

Driscoll and Lang Meet to Discuss Cutbacks

Professor Fred Driscoll of the department of History met with Otto Lang, Minister of Transport, and Robert McCleave during the March 11 joint lobby undertaken by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Association of Biological Societies and the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation.

Representatives of the associations met with individual MP's of all parties to discuss three concerns: a) A rumoured cutback by the federal government of the support currently given which now amounts to 50 per cent of the operating costs of universities; b) The total freeze on scientific research undertaken by the Medical Research Council and the National Research Council; c) The question of whether both the federal government and the Council of Ministers of Education will consult with the representatives of working professors and researchers in regard to federal/provincial financing of higher education.

In addition to scheduled meetings with Cabinet Ministers such as C.M. Drury, (Science and Technology), Hugh Faulkner, (Secretary of State) and Robert Andras (Manpower and Immigration), who have an interest in funding education and research, the lobbyists focused on about forty MP's with campuses in their ridings and where higher education is a major industry, providing employment for a significant sector of the community.

If the rumoured cuts in payments under the Fiscal Arrangements Act go through at the levels suggested in

leaked reports, it could force a 10 per cent reduction in the operating budgets of universities. The richer provinces, like Alberta and B.C. might be able to offset the loss of some federal funds, but Manitoba and Saskatchewan and especially the Atlantic provinces would be hard hit. This would mean a further increase in existing regional inequities in education.

The position presented by the lobbyists, therefore, was that the current level of the federal contribution to universities (including the current level of allowable annual increases) must be maintained if the universities are to be allowed merely to hold their own in the current inflationary environment. They recommended that the existing agreements in the Fiscal Arrangements Act be extended for three years, to allow for careful negotiations between the federal government and the provinces as called for in the leaked draft report of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

The strong federal presence in support of research in the universities of Canada is crucial for the development of the universities, of science itself, and indeed of Canada. University research in this country has suffered disproportionately in relation to in-house government research and compares unfavourably with the situation in France, England and the United States.

In this academic year, the government reduced its medical and scientific grants to university researchers and has now announced a freeze at this level for 1976-77. The Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act will be repealed at a cost of up to \$30 million a year in industrial research. The Medical Research Council has this year withdrawn 3 per cent of the funds which it had already allocated to research workers, and has had to cancel its June 1976 competition which is particularly designed for scientists entering the profession.

It should be pointed out that two-thirds of a typical

grant is used to pay salaries of technicians and assistants. Thus the freeze of MRC and NRC budgets is not an invitation to professors to join in wage restraint but a restriction on the most underpaid in the university and a serious curtailment of the purchase of equipment necessary to sustain ongoing research.

CAUT and the Federation of Biological Societies therefore recommended that the government restore some of the lost purchasing power to the granting councils (MRC, NRC, and Canada Council). An increase in these budgets to the per cent allowed by the Anti-Inflation Board for increase in salary would not undo the effects of the restrictions of the last seven years. It would counter the effects of the inflationary decrease in purchasing power of the grants and it would permit salary increases for technicians and professional assistants without creating the need for either a complete freeze on their salaries or for a cutback of skilled personnel.



TUESDAY

BUSINESS PARTY
in the Panther Lounge at 9:00pm. Sponsored by the Business Society and open to all Business students and professors. Music and Door Prizes.

WEDNESDAY

SOMETHING FISHY ??
DIRECT FROM NEWFOUNDLAND
THE MUMMERS PLAY GROUP PRESENTS

(WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH)
THE PRICE OF FISH
8:00pm, colonel gray high, sponsored by Development and Peace, and Ten Days For World Development, Tickets: students-\$1.00 adults-\$2.50 available at 210 bernadine

PASSION
de jeanne d'arc, 7pm, library

Union Positions

Classes will soon be over and summer will be upon us. This is the time to decide what form of involvement in your student union interests you the most. Applications available at S.U. office. Also see page 6. Nominations close Thursday so DO IT NOW!

NEWMAN LENTEN SERIES
7:30-8:30, bern. day students

THURSDAY

DAVID FRENCH, PLAYWRIGHT
author of 'leaving home' (was on TV in february) will head a discussion at the confed center library, 8:45 p.m.

MUSIC RECITAL
original works by Barret, Ferris, St. Amand
11:30 a.m. in the Steel Recital Hall.

PIG'n'WHISTLE
Karma!, 9:30-1am, \$1, The Barn
Tuesday 13th
BUSINESS PARTY
open to all, panther lounge, 9pm, music and door prizes.

Watchers of the Sky

The Physics Department invites anyone interested in Astronomy to view the sky through a new 6-inch reflecting telescope. Viewing nights: April 8 and 9 from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. (weather permitting)
Meeting place: Duffy 314

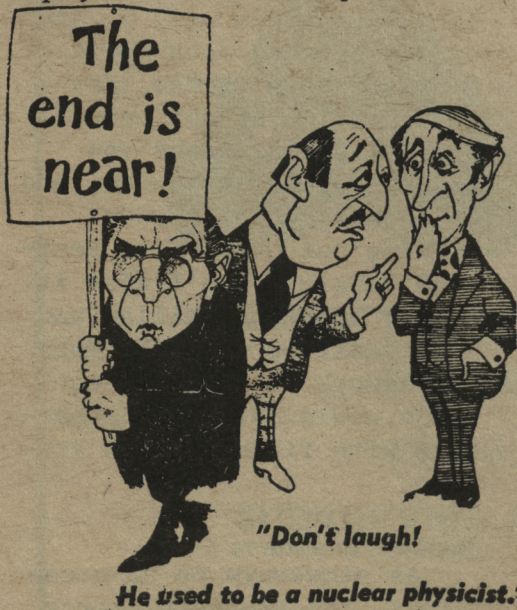
Residence Award

"AWARDED ANNUALLY TO A RESIDENT STUDENT WHO HAS SHOWN EXCEPTIONAL PROMOTIONAL ABILITY AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A HIGH QUALITY OF RESIDENCE LIFE".

Nominations for this award may be made by submitting the name of the candidate to the President of your House Committee or the Head Resident in your building. Any person who has lived in residence for the 1975-76 year is eligible.

The nomination must be accompanied by at least two signatures.

Nominations must be submitted no later than APRIL 12, 1976.



Cheeseburger

How can you improve
McDonald's
100% Beef
burger?

Make it a
Cheeseburger.
You'll Smile at
Every Bite.
at

