

Tories move in — on us

OTTAWA(CUP) — Piles of boxes, filing cabinets and forlorn potted plants clutter the hallways of Parliament Hill's office buildings as Canada's largest ever cabinet moves in.

Men in coveralls push huge crates back and forth. Tory organizers frantically rush about, yelling orders alternately in French and English: "Move that over there! Ça va là-bas!"

Behind the commotion are doors leading into cabinet ministers' offices. The doors stare blankly into the hallway, but they will soon be adorned with 40 new brass nameplates.

Four of these doors will open to reveal cabinet ministers that may have profound effect on students across the country this year — youth minister Andree Champagne, secretary of state Walter McLean, employment minister Flora MacDonald and finance minister Michael Wilson.

Champagne, a 45-year-old popular Quebec soap opera star, is a newcomer to Parliament. Before sweeping into power in the riding of Ste. Hyacinthe-Bagot, Champagne was involved in community

cultural groups and was a driving force behind Quebec's Union des artistes. She will be looking after Canada's beleaguered youth, half a million of which failed to find work this summer.

McLean, a 48-year-old Presbyterian minister and known for his left-leaning politics, is outspoken on third world issues and a co-founder of Canadian University Services Overseas. A MP for Waterloo since 1979, he opposes his party's pro-cruise missile testing stance. He will be negotiating with the provinces over federal transfer payments for education and as Mulroney promised, will help usher in a "new era" in federal-provincial cooperation.

MacDonald has been described as a "Red Tory". The 58-year-old native of Nova Scotia has inched her way up the party ranks and held many prominent positions since her 1972 election, most notable the post of external affairs minister. MacDonald, who ran against Mulroney and Joe Clark for the party leadership in 1976, is one of the few women in the top Tory ranks.

Wilson has also swiftly

worked his way into top Tory circles. First elected to the House of Commons in 1979, then-prime minister Joe Clark appointed the 46-year-old corporate executive to the position of international trade minister. Wilson brings to the cabinet a more conservative perspective and will oversee the party's budget.

These ministers have been targeted by two of Canada's largest university lobby groups — the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Both groups welcome the appointments with cautious optimism.

CFS research Jean Wright applauds the MacDonald and MacLean placements, saying both will likely take humanist approaches to their appointments, but she reserves judgement on the unknown Champagne.

Wright says CFS was unhappy with the two previous youth ministers, Celine Hervieux-Payette and Jean Lapierre, because they portrayed students as a small privileged group at odds with other youth.

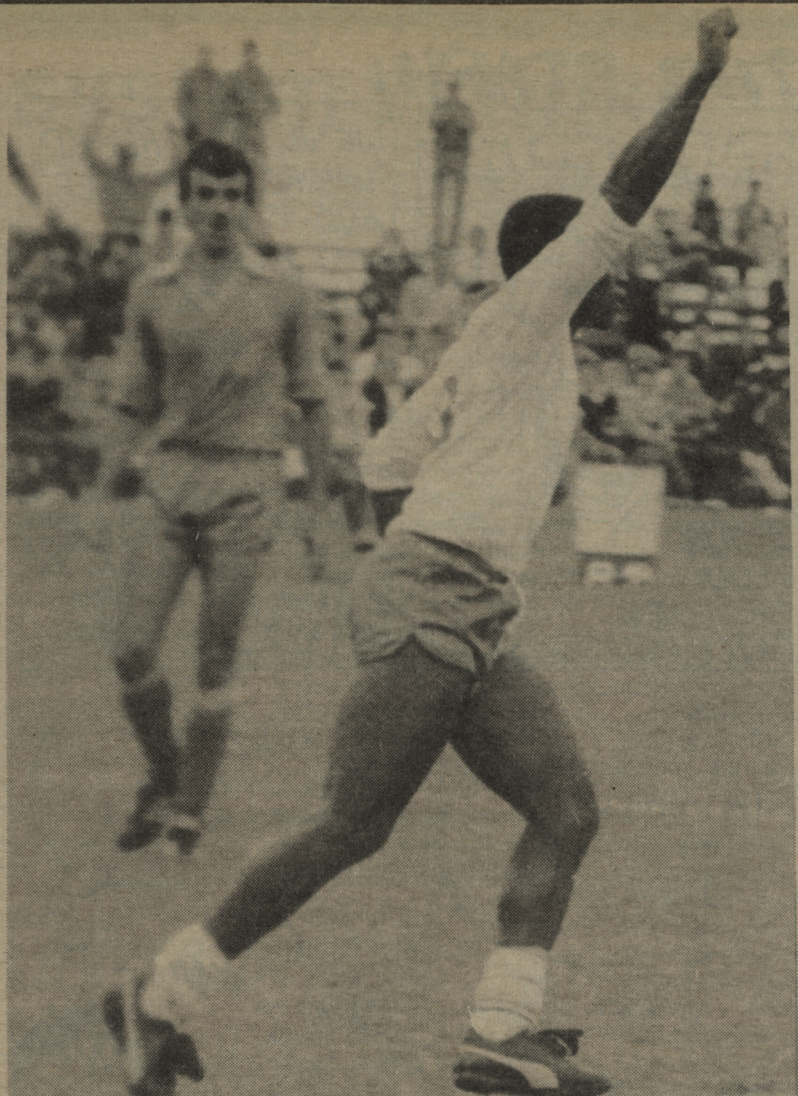
She also criticized Mulroney for putting left-leaning Tories such as MacDonald and McLean in social services portfolios while politically conservative heavyweights like Wilson were given financial positions.

"I'm not sure how cynical to be about those sorts of appointments," Wright says. She says social services ministers, who usually meet lobby groups, may find their hands tied by financially-oriented ministers when they want to expand programs.

Al Sharp, CAUT vice-president external, was more optimistic about Wilson's choice as finance minister.

"We are hoping Michael Wilson will take a cooperative approach to dealing with the provinces," Sharp says, and end years of acrimonious bickering between the federal government and the provinces over education funding.

None of the ministers could be reached for comment because their offices are not set up and they do not have telephones yet.



Panther forward Richard Pierre-Gilles strikes a triumphant pose during UPEI's victory over the Universite de Moncton, Sunday. The goal was disallowed though. (09/23/84 Hartinger)

The student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island

The Netted Gem

Volume 2, Issue 4

Search Committee asks students about a new president

By Carolyn Ryan

The Search Committee for a New President wants contributions from students on criteria for the president.

Committee member and Student Senator Gordon Cobb made a request to the SU Council on Sunday night for a student committee to be set up to solicit student opinion on presidential re-

"(The Search Committee) is the most important committee in the whole university," said Cobb, urging Councillors to talk to their constituents and create some interest in the issue.

As one of its last items of business at the meeting, Council struck a Presidential Criteria Committee, to consist of President Michelle

Dorsey, Science rep Ken Dymont, and Business rep Aileen Matters.

Dorsey supports Cobb's concern that students have a voice in the choice of a university president. She said the executive has been discussing criteria at its meetings.

"A president has to be highly visible, good at public and student relations and fiscally responsible," she said, adding that he/she shouldn't throw money around on irrelevant projects.

Students wishing to speak to the committee are asked to leave their names at the Student Union office as soon as possible. SU Treasurer Kenny Mutter, also on the Search Committee, advised the new committee to report by the end of next week at the latest.

The new president will replace current President Peter Meincke, whose contract isn't being renewed after this year.

Quote of the Week:

"I'm the president; I can do what I want."

Student Union President Michelle Dorsey, laughingly, after being questioned on why she had created an agenda item requiring Councillors to give oral reports at Sunday night's meeting. She also explained that the reports would give Councillors more experience in speaking up and improve the exchange of information in the Student Union.

Still in the dark

By Jonathon Orlowski

The latest Ener-save package on campus is the new lighting system which is being installed in the Robertson Library.

As most of you already know, you don't have to wander very far into the stacks (translation: rows of books) to be in the dark. Feel your way around, though, because there is 'light at the end of the tunnel'. It comes in the form of a box with a cable that slithers up to the ceiling at the end of every second row.

On this box is a dial. Turn it to the left and FLASH — you have 15 minutes of light, in which to hunt for your books, or friends.

Then the lights got out.

"I heard of people going around in this library with lighted matches, lighters and even candles ..." said one reliable informant.

This quite believable too, as the informant says, "... half the ballasts (a device used to direct the current of electricity) in the lights are gone." "They should have been replaced three months ago, before the electricians rewired this place. This business about matches, lighters and candles creates a fire hazard with the dry air and the many books up in the stacks."

"The general public simply has no knowledge of this new system. I see students, faculty, and visitors looking for books in the dark, and when

I turn the lights on for them, they respond, 'Oh, I didn't know that!'"

What about the people working in the library?

"It wouldn't be so bad if all the knobs stayed on, and all the lights worked in every row", says one student assistant. Other students working there have related similar feelings and experiences.

"What is my job?", asks one worker. "Why couldn't they use a wheel device inside this box, instead of the present dial, and then set the dial for a half hour instead of 15 minutes." Sounds like someone is going to make money of these broken parts (knobs).

The maintenance crew, otherwise known as the Spic-and-Span Gang, will have their troubles too.

