

# Macerollo Re-elected CFS Chair

OTTAWA (CUP) — TONY MACEROLLO, the clean-cut and diplomatic chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, was re-elected leader of the national student lobby and services group during its recent general meeting.

Macerollo, who ran unopposed for his second term in office, said the re-election suggests "an evaluation of a job well done to date."

He vowed to continue work on problems that have long plagued the five-year-old organization, including voting procedures and dealing with "non-educational issues." Macerollo, whose new one-year term starts in May, could not elaborate on new goals, saying, "My mind's a bit fuzzy right now."

At the same meeting, CFS delegates voted to sponsor a "national week of action" to protest post-secondary underfunding.

The January 26 - 30, 1987 protest week will be the climax of "Fund-

ing the Future", a one-year lobby campaign. Macerollo said the federation's 50 member associations will organize individual protests, as well as simultaneous news conferences to publicize poor funding for education in Canada.

Macerollo said the federation will have little difficulty organizing the campaign in just over two months.

"All we have to do is help [the members] be innovative about what can go on at the local level," he said.

The federation's campaign committee has suggested strikes, rallies and sit-ins. Other suggestions include giving local politicians campus tours to illustrate "the tangible effects of chronic underfunding, like offices in hallways [and] overcrowded libraries."

The four main issues of the campaign will be student aid, employment, funding, and differential fees for international students.

## LOBBY DAY ON PARLIAMENT HILL A WASH-OUT FOR CFS

By John Gushue Canadian University Press

OTTAWA (CUP) CANADA'S STUDENT LEADERS failed to win significant political points during recent Parliament Hill meetings with representatives of the three major political parties.

More than 100 members of the Canadian Federation of Students, holding a semi-annual general meeting in Ottawa, confronted caucuses of the Liberal, New Democratic and Progressive Conservative parties on November 4, but were given little more than warm promises from the opposition and evasive answers from the government.

Carefully planned questions, on issues such as student aid, federal-provincial funding arrangements and student unemployment, were delivered to each caucus, though no time was given for follow-up questions or debate.

While the Liberals and New Democrats fielded near-full caucuses, with respective leaders John Turner and Ed Broadbent in attendance, the Conservatives decided to send only Jean Charest, Minister of State for Youth.

Charest headed a delegation consisting mostly of backbenchers and bureaucrats. Other ministers with portfolios relevant to students and

youth, including Secretary of State David Crombie and Employment Minister Benoit Bouchard, declined CFS invitations to hear student concerns.

"We're a little disappointed that other parties were able to bring out more of their caucuses," CFS Chair Tony Macerollo told the Tory caucus.

Charest, who answered most questions, talked mostly about student unemployment rates. Macerollo said Charest's luke-warm answers were riddled with inaccuracies, adding "if Charest thinks he's pulling something on us, he's sadly mistaken."

Responses from the Liberal and NDP caucuses, chaired by post-secondary critics Roland de Corneille and Lynn McDonald, were marked by enthusiastic yet predictable answers.

"You're preaching to the converted," said McDonald, adding the Mulroney government is better able to fund post-secondary education and research than it claims.

"Don't buy the line we're living beyond our means. We're not," said McDonald. "We spend less on health and education than most [Western] countries — Holland,

Italy, England, Ireland — countries with much less resources than Canada."

De Corneille, the head of a Liberal task force on post-secondary education due to report to this month's national party convention, said Canadian youth face "a very serious crisis" with high unemployment rates, rising fees, and skyrocketing student aid debt loads.

"More Canadians are seeing that education is not a cost, but an investment," said de Corneille.

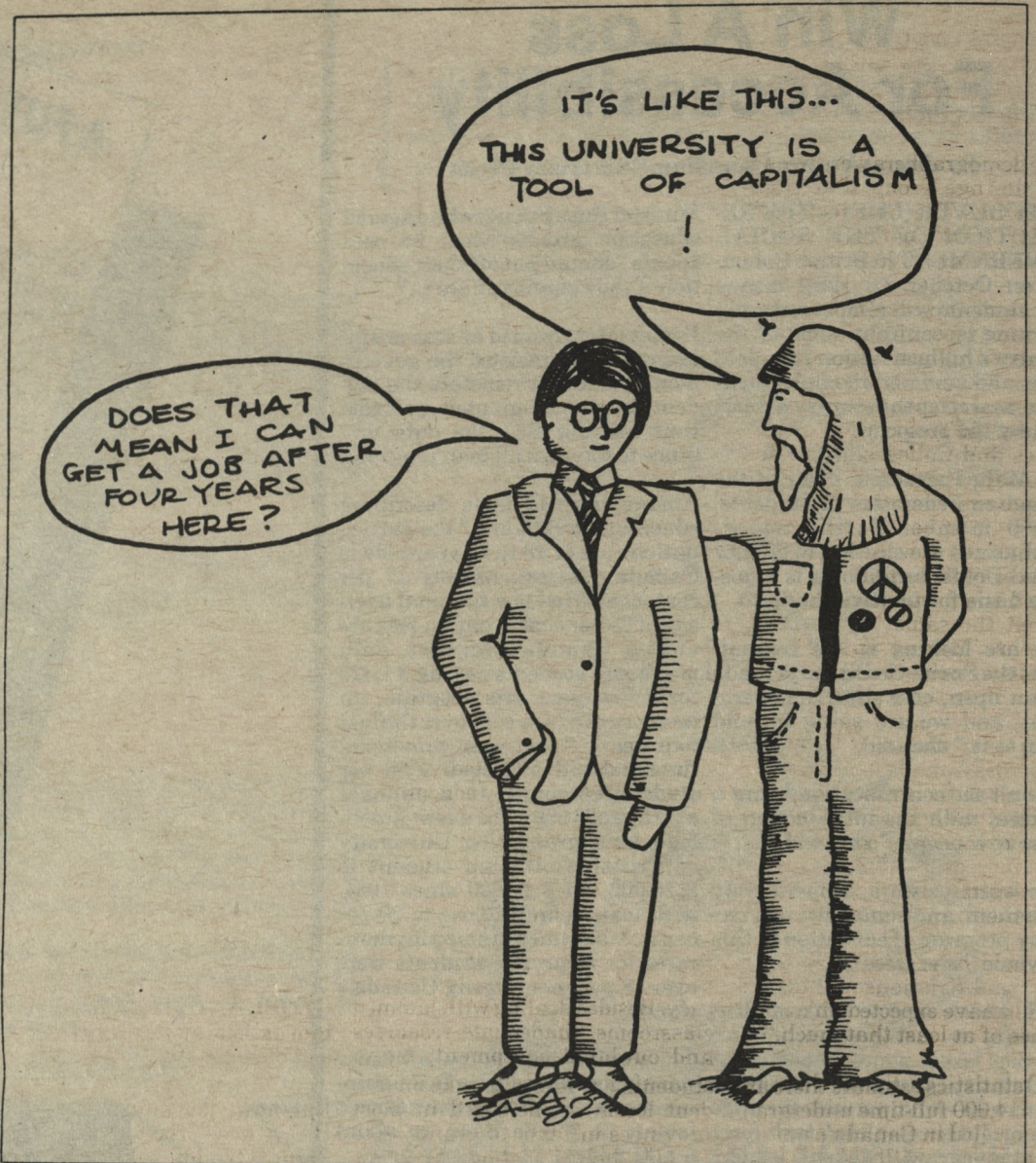
Although opposition MPs were quick to support the federation's causes during caucus meetings, little attention was given to student concerns later in the House of Commons.

During question period, McDonald was the only MP to raise any education-related questions. She asked Crombie if the government is considering a solution to rising debt loads.

"I'll be happy to meet with [anyone] to deal with the situation," Crombie said.

Many CFS delegates found the caucus meetings futile.

"I thought this was the biggest



Graphic/Charlton

ass-kiss of all," said Chris Spiteri, a student council vice-president at the University of Ottawa.

University of Victoria delegate Keith Piddington described the federation's performance as "very quiet, muted, and stodgy."

Piddington said CFS made a poor attempt at attracting media coverage. "I was looking for something with a bit more spark, a bit more drama, and a bit more fire," he said.

"They're going to wonder back home what we're doing here. I think they're [CFS] afraid of offending anyone," he said.

But Allan Sharp, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, which coached students on lobbying techniques, said students should not have expected too much to come from the caucus meetings.

"I don't think debate is an effective lobby tool," he said. "The crucial thing is that students hear the clear disinformation and the lack of knowledge that exists [in the government]."

Macerollo, who was re-elected CFS chair during federation meetings, promised to change the lobby format for next year's meetings.



MIKE '85