

TOM MCMILLAN,

TOM MCMILLAN - By George Barry and John Cairns

In a recent interview with The Sun, Member of Parliament for Hillsborough, Tom McMillan, spoke out on the issues in the upcoming Federal Election. He touched on subjects of concern to students, to Prince Edward Islanders, and to Canadians:

Q: The Maritime Provinces Higher Education recommended an 8.1% increase in university funding. What is your feeling about the financial situation for universities?

Mr. McMillan: University funding is essentially a provincial matter, but I don't think you can separate the provinces from the Federal Government in matters of education. In the short term, one of the problems about tuition increases is that universities themselves are starved. There has been a general cut-back in government support. I don't think we should return to the balmy sixties when money was actually lavished on universities, but that was one extreme. We're almost going to the opposite extreme now. If you have our inflation

rate of 9.8% and if a university like UPEI gets an 8.1% funding increase, then there is a net loss in support for the universities. In the face of that loss, universities are having to seek ways to make up the difference. One of the ways they are doing it, I regret, is higher tuition fees.

I think that there must be more support for higher

Our own students benefit from rubbing shoulders with people from other lands, but when young Canadians are being locked out of some programs, then our balance is out of wack.

education both directly and indirectly from both levels of government, so that less and less of the financial burden is actually borne by students themselves. It becomes too difficult to convince people that education is worthwhile when they have to bear the cost themselves.

Q: Have you any ideas in mind to improve the student work situation, either for summer jobs or career employment?

Mr. McMillan: My experience is that young people don't particularly want programs tailor-made for themselves, the Opportunities for Youth kind of approach. I

think they see them as stop gap and ad hoc.

Young people are benefited more by the economy itself being strong and absorbing them naturally into the labour force. We have unemployment hovering about the 8% level. It is the young people who are hurt most. The largest single group of unemployed in Canada is between the ages of 15 and 24. Given this problem,

I don't think the Opportunities for Youth approach is going to do more than hit the tip of the iceberg. The main thing, and it is a longer term plan, is to get the economy itself in a sound condition, by getting inflation under control, by getting the value of our dollar back in line, by finding a real industrial strategy, and by recapturing government spending. This isn't to say that we should do away entirely with band-aid approaches, but it is to say that we should put our main stress on creating jobs in the marketplace. That is the general solution, the long term one. The best chance young people have for permanent, well paying jobs in the future rests with the economy itself being sound.

Q: Several programs have been proposed to make UPEI more attractive, for example, the vet school and a new athletic centre. How do you feel about these?

Mr. McMillan: You've touched on two of my babies. The second one, the athletic centre, relates to a committee on which I'm serving. It is essentially aiming at an athletic complex that would be not just a university facility, but also for the wider community as well. This sort of thing is an experiment which has proved

successful on a number of other campuses. It is especially worthwhile in small university towns. We have no facility in Charlottetown that can accommodate a fair sized convention, and that is a big deficiency in economic terms because conventions are big business. An athletic

centre for the benefit of students and the population at large could serve as the basis for all kinds of things we're not now able to get into for lack of such a facility.

But the vet school is even more important. At the present there are only three veterinary colleges in Canada. The only English-speaking one in all of eastern Canada, including Ontario, is in Guelph, and Guelph has a quota of six students that they accept from the Atlantic Region. There is even a danger that that quota will be lowered. In an agricultural area like ours, the need for veterinarians and for a veterinary college is great. We're falling behind every year, probably by about a hundred trained veterinarians relative to the real need, the need not only in pet hospitals, but also in government and in all kinds of other areas of the economy.

As far as PEI is concerned, you may know that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission recommended in 1976 that there be a fourth veterinary college for Canada and that it be in the Atlantic Region and in Charlottetown. It set out a number of criteria on which judgement on location should be made, the nearness to animals, for instance, and the nearness to existing research facilities. A major component of the proposed college was to be a marine sciences division, aquaculture and the whole field of fish diseases. Well, P.E.I. was ideally located for such a facility.

They did look at other locations. Truro was one that was found to be severely wanting. Ironically Nova Scotia's objection to the P.E.I. location was their very strong desire to have it linked with Nova Scotia Agricultural College, but the MPHEC put Truro well down the list behind places like Fredericton and Wolfville. So I'm a strong believer in a fourth veterinary college, and particularly in having it in Charlottetown, attached to U.P.E.I.

Q: Foreign students have



10 PER CENT STUDENT DISCOUNT
UPON PRESENTATION OF STUDENT I.D.

4 DAY PROCESSING
ON MOST COLOR PRINT FILMS
DROP IN AND TALK SHOP

FEBRUARY SPECIAL

FEBRUARY SPECIAL

Get your first 8 X 10 enlargement at the regular price.

The second enlargement from the same negative will cost you only \$2.00

ORDER NOW FOR VALENTINES DAY.

55 QUEEN ST. CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. 892-5107