



## Govt's agree on skimpy science policy

Ottawa (CUP) - Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for science and technology have finally agreed on a formal national policy, although their agreement to co-operate may be the most significant point of the accord.

A six-point statement of policy objectives was announced March 12, although the formal statement differed little from a draft policy agreed upon last December.

Federal science and technology minister Frank Oberle said the "historic" agreement will "ensure that science and technology are used to promote economic, social and regional development in Canada through ongoing co-operation among governments and between the public and private sectors."

Some observers, however, say the policy is too vague for the country's needs.

"On the positive side, we're glad that they've agreed to agree," said Allan Sharp, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. However, "they have not addressed any concrete problems. We feel it is too vague for the country's problems, and very quickly."

MONTREAL (CUP) - South African ambassador Glenn Babb made a secret speech at a McGill University residence recently with the help of an RCMP escort.

John Hale, assistant residence director, invited Babb to speak without notifying campus media or checking student council policy.

Sharp mentioned "dwindling" government support for basic research as an example of an urgent problem.

Ministers in an attractively-produced policy statement agreed to aid Canada's research and development effort, encourage "commercialization of technology" through innovation, and ensure a full slate of highly trained professionals. Ministers also agreed to "encourage basic and applied research and development", assist public awareness of science and technology.

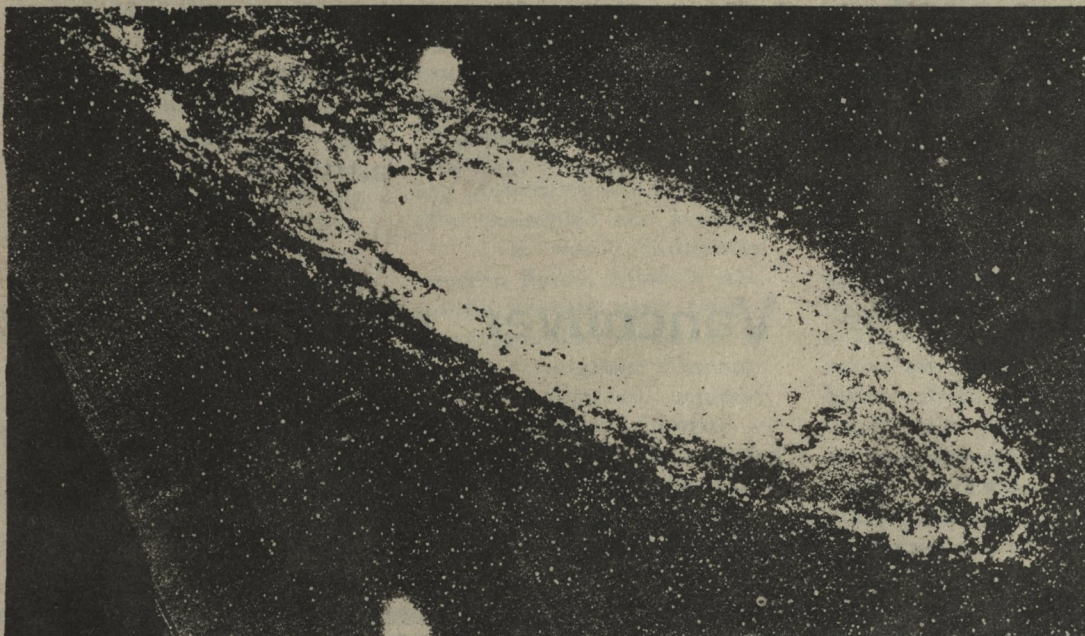
The Council of Science and Technology Ministers, which was specially created to monitor implementation of the policy, has struck six working committees to

HALIFAX (CUP) - the head of Dalhousie University's physiology and biophysics department has resigned his position to protest department funding cuts.

Dr. Kurt Ruf, who will remain on staff as professor, resigned after he was told to cut eight per cent from the department's budget. "I didn't feel I could administer properly" under such conditions, he said.

Some students have accused hale of trying to stifle campus protest, although about 25 students were in attendance outside the building shouting "Glenn Babb, go home" and "Free Mandela, jail Botha."

"I am outraged," said Randy Flemmings, Arts Senator and Chair of the McGill South Africa Committee. "This



study each objective.

Before the policy was formally announced in Vancouver, Sharp called on ministers to be "players, not cheerleaders" in improving Canada's research and development effort.

Sharp, less than impressed by the policy's content, was also disappointed by the apparent exclusion of university research in the announcement.

"I have heard it said that all the universities pro-

duce a few good engineers," Sharp said. "Universities are an important part of

the science community, and we are disappointed that

this was not made more explicit (in the policy)."

## Professor resigns in protest

A total of 25 per cent has been cut from the department's budget since 1980, said Ruf. During that same time, "we have lost one-quarter of our academic manpower and several qualified technicians through attrition."

Ruf said the department of physiology recently lost a specialist in respiratory medicine who won't be replaced because of Dalhousie's hiring freeze.

"The morale in the department is at an all-time

low," Ruf said.

Although Dal's physiology department has an "international reputation in research", faculty have recently had to spend much of their time teaching students instead of performing research, said Ruf.

Faculty and staff are not being paid adequately, said Ruf, who lost \$20,000 a year in salary when he left a

research co-ordinator's position at McGill university to head up Dalhousie's

physiology department in 1983.

Ruf said a job offer from another university is all he needs to move. "My bags are packed," he said.

Ruf doesn't blame the university administration for making budget cuts, however. "The administration is powerless," he said. "Dalhousie can't muddle through anymore. It has to put its books in order."

## Babb slips in for speech

event was planned without our consent and without our knowledge, and contravenes McGill student society policy which forbids official representatives of the South African government from speaking on campus."

According to council V.P. Ian Brodie, "(Hale) usually invites controversial people, but usually it's publicized. It would have been

nice if he had informed us, just as a matter of common courtesy."

Flemmings was the only black student of the 200 present. "I walked in and I was blatantly threatened by an RCMP agent who said, 'with the least disruption, I'll arrest you'."

The event was limited to residents of Douglas

Hall. Hale said he limited the event because of limited space.

"I also wanted to carry on a reasonable discussion," he said. "I didn't want it to degenerate into a circus." He said he wanted students to hear the 'other side of the story'.