

MORE CASH FOR MLA'S

Give them more money! That was the recommendation of the Green Commission with respect to monies paid to members of the Nova Scotia Legislature.

If the Commission's suggestions were adopted it would mean a 50% pay increase for members without positions on the Executive Council, to a \$6000 salary and \$3000 expense allowance. In addition, members living 25 or more miles outside Halifax would be reimbursed for 12 return trips per year and given \$20 for each day they sit in the House or on one of its committees.

Effectively, this means that your MLA will be receiving a minimum of \$9000 per annum, or one half the amount paid to federal Members of Parliament. As one Nova Scotia MP said in Ottawa last week, "He'll get one half as much money for one sixth as much work - with figures like that it would pay to stay away from Ottawa and run locally."

There seems little doubt that this is, in effect, true. How many MLA's deserve \$9000 a year? Does yours? More than likely not. He is required to spend only six weeks away from his place of business looking after the legislative process. Occasionally, if you are lucky, he might also handle selected constituent problems. Most of them are genuinely likeable fellows, yet most lack the ability to inspire confidence, especially when you realize that they are the ones making the laws which govern this province.

Educating the diligent members "at work". The calibre of debate is trying; it is little wonder that three or four always appear to be asleep.

Perhaps this may sound a bit harsh. Many of the members do work extremely hard, but they appear to be more the exception than the rule. Committee work does require some time, but that is all most members give to it - time, not ability, ideas and very rarely intelligence.

Some people may ask why we need intelligent MLA's, since

they should represent the people and the people aren't intelligent - at least if you consider some of their choices they don't appear to be. But this is the most valid argument in favour of increasing members' salaries. Offer more money and perhaps you'll attract more capable people into politics. This argument holds no water except perhaps in the borderline case of a capable individual who could not otherwise afford to leave his business. One could also argue that the prospect of financial gain should not be the main attraction for any sincere political aspirant. However, we are now talking about a change in the total political system, and it will take more than money to do that.

That the Premier should receive more money is a statement no one would question. Whether some members of his Cabinet are in fact deserving is another matter. If one surveys the Premier's Cabinet, it becomes obvious why this capable man seems so overburdened. He must carry the load for several of his Ministers. Again, this is not to say that several of the ministers, in fact four or five of them, are not capable and indeed excellent in their portfolios.

As for the Leader of the Opposition, the Green Commission recommends that he be given an amount equal to that paid a cabinet minister. It is also suggested that he be given a full-time research assistant, offices and a secretary. Whether or not the present Leader of the Opposition is in fact deserving of \$27,000 a year is doubtful. But there can be no doubt that he does deserve and desperately need a full-time paid research assistant. His group in the House is so small and, with the distinguished and notable exception of Peter Nicholson who is one of the most respected and capable members of the Legislature, so unable to penetrate the wall of Government solidarity, that he needs all the help he can get.

OPPOSES BLACK STUDIES

WASHINGTON (CUP-CPS)-- The American department of health, education and welfare has announced that it will use its power (to withhold federal funds from schools which discriminate) against colleges with "autonomous" black studies departments.

That power, which until now has been used only against school districts which segregate their students, also applies to departments or institutions which "discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin" in admission of students or in hiring of teachers, according to HEW officials.

In a memorandum which will be sent to every college president in the country, HEW will warn that "autonomous" black studies programs must be "desegregated" or colleges will face the loss of federal funds.

The first college hit by the ruling is Antioch in Ohio, which has an Afro-American studies institute and an all-black dormitory. The institute is open only to black students at the college, and its classes are held in a special dorm used by black students.

Antioch administration president James Dixon told HEW investigators the program is not in violation of the law since it was created by students' ideas, not the college's. Antioch black students wrote the federal agency that it would be a "cruel joke" to use the civil rights act against the race it was meant to help.

HEW replied by giving Antioch until March 14 to submit a de-segregation plan for the institute. More than \$1.5 million annually in federal assistance can be withdrawn from the college if it fails to comply.

Dixon is presently holding intensive discussions with students in an effort to decide what to do about the ultimatum.

HEW equates the word "autonomous" as applied to black studies departments or programs, with "segregated".

Lapinette by don kerr
 a commercial commercial in comic guise.

some thoughts just shouldn't be thought.

Lapinette was happily hopping windward the other day when a shocking happening happened.

She thought about the impending final exams. now, there are bad thoughts, and there are awful thoughts, but the thought of final exams is in a class by itself.

but, just as Lapinette was about to fling herself off the campus water tower, who should appear beside her but her campus bank manager.

"bad day for you, too, eh?" enquired Lappy.

"heavens, no!" he replied. "I have come to restrain you from this deed."

which is darned good proof that our super managers really care.

"but I did not see you climbing the ladder" she protested. "you truly are supermanager."

you see, any old bank can have a manager, but only a bank of montreal campusbank rates a supermanager.

can our supermanagers really fly? well, nobody knows for sure.

but it's funny that there is always a phone booth somewhere near a campusbank.

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