



Hatfield finds self in sticky situation



Premier Richard Hatfield gets student opinion, at meeting Tuesday.

A direct hit with a coconut-cream pie interrupted a panel discussion with Premier Hatfield and several student representatives at UNB. Hatfield was struck directly by

appeared to take the incident in good humor.

After only a few minutes, the pie, but, while visibly startled, Hatfield resumed the discussion on the financing of post secondary education and student unemployment.

During his remarks preceding the panel discussion, Hatfield acknowledged the high student unemployment rate, and told the approximately 120 assembled students the government "is conscious of your problems".

"Last year and this year we came face to face with a serious economic situation", said Hatfield.

He said one of the most significant factors in the general economic decline was the "very substantial increase in the world price of oil" which increased from \$2.50 a barrel when he came to office in 1970 to the present price of \$14 a barrel.

The provincial government employs as many students as possible, he said. Last year the province hired about 1,200 students "mainly for the purpose of assisting them in financing their education".

There was a special program last year that employed about 350 students, which he said he hopes will be used again this summer.

He advised students to be "very selective in the careers you pick" and to be prepared to switch careers if employment is not available in the preferred field.

For example, he said, there are not as many opportunities for primary and secondary school teachers as there was 10 years ago. With fewer job opportunities, there should be fewer people studying education now.

When questioned about UNB Student Representative Council president Jim Murray about the specifics of the job programs for next summer, Hatfield said the ability "of government to finance jobs is very limited."

Each student hired by the government costs about \$1,000 he said.

The specifics of the student employment program will be announced during the presentation of the budget.

SRC vice president Susan Shalala questioned what she termed the government's view of "post secondary education as a low priority".

Hatfield said the operating budgets of the universities have increased this year, adding "the only question is what is that rate of increase?"

The coming budget will allow for "a higher rate of increase for education than other government departments."

Shalala questioned the changes in the funding of post-secondary education in light of the recent renegotiation of the Fiscal Arrangements Act, giving more tax points to the provinces to cover services including post-secondary education.

Law student Paul Zed said with the formation of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission the provincial governments had "created another layer of bureaucracy".

Zed said the MPHEC "makes conclusions that I can't see as a government you can ignore".

Hatfield said the government does share the concerns of the commission, but was unable to justify granting a "disproportionately higher increase" to the financing of post secondary education.

(The SUN, Feb. 8 Tom Benjamin)

Tight year for students coming up-78-9

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

A 6.6 per cent increase in government operating funds for the University of New Brunswick will probably mean higher tuition fees next year for students here.

UNB president Dr. John Anderson said that the university may be "forced into raising fees for a variety of reasons." He said that "We're desperately short - of money right now and would be forced to raise the fees because of financial state."

Dr. Anderson said that the per cent of the total operating costs of the university, which is represented by tuition, has been steadily declining over the past years. He said that 10 years ago, UNB paid thirty five per cent of its total operating budget whereas this year, tuition paid only 14 1/2 per cent. Tuition is the only other substantial revenue the university receives other than government grants.

He said that what could be termed a "directive in the press receiving equalization grants to release from the Maritime enable them to move closer to the Provinces Higher Education Commission average level of support for the mission said tuition fees should Maritime Universities. According to increase according to the cost of to Dr. Anderson, UNB is not living approximately 7 - 9 per cent included in these, and in fact that cent.

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He does not believe the have already changed as the standards of UNB will suffer. He projected upturn in economic mentioned that the Nova Scotia growth is not occurring as and Prince Edward Island govern- expected". It also said that ment are adding an extra 1 per provincial revenue from the federal cent to their university operating government were significantly grants. He believes this relates to lower than anticipated. According to the release, the

and not to the priority in which they place the education.

"I hope this does not represent the government support of the universities, I have no reason to

think our government is not supportive" said Dr. Anderson.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission said in a press release Jan. 25 that it had been informed by the Council of Maritime Premiers that a 6.7 per cent increase in operating costs has been approved.

This is almost half of the original recommendation of 14 per cent made by the MPHEC to the CMP.

Since the government grant does not account for all of UNB's operating income the effective increase in terms of the total operating budget is 5.3 per cent. The new operating grant is \$30,213,680 compared to \$28,332,800 for the current year.

The press release also said that several institutions would be receiving equalization grants to enable them to move closer to the average level of support for the mission said tuition fees should Maritime Universities. According to increase according to the cost of to Dr. Anderson, UNB is not living approximately 7 - 9 per cent included in these, and in fact that cent.

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CMP will not be able to respond to the final two years of the MPHEC's three year plan.

The Council of Maritime Premiers also varies from Commission recommendations in that it precludes a 1.5 per cent provision for national catch up, supports regional equalization of assistance to institutions over a 10 year period rather than the five year period proposed by the Commission and provides operating increases of 6.7 per cent in

New Brunswick and 7.7 per cent in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for sustenance rather than the 10.8 per cent recommended by the Commission.

There has been no comment as to how much the university may expect for the level of capital or non-space assistance which is being considered by the Maritime governments on an individual province basis.

Dr. Anderson said that he did

not know how much money was being given to the university for alteration and renovation fund. This fund is covered with replacing broken or old fashioned machinery, alterations to buildings, replacement of equipment and similar things.

The university also has some money tied up in what is termed an endowment fund, privately donated money which is usually given for a specific purpose such as for scholarships.

Candidate for president

MARK MCINTYRE-KELLY

Mark McIntyre-Kelly is one of three candidates for the position of SRC president. According to campaign manager Tim Colpitts, McIntyre-Kelly is concerned with establishing an efficient Public Relations system, and co-ordination between various clubs and organizations partially funded by the SRC.

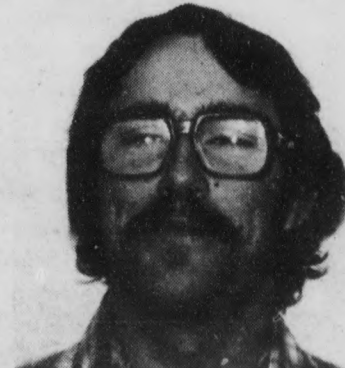
McIntyre-Kelly would also like to see a committee formed to take a comprehensive look at the rising costs of college education and

present a well prepared brief to the Provincial Government in favour of raising student loans. This, said, McIntyre-Kelly, would have to wait until next year.

McIntyre-Kelly said that their administration would operate on an open door policy, easily accessible to all students.

McIntyre-Kelly is also interested in the present course evaluation system.

McIntyre-Kelly has once held positions in the Business society, the Education Society and on the Orientation Committee. He has



also worked for various labour departments.

McIntyre-Kelly and his campaign manager, Tim Colpitts are hoping to see a good election turnout.

Education not important

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

"There is less of a high priority on education" said SRC president Jim Murray. He said the province is not taking advantage of people from the universities, and said the government is at fault, not the country as Premier Hatfield said at the meeting. He feels if the government had done the right thing in the first place, then the economy wouldn't be where it is now, and universities would not

be in the severe financial straits in which they now find themselves.

Murray feels if the quality of the education at UNB and the Maritimes continues "to slip" then students will soon choose to go elsewhere.

Murray felt Hatfield "did a lot of fandangling" and offered no solution or recourse for the decision of the Council of Maritime Premiers. The CMP refused to

approve the original 14 per cent increase in operating grants for the universities originally recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, and instead approved a 6.7 per cent increase.

Murray said "the only thing to do now is to be strong" with the administration, and that the emphasis should now be on student aid.