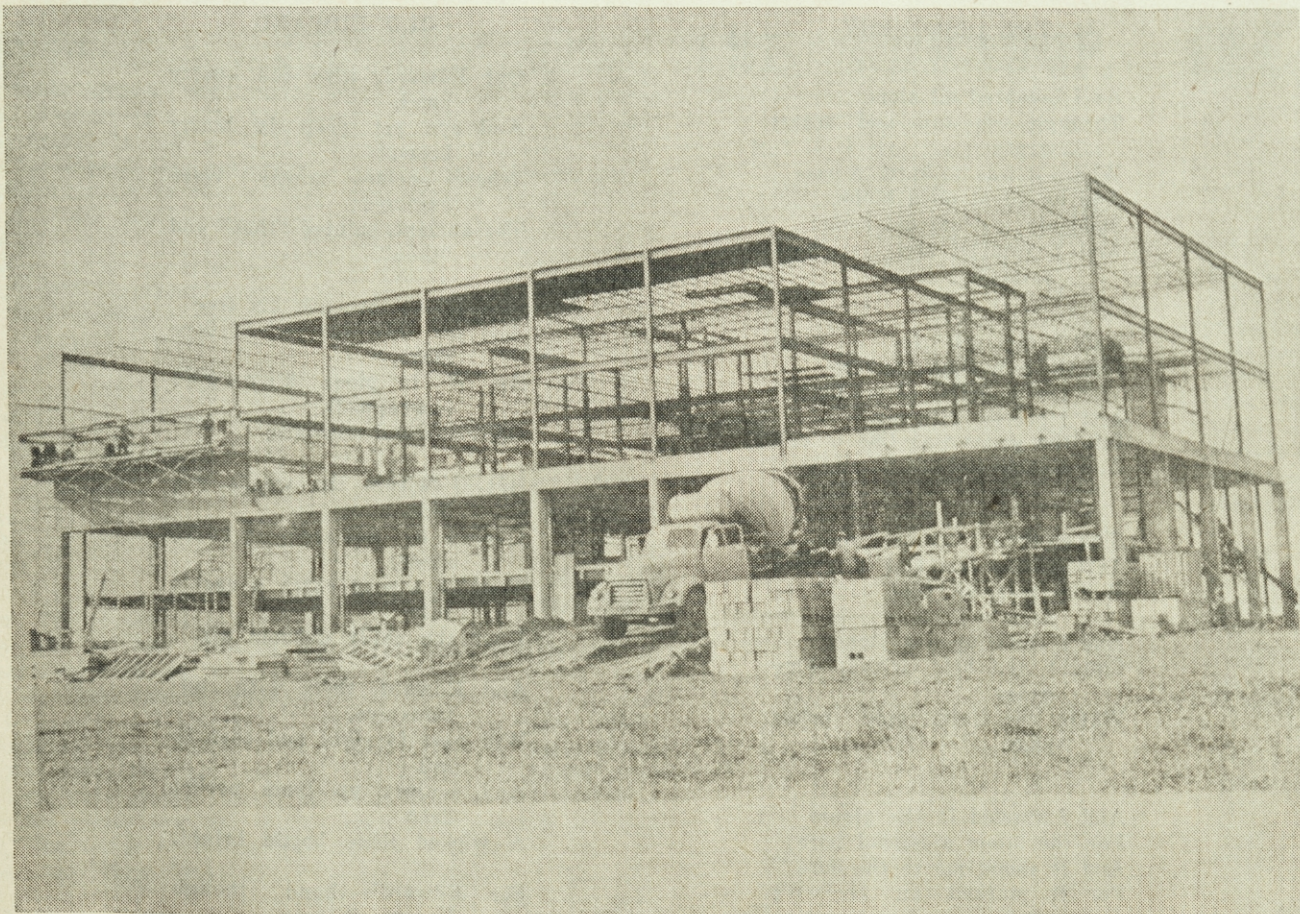


# PROGRESS REPORT



## GO SAINTS GO!!!

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## THE CRISIS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

(Submitted by SDU CUS  
Committee)

We are rapidly coming to a time of crisis in the field of higher education and our choice of the two paths facing us will help guide Canada's future. The Canadian people have an option; make post-secondary education available to any student who is academically qualified or restrict training to the ever decreasing elite who can afford the ever increasing cost.

You, as a new student, must quickly learn what the facts of this situation are. Soon you will form your own opinion. Hopefully you will take a large part in deciding which path Canada will choose.

Expansion of university facilities, rising living costs and attempts to wipe out debts are forcing tuition and room and board fees up every year. Grants from the provincial government or from private sources have not been sufficient. Recognizing the unbearable situation, the Canadian Union of Students, which represents over most of Canada, has placed the reduction of fees as its top priority project of this year. This national student union, of which you are now a member, has declared free education to be an important, desirable goal towards which Canada must strive. C.U.S. regards the elimination of tuition fees as the first step in this direction.

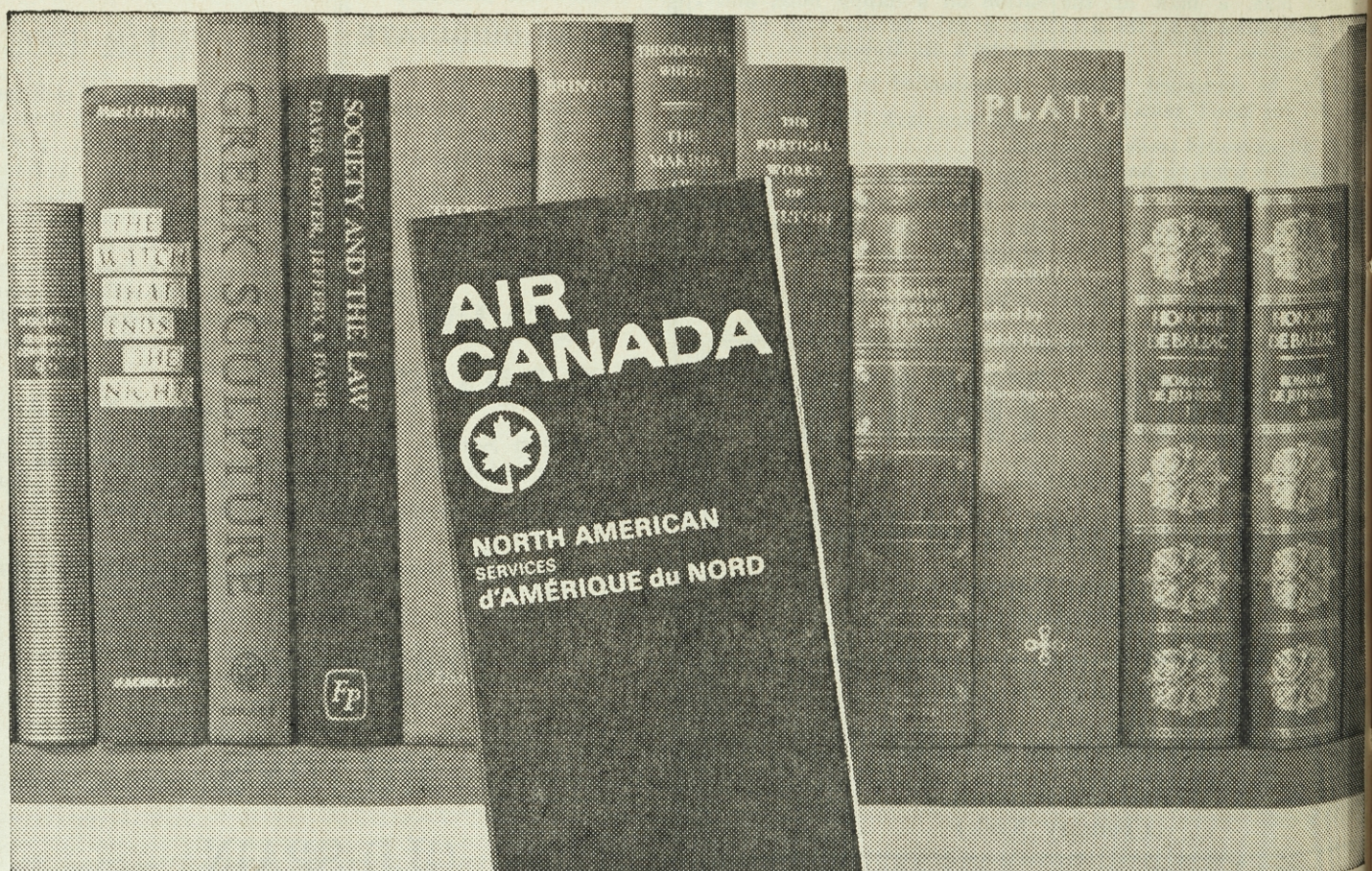
Now, what is rational behind the decision C.U.S. has made? Very briefly, (anyone in the committee will be glad to discuss this with you further), the Canadian Union of Students realizes that if you ask the individual student to pay you are going to restrict higher education to the very

rich. It is infinitely more desirable to ask society to pay now and to have the student repay his debt later (not entirely in cash). At present, the cost of university to a student is at least \$1500 a year. The average summer earnings of a student are about \$509. One thousand dollars must be paid by parents or some financing scheme like a loan plan.

Neither of these alternatives is at all acceptable. When parents pay students do not advance on merit but rather according to financial status. In addition, the freedom to think and decide for oneself, which is so essential to a university student, is lost in dependence on parental decisions. Loan schemes present such a financial risk that many prospective students never apply. Those who accept these plans take on an enormous financial burden which arrives at their doorstep just as they finish university and their future is in the balance.

But why should society be the one to pay? Isn't the student the one that benefits from the education given him? Not true. True, individual earnings will probably increase by \$180,000 over a lifetime. Much of this however, will be returned to society through progressively graduated income tax. More important than this, society should pay because economic growth and technological advancement are directly related to increases in education. The Denison report estimates that over 40 per cent of Gross National Product can be attributed to education. If education is of such great benefit to society, society should share in its costs.

(continued on page 8)



## required reading

Chances are you won't find this AIR CANADA schedule among the intellectual nourishment available in your university or college library. Yet, in not too many years, it could be an important bread and butter item on your everyday reading list. And for this very good reason: AIR CANADA can take you *quickly, comfortably and conveniently* to 35 Canadian cities, 7 major U.S. cities, and to Britain (with BOAC), Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Bermuda, Nassau, and the Caribbean, on matters of business, pleasure and profit.

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