasised.

Last summer Opportunities For Youth supplied summer jobs for more than 1,600 students in this province. Federal restraints have eliminated the program, and it can be assumed that the restraints will result in fewer jobs available in other federal departments.

With students forced to save a high percentage of their summer earnings the shortage of summer employment will certainly affect the numbers of students attending university next year.

As negotiations with the government continue it appears that government tactics may be to postpone implementing any major changes until June. The student board would meet until June, at which time the findings of the board would be considered by the government.

The question now concerns the advisability of allowing the question to be settled in June. If the results of the June meetings are unfavorable to students there will be little we can do at that time to change the situation, since it is almost impossible to organize students during the summer months.

Some senior government officials say the proposed delay in settling of the student aid question is only to allow the question to quiet down before implementing any of the student demands. They appear worried that other groups may follow the tactics of students to achieve their demands.

Some of the tactics being used against the occupying students have proved to be both childish and ineffectual. Early Sunday morning police officers entered the building to search for a bomb which an anonymous caller said had been placed in the lobby. Other tactics have included late-night noise and other disturbances which apparently were calculated to demoralize and disorganize students.

Students tactics at the occupation have not changed considerably since the beginning of the occupation, although persons entering or leaving the building are now forced to weave their way through a maze of students. As yet no obvious increase in the absentee rate of government employees has resulted from the occupation, and many employees seem successful in ignoring the students.

The students have brought the question of student aid to the notice of the entire country, and other students are watching for results here before attempting changes in their own provinces.

The government is beginning to take the student demands seriously, and the likelihood of success increases with each day of the occupation.

The question now is how long will the students be willing - and able - to continue their efforts.

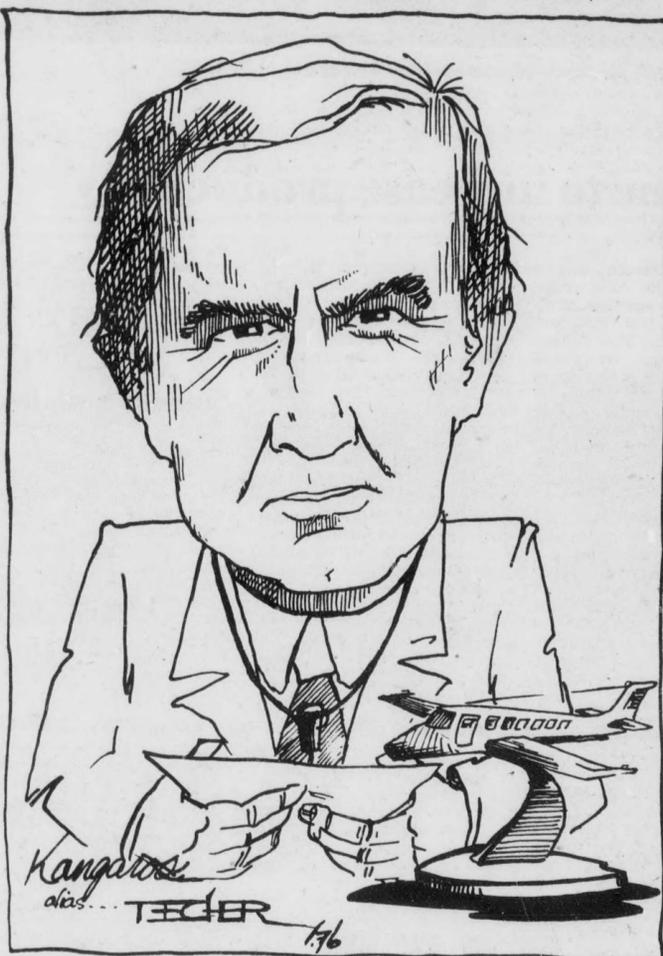
Grants totalling \$2,000 arrived in their support this week, but with food and transportation costs running at about \$250 a day those funds will quickly run out.

However, the Ontario Federation of Students is attempting to raise additional funds, and funds have been pledged from Nova Scotia universities.

The morale of the students is still good, however, and it appears unlikely they will leave until they have more success in negotiations with the government.

The student aid question is not the only problem facing students today. Indications are that tuition increases will occur on many Canadian campuses this year, bringing additional financial hardships to students.

For once students and administrations find themselves fighting the same battle - both need additional funding from the government, funding which is becoming more and more difficult to obtain in the current economic situation.



The economic policy for N.B. is, simply, a decrease in social programs... and an increase in air transport...(heh,heh)...

THE BRUNSWICKAN

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With another fairly unusual p... One candidate present \$45 per irresponsible ac... would mean dra...

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