

Ouelette meets with student representatives

By PETER KRAUTLE

Talks have started between provincial youth minister Jean-Pierre Ouelette and representatives of various student bodies in New Brunswick, SRC president Warren McKenzie stated recently.

MacKenzie, along with AFS president Jim MacLean, Université de Moncton's Gerard Blanchard and representatives from colleges in Spigeggan and Edmunston, met with Ouelette on September 11 to discuss various student proposed changes in the student aid legislation.

Ouelette seemed sympathetic to student demands, MacKenzie said, and has agreed to discuss the changes with the cabinet and get back to student representatives by the first week of October.

The minister has agreed to change the format of the student loan form but has declined to give any definite answer on other issues such as an increase in money for books, the extension of the academic year, a 25 per cent increase in living expenses, and student representation on major student aid policy and decision-making bodies until he meets with the Cabinet. Ouelette hinted quite strongly that there would be no

change in the requirement that tax return slips be included in the application for it is the most reliable way of checking a student's income.

The SRC president was happy because both student representatives and government are now seriously discussing the student aid issue. However MacKenzie expressed his skepticism over the government acting in making reforms instead of discussing

them. He noted that upon meeting Premier Hatfield in the beginning of this year he wrote a letter to the Premier outlining the major student aid issues but that no attempt was made to rectify the situation.

MacKenzie still plans to meet with liberal opposition leader Robert Higgins over proposed changes in the student aid legislation. No date has been set for the meeting.

UNB administrative vice-president James O'Sullivan said he would be surprised if changes to the student aid program would be introduced this year. O'Sullivan noted that this year's program was well under way and that any major alterations to the program would probably only occur at the end of each school year. MacKenzie is scheduled to meet with O'Sullivan within the next few days to discuss the aid legislation.

Education statistics released

OTTAWA (CUP) — Advance statistics on education released August 29 by Statistics Canada show that university and college enrollment is expected to increase this year.

Estimates for the 1975-76 school year indicate university enrollment will be up about 3.5 per cent and college enrollment 4.4 per cent while the number of elementary

and secondary school students continues to decline.

University enrollment is estimated at 363,000 and college enrollment at 220,000. The number of full-time secondary teachers is estimated at 47,000, up 1,300 or 2.9 per cent over 1974-75.

Elementary-secondary enrollment is expected to drop 1.3 per cent to 5.5 million in 1975-76.

The decline is expected to continue into the early 1980's, reflecting the low birth rate of the last decade. Full-time teaching staff is expected to be 271,800, down 800 from 1974-75.

Total national expenditure on education for 1975-76 is estimated at \$12.2 billion, up 15.5 per cent from a year earlier. But spending on education as a percentage of personal income and gross national product has declined since 1971 despite the increases in dollars spent. Education costs have not risen as quickly as those for other social services.

Per capita spending for education for 1974 averaged \$472 nationally. The breakdown by provinces: Alberta \$497, Ontario \$489, Quebec \$479, Manitoba \$450, Prince Edward Island \$449, Nova Scotia \$441, Saskatchewan \$415, British Columbia \$412, Newfoundland \$396, New Brunswick \$396.

Yearbook sales down

Registration which "this year was a screw-up," said University of New Brunswick student union president Warren McKenzie, was one reason for poor yearbook sales.

Yearbook sales—down 650 from its contract of 1,000—were to be boosted by sales during student identification validation, said McKenzie at the Sept. 15 SRC meeting.

Due to late dispatch of pre-registration forms there were many more fresh than usual at registration and this congestion combined with badly-managed direction of applying students did not have time to examine such booths as that which sold yearbooks, he said.

"It's impossible to estimate how badly registration screwed up the first of the year," he said. He said noon hour breaks, when students who had been waiting for some time in line-ups and had then been told to go away, had been frustrating for students.

Student aid problems plague this student

By DAVE SIMMS

What happens when you earn no summer income, have parents who live on a fluctuating income and you require a minimum of \$2,500 to complete the third year of your nursing degree?

The provincial government rejects your student loan application. Janet Wright, a University of New Brunswick nursing junior, told The Brunswickan last week her application made in July for a \$1,865 student loan had been rejected because the provincial youth department's student aid branch had assessed her parents' potential contribution as \$3,900.

The statement of income and 1974 tax return which her father included in her application showed that the Victoria Co. potato farmer's net revenue would place him in an upper middle class category if he was an urban-based earner.

However, Wright had a \$15,000 decrease in production between Jan. 1974 and Jan 1975 due to such expense increases as a 50 per cent hike in fertilizer costs. Much of this remaining revenue, therefore, would be spent on this year's harvest.

Wright said she had consulted provincial student loans director Evelyn Briggs but had been told the possibility of her loan being won on appeal were poor.

"She said he doubted that I'd get anything, that I might as well forget it," said Wright.

Wright said any appeal would stress that she had had no summer income since she had been gaining clinical experience for two months and this gave no income. This was her third loan application. Wright said she was concerned about her expenses this summer — which were to be covered by this loan — and which would be higher since she must gain maternity care experience in Fredericton. She said she was concerned about the high cost of accommodation here.

Wright said if the loan application was rejected, "Dad will just have to fork it over, I guess. They (her parents) will have to rub pennies together for awhile."

Briggs denied that she had said the chances of appeal were not good. "I urged Janet to appeal right away," she said. "We will be approaching the department of agriculture and McCains (Ltd., a major purchaser of potatoes in New Brunswick) to see if there are indications of a bad year for potato farmers."

She said any appeal would be given consideration and that the Wright appeal could be decided the same day to speed her loan if it was approved. "But I've had no more word from Janet, unless she left the appeal here without seeing me," she said.

Briggs said the information provided by Wright's accountant — but which was confidential — led the province to evaluate his potential contribution at \$3,900.

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SF unionizes
 VANCOUVER (CUP) — The five employees of the Simon Fraser Student Society have unionized. The employees received certification July 10 from the B.C. Labour Relations Board as bargaining unit 12, local 1, of the Service, Office, and Retail Workers Union of Canada.