

# Administration Not Dragging Feet! MEMORIAL MAKEOVER

It appears that some sort of clarification is needed for last week's lead story entitled "Education Faculty Shafted".

This reporter, in a meeting with Mr. Clough, UPEI comptroller, was able to find some of the answers raised in last week's article.

First of all, the Space Allocation Committee is a Presidential appointed committee, not a Senate sub-committee. The committee has recently changed. Mr. Clough stated that the new members are Gerry Arsenault (Education Faculty); Don Coles (Director of Physical Plant); Jim McDougal (Science); Ted Webster (Arts) and Frances Piercy (Student).

Mr. Clough went on to say that the Administration are not dragging their feet. Instead, he said, it has

been the fault of the various faculties for not submitting their proposals earlier.



To date there are four departments applying for space in Memorial. These are: 1) Modern Languages 2) Math 3) English and 4) Education.

Mr. Clough applied to the MPHEC last Spring requesting funds for

possible renovations. He applied for "a fairly substantial sum," a number of dollars per sq foot.

Mr. Clough didn't think that the Education Dept. had been informed that they were to be the potential tenants of Kelley Building a number of years ago. He remembered that the Modern Languages Dept. had presented a strong case

at the time.

The Space Allocation Committee will be meeting shortly. They will make their decisions after talking to the deans, the various dept. people and so on. Consideration will be based on a) need b) Dept. size c) enrolment and d) joint use of space.

It appears as if Memorial Hall will be lying idle for a while. The Space Allocation Committee has to make their recommendations to the President who in turn takes it to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which is a Board of Governors sub-committee and then the President has to take it before the Board of Governors for the final O.K. Mr. Clough voiced some concern over the fact that there is at present no space for the summer hostel. He said that this concern has been expressed to him before and the problem is being looked into.

## INCREASE IN OPERATING GRANTS

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) announced today that it has been informed by the Council of Maritime Premiers of 1978-79 operating assistance levels for Maritime post-secondary institutions. The Council of Maritime Premiers has approved a funding level which provides a 6.7% increase in operating grants and which will enable a basic increase in total institutional operating budgets of approximately 5.3% should tuition fees stay at 1977-78 levels. In addition, several institutions will receive equalization grants that will enable these institutions to move closer to the average level of support for Maritime institutions. The Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have also agreed to provide an additional 1% increase in operating grants (approximately 0.8% increase in total budgets) to institutions within their respective provinces.

The Council stated that it was not able to respond to the final two years of

the MPHEC's three year plan.

The Commission has allocated the approved assistance level among institutions. Institutions will be informed, in the near future, of their 1978-79 grants. Such grants will be subject to the appropriation of funds by the provincial legislatures.

The Council, in its response to the Commission, also indicated that it is expected that, with the approved funding levels, tuition fee increases will be minimized and not exceed the rate of cost of living increases.

The response by the Council varies from the Commission's recommendations in that it precludes a 1.5% provision for national catch-up, supports regional equalization of assistance to institutions over a ten year period rather than the five years proposed by the Commission, and provides operating increases of 6.7% in New Brunswick and 7.7% in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for sustenance rather than the 10.8%

recommended by the Commission. The anticipated tuition fee increases coincide with those expected by the Commission.

The Commission's capital recommendations will be considered by the Maritime governments on an individual province basis.

In reacting to the Council's response, the MPHEC recognizes the fiscal pressures facing the governments of the Maritime provinces. The Commission's financial plan, submitted in September, 1977, contained assumptions which already have changed as the projected upturn in economic growth is not occurring

as expected. In addition provincial revenues from the federal government are significantly lower than anticipated.

Provided that adequate alteration and renovation and equipment funding is forthcoming following discussions on the MPHEC's capital recommendations, the Commission considers the Council's response to its recommendations appropriate in the present circumstances. The Commission expects its post-secondary institutions will have to make difficult decisions in continuing to deal with financial restraint.

COLLEGE: INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.

