

# No to rising fees! Make

by Kate O'Connell

Last week it was announced that the operative grant for UPEI will be increased by only 8.6% next year, the amount recommended by the MPHEC. In the face of this puny increase tuition fees are expected to be increased next year.

The MPHEC also recommended that provincial governments reduce grants by \$750 for foreign students which will in effect double tuition fees for these students. (This policy will be implemented next year in N.S. and is expected in N.B. and P.E.I. also.)

UPEI President Peter Meincke has stated that

arriving at a decision on the tuition fees will mean a "trade-off between an increase in tuition and quality of education to the student."

This is outrageous! Students have not caused the economic crisis. Why should we pay for it, either through increased tuition fees or through a decrease in the quality of education. It is the rich who should pay. It is they who are using the opportunity of the economic crisis to reap huge benefits.

For example, corporate after tax profits in Canada jumped an average of 43% to \$1.72 billion in the 4th quarter of 1978 from \$1.21 billion in the corresponding

period in 1977. This was the 11th quarterly rise in a row. Corporations in certain sectors such as mining and forest products have secured even higher year to year profit increases.

Maritime Electric Co. just announced last week a year to year profit increase of 43% from \$1.6 million in 1977 to \$2.3 million in 1978. Millions of dollars in interest free loans and grants are provided to company after company through IEI all the while the government is moaning about how it must practice "financial restraint", and therefore, UPEI's operating grant can only be increased 8.6%.

The 1960's saw an enormous expansion of U.S. finance capital into Canada and the construction of large numbers of branch plants and the stepped up exploitation of Canada's resources by U.S. monopolies. This meant an increased demand for trained personnel. The sellout governments of the rich in Canada greatly expanded the educational system, not to meet the needs of the Canadian people, but to fill the requirements of the U.S. imperialists.

During the 60's universities and colleges all across Canada were expanded and new ones built. All of this was paid for by the workers through their taxes, over \$860 million from 1965-1971.

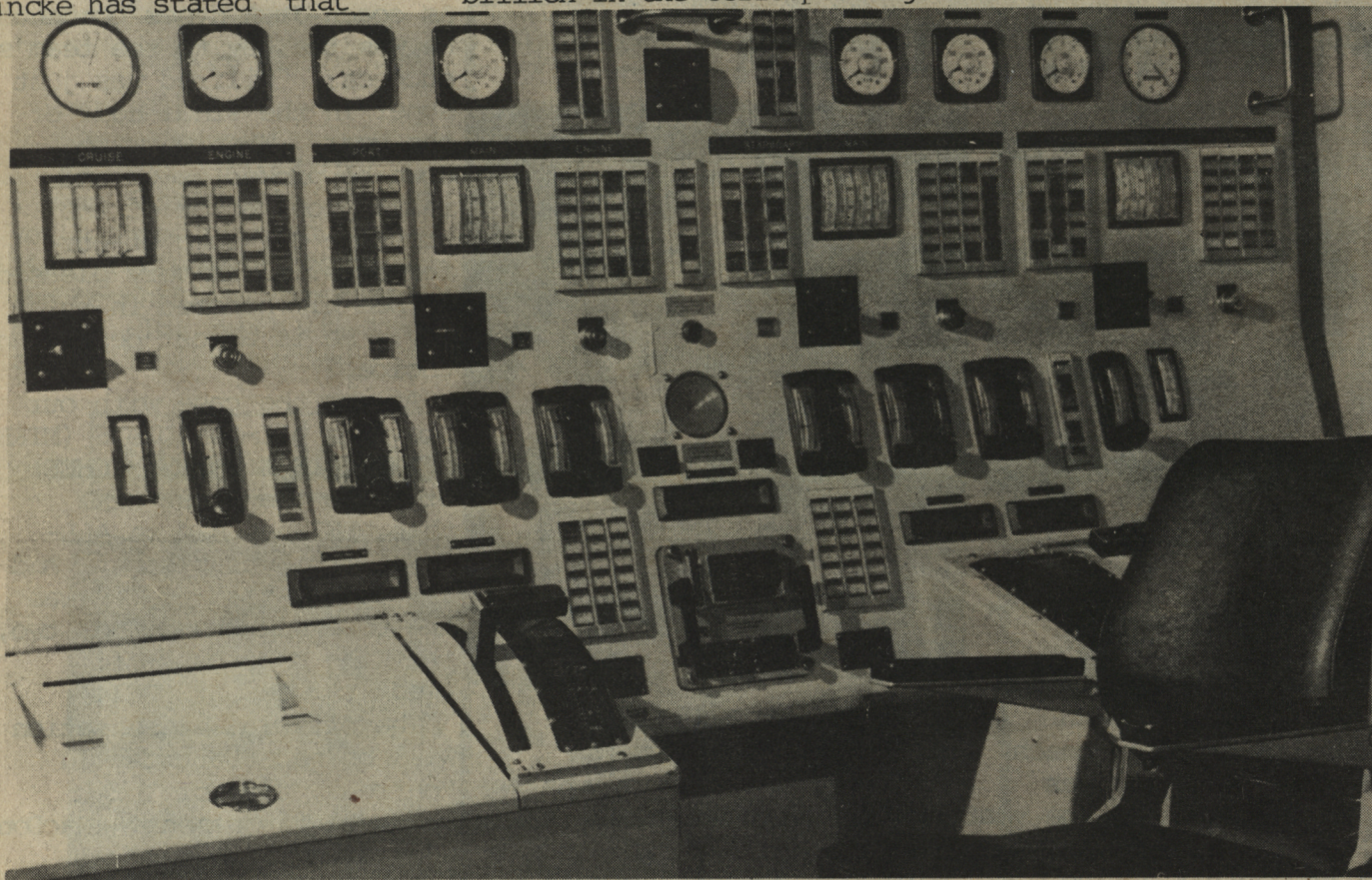
During the period 1965-66 to 1970-71 full time university enrolment increased by 54% and the number of full time univer-

## M P

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) announced today (March) that it has received responses to its 1979-80 operating assistance recommendations. The Provinces of New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have accepted the Commission's recommended levels of assistance. The Government of Nova Scotia, as earlier announced, has approved a level of assistance less than the \$92.2 million recommended by the Commission.

The 1979-80 provincial government contributions to operating assistance in millions of dollars with 1978-79 contributions in parentheses are: New Brunswick 60.9 (56.0); Nova Scotia 88.7 (84.1); Prince Edward Island 11.3 (10.1); total Maritime Provinces 160.9 (150.2).

The approved 1979-80 provincial contributions are according to a new regional funding formula that has been approved by the Council of Maritime Premiers. Under the new arrangement formulated by the Commission, each province provides the grants to the other two provinces in respect of any of its students enrolled in programmes in these provinces that are not offered in the province of residence. For the past two years the provinces have been sharing the cost of post-secondary education according to

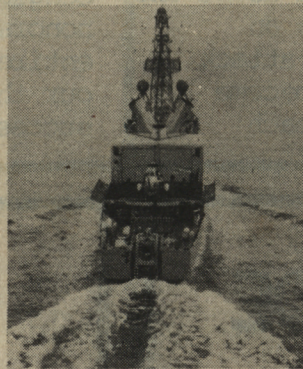


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