

# CFS has date with the feds in March

OTTAWA (CUP) — With a little help from opposition MPs, Canada's national student lobby group hopes to speak to Canada's federal politicians when they meet for economic talks on March 22 and 23.

In a letter to prime minister Brian Mulroney, Beth Olley, Canadian Federation of Student chair, urges the federal government to allow students some representation at the upcoming economic summit in Regina, March 22 to 23.

Olley says CFS wants to impress on the federal and provincial governments that post-secondary education is in a desperate situation and should be funded adequately.

"Continued cutbacks to the funding that is passed on to post-secondary students will damage them to the point of where rebuilding will be a major task, if not impossible," she writes.

"... We are counting on you to ensure that students, through the Canadian Federation of Students, are represented at the economic summit and during any discussions that are held on setting national objectives in the area of post-secondary education."

CFS's attempts to make post-secondary education a high priority at the economic summit meetings are being given a boost by opposition MPs, who have frequently pressured the Tories to hear students' concerns since the House of Commons began sitting Nov. 5.

On Nov. 8, Liberal opposition leader John Turner and MP for Vancouver Quadra asked Mulroney to make post-secondary education "his personal priority" at the summit and allow student representatives to help set the agenda.

Replied Mulroney: "I would be delighted to take (Turner's) suggestion and consult further with students."

On Nov. 15, the day hundreds of students protested on Parliament Hill and in the rest of Ontario against government underfunding, Liberal MP Jean Lapierre and Shefford rep said to secretary of state Walter McLean: "The House is aware that the government intends to cut summer jobs, student loans and transfer payments for post-secondary education, and now nearly 1,000 students have been in standing out in the cold,

waiting to communicate a message to the minister and his cabinet colleagues..."

"I wish to ask the minister how he can justify refusing to meet with Canadian citizens who want to express their concerns to the government and, instead, has chosen to ignore this demonstration by young people who want to have a say in the debate on their future."

Replied McLean: "I want to assure (Lapierre) that I

take very seriously the situation of Canadian students ... I will be meeting with the provincial (education ministers) in the near future and will be beginning dialogue about the future of post-secondary education."

Despite the opposition's persistence, Olley says Mulroney has not yet responded to her letter, dated Nov. 16. But she has received a letter from finance minister Michael Wilson in

which he says he will solicit CFS's views on his first economic statement tabled in the House Nov. 8.

In that statement, Wilson announced that the federal government will slash \$85 million from its Summer Works student job creation programme and freeze the amount of money set aside for student loans. Olley says CFS will urge the Tories to restore the funding cuts and pump more money into stu-

dent aid.

The freeze actually represents a \$5 million cut because inflation is not taken into consideration.

CFS representatives, Olley says, will also ensure that employment and immigration minister Flora MacDonald is made aware that about 20,000 to 30,000 jobs will be lost as a result of the cut. CFS plans to meet with MacDonald within two weeks for some intense lobbying.

## Short story contest is memorial to Sentner

Carl Sentner was a director and producer of television at CBCT TV in Charlottetown. But his real love was writing. He never stopped writing and dreaming of the day when he could devote all his time to it.

Carl died suddenly on April 11, 1984, at the age of 44.

He excelled in the short story. As a fitting memorial, his family, friends, and colleagues have set up this annual competition to help other aspiring writers.

The competition is open to P.E.I. residents only.

Candidates are asked to submit a short story (fiction) that is original and unpublished, 2500 to 4000 words in length, or about 15 to 20 minutes. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, and include name and address. Entries will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$300, and have the work published and performed on CBC radio.

The award will be made on April 11, 1985, and entries should arrive at CBCT by

February 24, 1985. The jurors are Kennedy Wells, journalist; Reshard Gool,

author and UPEI professor; and Martin Dorrell, executive producer, radio, CBCT.

## Maureen Forrester to speak tonight

Maureen Forrester, internationally known singer, is to speak tonight in Charlottetown on "Women in the Arts: A Personal View".

Ms. Forrester is now chair of the Canada Council, and her visit is the third in the Voices of Women lecture series sponsored by the UPEI Women's Studies Group, the Canadian Research Institute

for the Advancement of Women, and the Canadian Congress on Learning Opportunities for Women.

Admission to the lecture is free; it will take place at 8 p.m. in the Coles Building, corner of Richmond and Church.

Funding for the Lecture Series is provided by the Secretary of State.

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