

MPHEC recommends 10 per cent tuition hike

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The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Committee recommended Wednesday the three provincial governments raise their post-secondary Grants by 10.3 per cent and that tuition fees should be raised by the same amount.

The commission report predicts collective operating costs will be up by 11 per cent in 1982 and 1983 and 10 per cent in the year following.

Although President Downey was in Halifax for the commission hearings, and thus not available for comment, the reaction of both James O'Sullivan, vice-president of administration and finance and Dean of Students Barry Thompson was positive, with reservations on their ability to comment intelligently before any discussions had taken place.

Thompson said that by itself the percentage in the commissions report was difficult to comment on due to the complexity of "strings" that might be attached. He said although the percentage was an improvement over that of past years, there was no guarantee of the university's ability to adhere to the recommendation since many costs such as heating may far outstrip 10 per cent.

O'Sullivan said the MPHEC is a serious, responsible organization which stands behind its findings. He said he has faith that its recommendation of 10 per cent was a reasonable one.

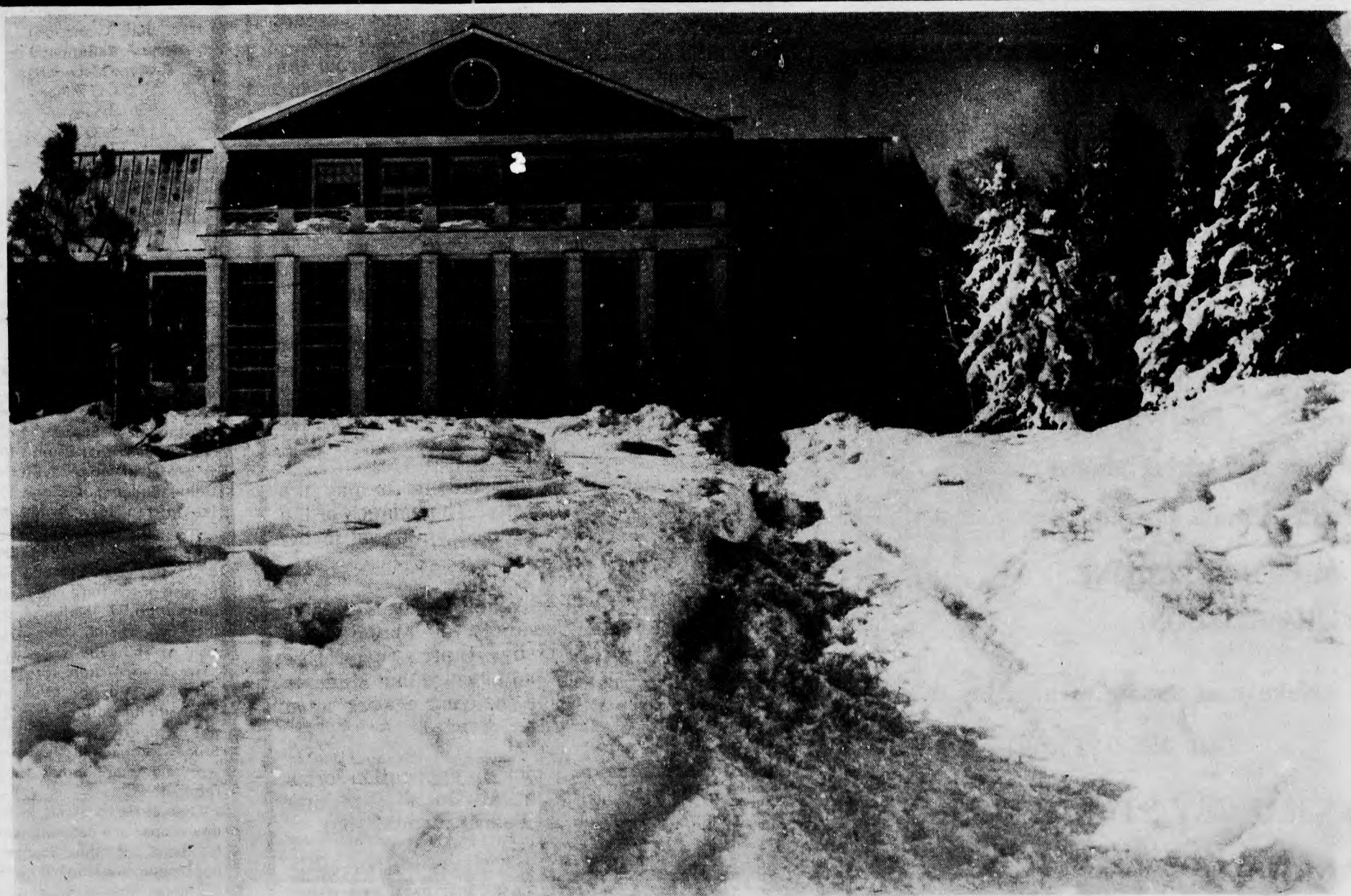
SRC President Kevin Ratcliff said it is "most likely" that next year's fees will exceed a 10 per cent increase. He foresees difficult times across the board for students and expressed his fear that a lack of funding will have serious effects on the smaller maritime universities.



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