

Warns University Fees For Outsiders Be Higher Or Will Reduce Grants

Premier Hepburn Tells Legislature College Officials Must Make Readjustment 'Forthwith' or Receive Drastic Cut in Provincial Subsidies; Drew Agrees Ontario Pupils Should Pay Less

ASSAILS STUDENTS FOR 'UNFAIR TACTICS'

Premier Mitchell Hepburn warned Ontario university officials last night that, unless some readjustments in the system of fees were instituted forthwith to increase the cost of education for non-Ontario residents, more drastic reductions in university grants could be expected next year.

The question of university grants and the demonstrations staged recently by students of the University of Western Ontario found itself unexpectedly before the Legislature during the consideration of Department of Education estimates and the Premier for the first time revealed the extent of the "persecution" to which he and his family, he said, had been subjected in the campaign of London, Ont., students.

In a voice bitter with emotion, Mr. Hepburn told the House that his wife and children had been made the target of "most unfair tactics" by demonstrating students and coupled his attack on their conduct with the charge that the demonstration had been prompted by political motives.

Says Students Unfair.

"University of Western Ontario students adopted most unfair tactics in voicing their objections to the grant reduction," he said. "My telephone rang day and night. My wife was harassed by insulting letters and some intelligent students even stooped so low as to send letters to my adopted son and daughter.

"The whole demonstration had a political motive. One of the leaders was a nephew of Senator Meighen and another was the grandson of a registrar who had been retired because of his age."

Under present circumstances, Mr. Hepburn said, Canadian universities were being made a "haven for students from outside the province and from outside the Dominion. Eight hundred students at University of Toronto, 265 at Western and 361 at Queen's, he said, were not Ontario citizens. "And yet, of them all, only

four medical students at Western are paying any higher fees than Ontario residents," he declared.

The Premier's fiery outburst drew a mild rebuke from Col. George A. Drew, Leader of the Opposition.

"I regret that the Premier should have spoiled a seemingly irrefutable argument in favor of grant reductions by this display of personal emotion," Colonel Drew said.

"If you were Prime Minister," Mr. Hepburn shot back, "and you may be some day, although I hope it's a long way off—you'd know what it is to have organized groups set on you to harass you and your family. And you'd know why I speak with feeling on the question."

Drew Agrees on Fees.

"When something of this kind arouses feeling," the Conservative Leader countered, "there are always irresponsible groups who cannot be taken as a fair example of the whole. Condemnation of the group as a whole should not be the result of unfortunate demonstrations staged by the few. And, if the Premier wants to make political capital of the incident, let me tell him that I know there were members of Conservative families active in what took place. There were also members of Liberal families and of C.C.F. families."

Colonel Drew voiced agreement with the Premier's stand in the matter of fees. Students who came to Ontario to attend university, he felt, should pay a higher tuition fee than citizens of the Province. "It is not unkindness when we say to those from outside that they must pay a proportionate increase in fee," he said.

Live on One Meal a Day.

Col. T. A. Kidd (Con., Kingston) agreed that there might be something in the Premier's suggestion that non-resident students should pay higher fees, but Queen's University was a "poor man's university," and he knew of more than one student who eked out his term on little more than a meal a day.

"Yes," jibed Provincial Secretary Nixon, "when their football team comes down here the students who come with them seem to have enough to spend."

"And paint the town red," added the Premier.

"And wreck the Royal York," ended Mr. Nixon.