

Cross-country telegrams to protest funding 6 & 5

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canadian student leaders are sending telegrams to the House of Commons finance committee to protest government plans to cut between \$200 and \$400 million from most secondary education funding.

The committee is currently reviewing a proposed amendment to the Established Programs Financing Act that would limit federal transfers for education to the six and a half per cent program.

"Students realize this kind of cut is simply unacceptable, and are reacting quickly to fight the amendment," says Graham Dowdell, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students.

The federation sent letters to campuses across the country Feb. 6 urging student leaders to telegram protest messages immediately.

By Feb. 9 the office of Jim Peterson, chair of the finance committee, confirmed it had received several telegrams and was expecting more.

CFS also plans to present objections to amendments when it meets with the com-

mittee this week. "Basically, we'll tell them that tying transfer payments to six and five is unacceptable," Dowdell says.

The federation will also ask the government to insert a clause to earmark federal funds for education.

The Liberals introduced the bill for second reading

Jan. 27. It is up to the finance committee to decide when to bring the bill back to the house for third and final reading.

The bill would be retroactive to April, 1983. The federal government, through an order in council, has already cut more than \$150 million from EPF for the

83-84 budget by tying it to six and five. At least that much will be cut again for 84-85 if the amendment passes.

According to Dowdell, if the amendment does not reach the House of Commons before transfer payments are made for 84-85, he will again use an order in council to commit the cuts.

Single parents with student loans picked on

EDMONTON (CUP) — Alberta student aid officials plan to crack down on single parent students who, they claim, often abuse the system.

The Student Finance Board is reviewing the course loads of all Edmonton and Calgary single parents who received aid for 1983-1984, according to board member Gay Mathieson.

"We're taking a good hard look at abuse within the system," she said. "Single parents take a minimal course load, and fail courses but remain in school in order to

receive financial aid."

Single parents who take three courses, considered a full-time load at the University of Alberta, are eligible for \$15,000 in maintenance grants per year.

But Brenda Davis, a fourth year student and mother of two, says, "They're squeezing the wrong group ... it will basically force them out of school and onto welfare."

Mathieson denies this is the finance board's intention, and says single parents have to be realistic.

"The pressures of a job are equal to the pressures of an

education," said Mathieson. "If they can't handle a full-time course load, and go home to their children, how will they handle a job?"

Mathieson said it sometimes takes \$65,000 in aid payments to put a single parent through school, as opposed to \$15,000 for regular students.

Karen Tjosvold, another student and mother of two, said the proposed changes would make it impossible to drop any of the five courses.

"If I hadn't the option to drop (courses), I wouldn't have made it," she said.



Another shocking animal story

TORONTO (CUP) — The group which recently vandalized a laboratory at the University of Toronto and released 70 experimental rats, mice and gerbils, acted because the animals were being "tortured", says a spokesperson.

The man, who refused to reveal his identity, said the so-called Animal Liberation Front found two animals with electrodes attached to their heads.

But William Milgram, the psychology professor whose experiment was destroyed by the vandals, said the Animal Front representative "didn't know what he was talking about."

"We don't give electrical

shock to animals. We apply 20 to 40 micro-amps as stimulation to the brain. If we applied that level to your finger you wouldn't feel it." Milgram said.

Jim Gurd, chair of the Animal Care Committee at the college, said many of the animals will have to be destroyed because the vandals removed identification tags from the cages and the animals themselves.

Gurd said the research for which the animals were used is now a "complete disaster."

When the break-in was discovered, all but six of the animals were found. The six not found have been kept by the Animal Front as pets, the representative said.

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