

Grad studies best area for aid

By RALPH MELNYCHUK AND SHEILA BALLARD

Federal aid to universities is most appropriate in the area of graduate studies, says Hon. Randolph H. McKinnon, minister of education.

People who obtain a single degree, said Mr. McKinnon, generally seek local employment, while those with post-graduate degrees tend to disperse throughout the country.

There is no reason why the provincial government should bear the total expense involved in educating a student who may never use his education within the province, he said.

Commenting on provincial attitudes toward federal involvement in post-secondary education, Mr. McKinnon told The Gateway Tuesday the province feels federal aid should be given but specific allotments should be kept at a minimum.

"Quebec has a phrase for this—fiscal equivalent. Quebec wants the money but doesn't want it designated," he said.

In Tuesday's Speech From The Throne, the Federal Government renewed its pledge to introduce a new program of university scholarships and make a "substantial increase" in federal aid to universities in the 1966-67 academic year.

"While respecting fully the responsibilities of the provinces, the government is equally resolved to maintain constitutional responsibilities of the federal authority," it said.

There will probably be more federal-provincial conferences concerning aid to higher education, said Mr. McKinnon.

"I feel there is room for federal support at least at the level of the Bladen Commission recommendations," he said.

Mr. McKinnon had no specific comment regarding proposed revisions of the University Act. He said minority memorandums in the Governors' report would receive full governmental consideration.

Regarding membership of the proposed Universities Commission, Mr. McKinnon said the government would probably consult the boards of governors and general faculty councils before appointing members.

The Governors' report suggests the nine-member commission be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-In-Council.

Mr. McKinnon had no definite comment on the issue of faculty representation on the Board of Governors. "We have an open mind on this issue," he said.

The Bladen Commission recommended academic representation on administrative councils.

Mr. McKinnon said he felt comparisons frequently quoted between proportions of student attending colleges in Canada and the United States often were not valid. Grade XII or XIII in Canada is often equivalent to the education offered in some American colleges, he said.



—Al Scarth photo

BUILT LIKE A BRICK SKONK WORKS—Who is the most desirable woman in the world? Daisy Mae Yokum of course, and Janey Craig, nursing 1, impersonates her in the Jubilaires Club production *Li'l Abner*. The musical adaptation of Al Capp's cartoon strip will be presented during VGW, Feb. 17-19. Tickets will go on sale at SUB and the Allied Arts Centre in the Bay as of Jan. 26.

Quebec students on strike

MONTREAL (CUP)—More than 27,000 Quebec students have gone on strike to protest a three-week extension of the school term which would cut down their summer earnings.

The strike began Monday after a series of strike votes at 60 technical and specialized schools across the province were held when Education Minister Paul Gerin-Lajoie refused to repeal the extension.

Michel Delorme, president of the Quebec Specialized Students' Federation, FEESQ, said that the votes had averaged 90 per cent in favor of the strike. Only one school, Granby, turned it down.

Students picketed schools while policemen stood by, but no students crossed the picket lines and no incidents were reported.

After a last-minute meeting with the students, Gerin-Lajoie said his department would not back down and issued an appeal to "all parents who have the responsibility to look after the education of their children," to prevent the strike.

Gerin-Lajoie said the students did not need to earn money since tuition is free.

About one-third of the students on strike are at

the post-secondary level. Many students pay room and board if there is no specialized school near their home.

He said the three-week extension would put technical students on the labor market at the same time as high-school students, making it more difficult to get summer jobs.

Gerin-Lajoie offered to set up a study of the students' financial situation, but the federation refused to take part until the extension was abolished.

"The students find it strange, to say the least, that the minister should first take actions and afterwards create committees to study their consequences," Delorme said.

After a meeting Monday with Premier Lesage, Delorme said the premier was "understanding" and said he had promised to discuss the problem with Gerin-Lajoie immediately.

The 80,000 Union Generale Des Etudiants Du Quebec, representing most of those on strike, plans a mass demonstration Friday in Montreal if the issue is not settled by then.

Johns sees need for more federal aid to education

By LORRAINE MINICH

Education is no longer an exclusively provincial concern, says U of A president Dr. Walter H. Johns.

It is good to see the federal government assuming more responsibility in this area, he says.

Dr. Johns was commenting on Tuesday's Speech From The Throne which promised "a substantial increase" in federal aid to universities.

Education was really a local matter when the British North America Act was passed, but this is now out of date, says Dr. Johns.

Universities were at that time supported by private funds but now the government monies are the main source of funds.

"Graduate studies particularly should be a national concern," says Dr. Johns. He pointed out U of A had grad students from eight provinces and many foreign countries.

He says he would like to see the increase in federal aid go to specific areas of high cost such as grad studies, and expensive professional courses.

"Increased federal aid could help postpone or do away with the need for increased fees. But freezing or even abolition of fees is not important because fees represent very little of a student's total expense," he said. U of A students don't know what fees are. At Yale, for instance, fees (including room and board) are \$3,000.

Money isn't actually that serious a problem for students who really want to attend university, Dr. Johns said.

A total of \$5,316,115 in scholarships, provincial and Canadian government loans was awarded to students in Alberta during the past year. Of this impressive total, about \$3,765,000 went to university students.

Junior colleges play an important role in post-secondary education, said Dr. Johns.

"Junior colleges radiate their influence over the area within commuting distance," he said. "Physical access to higher education is just as important as financial." Students who often would not go on to further education start at the college level, then go on to university for their senior years, he said.

Socreds merge with PCs

By TONY DEARNESS

CALGARY (Special)—Campus Progressive Conservatives and Social Crediters have merged here in what was felt to be a milestone in Canadian politics.

The new party will be led by Bob Ustace under the PC banner in the upcoming Model Parliament Feb. 24-26.

Speaking of the union, Ustace said the policies and views of both parties coincided to such a degree that it was felt an amalgamation was the only logical line to follow.

"Although in some quarters of the provincial Social Credit party such a move may be regarded with disfavor, I cannot help but feel that this will be seen as a benefit and a necessity for consolidating small 'c' conservative thought in Canada," he said.

Conservatives' president Tony Dearness said the merger "will make us an unmistakably strong contender for model parliament."

"We have a good leader, excellent policy and an enthusiastic organization and are all ready to go."

Campaign manager for the new party, Peter Woolstencroft, said "in previous years the right has been divided among two or three parties."

"Through the amalgamation we have overcome this difficulty in our campaign."

"We intend to reach all the conservative elements on campus and I am confident that we shall be successful in forming the government."

THE WEATHER

The Edmonton weather office is predicting continued cold weather today, with sunny skies, winds westerly at 10 m.p.h. and a high today of -20 degrees.

Low tonight and high Thursday are -30 degrees and -25.