

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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the bladen commission report

The long-awaited report of the Bladen Commission on Financing Higher Education in Canada, as expected, recommends increased governmental aid, both federal and provincial, to Canadian institutes of higher education. The sheer magnitude of the increase is, however, unexpected.

If the report's recommendations are followed, an increase of one and three-quarter billion dollars over the next ten years will go toward our universities' capital expenditures, operating costs, research grants and towards more financial aid for students.

The report correctly asserts that the total future development of the Canadian nation depends not just upon the maintenance, but upon the expansion and development of the system of higher education. To this end it recommends, in addition to increased financial subsidies, the establishment of a federal ministry of education to co-ordinate aid, increased solicitation of funds from business and private sources, an improvement in administrative efficiency, increased grants to students and the retention of fees.

On the subject of tuition fees, however, it would appear the commission and the Canadian Union of Students are in direct conflict. CUS has recommended the abolition of tuition fees as the first step in the process toward universal accessi-

bility to higher education. The Bladen Commission recommends their retention for, among other things, "the sake of social justice and the magnitude of the expenditures."

According to CUS, the abolition of tuition fees would be a concrete symbol of university's accessibility. It would remove a real social and economic barrier, and provide an incentive to the numerous capable high school students who now forsake any form of higher education.

The report recommends subsidization of graduate students to a degree amounting to free education. This leaves the undergraduate out in the cold, and apparently conflicts with its concept of social justice.

The report says that because university graduates earn higher incomes, it would be unfair to taxpayers who cannot obtain a university education if all tuition fees were abolished. Yet graduates would obviously pay more through taxation on their income, which supports all governmental services including education.

The report recommends massive increases in student aid. These increases plus existing grant funds could easily be applied to tuition fees in general in order to help abolish them. This would enable Canadian universities, through increased incentive to high school students and undergraduates, to realize full educational potential.

a portent of disaster

Mr. Owen Anderson has resigned as leader of the campus Social Credit party, saying he plans to direct his future political efforts along less-partisan channels. Furthermore, he has suggested his continued leadership of that organization would have been little more than a "fruitless pursuit."

Beyond this, we can only guess as to why Mr. Anderson has left the youth wing of a political party which has governed this province for an unbroken thirty-year span.

Social Credit, a party which has been in power longer than any other democratically-elected government in history, now yields its authority through the fifty-nine legislative seats it holds. But Social Credit has exhibited an ever-diminishing amount of active support from Alberta youth.

This statement is borne out by the

inactive and weak Social Credit group on this campus. Last year, there were only about thirty persons attending party meetings at the University of Alberta.

Perhaps Mr. Anderson has separated himself from a political party which discourages ideas which young intellectuals such as himself would like to inject into its framework.

That a political party should dissociate itself from untested and inquiring concepts is unimaginable, for as times change so do society's values. There have been undeniable indications that Premier E. C. Manning is planning to lead a "new" political party into the federal field.

Such an escalation of party philosophy would be tragic indeed, if the ideas of young Canadians such as Owen Anderson are to be ignored and wasted.



From Rug Maker to Rug—in Seven Days Flat

an open letter

by don sellar

To Whom It May Concern:

Early next month, the University of Alberta's only student-run and student-financed literary publication will appear for its second term.

Inside, this newspaper's literary supplement, has managed to survive its first session, by presenting students a myriad of verse, satire, fiction, art and feature articles.

The "little mag" has been praised, damned, digested and ignored by its audience. This year, it comes equipped with a slightly larger budget and the same small, but eager staff.

The periodical's presence this year is, in part, due to the unsolicited support of many faculty members, whose written and unspoken praise resulted in Students' Council deciding to continue publishing a literary magazine at all.

But now, a new threat has arisen against Inside and her mistress, Patricia Hughes. The University Print Shop may not be able to produce more than Inside's November issue.

Shop officials say they will try to "fit Inside in" between production of The Gateway and the ever-growing needs of university administrators, both of which are taxing facilities to the limit.

Already this fall, the print shop is showing signs of falling behind in its commitments, as printers struggle in an outmoded, cramped building regarded as a "temporary structure" some twenty years ago.

Miss Hughes will not know until early November whether remaining issues of her magazine can be printed on campus this year. There may not even be facilities available anywhere else in Edmonton to do the job—at any price.

We are told there is hope for the future, and that the print shop next year will be expanding its facilities to 7,600 sq. ft. from the present 3,000 square feet.

Unfortunately, indications are there will be only two or three more employees working in the new building.

Unfortunately, equipment in the present building is so cramped that at least twice the shop's present area will be required to house the same amount of equipment.

Unfortunately, there has been no indication that this university has seen the need for a "University of Alberta Press" which could enhance our reputation in academic circles.

And so, you might ask, "What can I do about this situation?"

You can begin by writing letters, lots of them, to the administration, to members of the Board of Governors and even to me.

Tell these persons why you think this university:

- should have a print shop at all
- should be concerned with supporting campus literary talent such as that found in Inside.
- should expand its already-outdated plans for a new shop.
- should advertise itself as a university when it is not equipped to produce more than a few smaller publications in a single year.