



Photo by Geoff Regan

Dalhousie was a noisy place for one minute last Thursday. Caught between bickering levels of governments, students hoped at least Province House would hear their honk, whistle and shout for affordable post secondary education.

Students give, get earfull with N. S. politicians

by Cathy McDonald

Students from Dalhousie and Saint Mary's University met with MLA's and the three party leaders on Thursday, as part of the National Week of Action initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students.

Student Union President John Logan and councillors Caroline Zayid and Atul Sharma formed part of the five person delegation.

Logan relayed his perceptions of responses to the students' presentation of their concerns over tuition increases.

Logan said all parties do not think the recommendation of

the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission to increase funding to post secondary education by 16 per cent will be met.

The Liberals and the NDP place an educated guess at a 13 to 14 per cent increase in tuition next year, Logan said.

The main message the provincial government gave to the students was the province is in a bad financial state, and doesn't have enough money to satisfy every interest group's needs, accusing the federal government of inadequate funding.

However, Sandy Cameron, Liberal Opposition leader,

accused the government of having sufficient funds. He took the student delegation on a "moral trip", blaming the Conservatives for spending funds on pork bar-

Students "yelling at wrong government"

TORONTO (CUP) -- Frank Drea, Tory Minister of consumer and corporate affairs, told 3000 angry Ontario students from the steps of the Ontario legislature March 11 that they were yelling at the wrong government.

He blamed underfunding on Ottawa proposals to re-adjust transfer payments to the provinces. "The average worker," he said, "supports the current level of provincial funding for Ontario education."

The demonstrators, from colleges and universities in Toronto, were protesting federal and provincial cutbacks in the funding of post-secondary education, and their tempers flared with the announcement that provincial operating grants to universities would not meet the levels asked for by the Ontario Council on University Affairs.

In the offing for next year's tuition are increases that may range from 12.2 to 20 per cent.

reling election promises, Logan said.

Of the politicians interviewed, NDP leader Alexa McDonough was the most informed on student needs, Logan said. She intends to introduce a motion to the Legislature calling for a freeze on tuition until there are needed improvements in the student aid program.

Dalhousie has a less than perfect reputation in the eyes of the politicians, Logan said. They referred to renovations of Presi-

dent McKay's house and Dal's capital expenditures in the past decade. The university has given itself "bad PR", and a reputation of financial irresponsibility.

"They're saying 'You guys aren't spending it the best way either'," Logan said.

The difference of one percentage point in the government's grant to Dalhousie could mean an increase of eight per cent if it were translated to tuition fees, Logan said.

Thousands march against Quebec cuts

MONTREAL (CUP) -- The chants got louder, faster and meaner as 3,000 anti-cutbacks demonstrators closed in on the doors of a provincial government building March 11.

Dancing, jeering, stomping and yelling, the French and English university and CEGEP students made part of Quebec's contribution to a nation-wide Week of Action on underfunding in post-secondary education. "We want justice!" they cried.

For half an hour, around the tightly guarded, locked doors of the city's Palais du Justice, the

crowd shouted its opposition to restraint programs in provincial universities and colleges. Their boos were directed to both Ottawa and Quebec City.

In 1982-83, Concordia University will receive 3.5 per cent less from the government than it currently gets. In each of the following two years, additional 2.1 per cent cuts will come into effect. Every Quebec university has been asked to cut three per cent from its budget in each of the next three years.

But students say they have not yet begun to fight.

CFS action in B.C.

VICTORIA (CUP) -- Six hundred students booed and heckled British Columbia universities minister Pat McGeer on the steps of the provincial legislature March 11, demanding more funds for post-secondary education.

Protestors from the University of Victoria and Camosun College marched through windy city streets to the legislature buildings for a rally. They were sparked by recently announced tuition fee increases at B.C. campuses which range up to 32 per cent in the case of the University of British Columbia, and their chants demanded an end to the rule of the provincial Social Credit government.

Speakers from student organizations, unions and faculty

associations addressed the rally, and, finally, McGeer agreed to speak.

When McGeer asked the students where additional funds should come from, they suggested the federal and provincial governments' multi-million dollar Northeast coal project, or higher taxation on corporations. McGeer said the public won't go for the idea.

"How many people here oppose taking funds from the coal project?" he asked. No one responded.

"Well, how many people would oppose higher taxes on corporations?" he wondered. Again, there was no response.

McGeer tried to explain the province's restraint program and was shouted down once more.