

CUTBACKS ?

For a number of months now many TA's have participated in a campaign to certify a labour union to bargain collectively with the University Administration. We have begun this effort because we recognize that in the face of pressure for cutbacks in spending the Administration can be expected to move first on the least organized sectors of the University community. We have come to understand that without a certified trade union there is no way for us to require the Administration to even consult with us before implimenting significant changes in our conditions of work.

Although we have been predicting serious cutbacks, many of our fellow TAs have remained unconvinced of the need for collective action. To date it has been difficult to produce hard evidence to some TAs that the cutbacks are real. However now that the students have begun to focus attention on the financial position of the University, the information is beginning to come out...

As this semester concludes the Administration is actively preparing a major program of cutbacks. The cutbacks will be necessary to make up an anticipated deficit of rfrom \$750,000. to \$1.5 million. The deficit, of course, represents the difference between the grant from the Universities Council and the University's projected operating costs.

A current Administration proposal is to increase tuition by 25%. However even if the fees are raised by this amount the additional income is not expected to cover the entire projected deficit of \$1.5 million. According to the Administration's estimates as much as \$750,000. will remain to be found from cutbacks in expenditures.

The obvious question to consider is in what areas are the cutbacks to occur and more specifically, what are the likely implications for TAs.

Although the members of the Administration have apparently not finalized their position, it is instructive to consider the lists of proposed "savings areas" drawn up by a number of the University Deans. The recommendations that will most directly effect the teaching support staff include the following:

- elimination of TAs in all upper level courses,
- elimination of laboratory demonstrators,
- reduction in wages of all nongraduate TAs
- an increase in the standard teaching load for all TAs,
- an increase in tutorial size.

If these recommendations are at all representative of the thinking of the entire Administration, we have reason to be concerned. Is it time to reconsider your thinking about a union for TAs?

If you'd like more information about what to expect from our friends upstairs,

If you'd like an opportunity to make your own views known about budget priorities for the University,

come to the

OPEN FORUM ON THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET

Thursday 12:30

March 24 Rm. 3159 A.Q.

Representatives from the students, faculty, support staff, and the Administration will be available to present their information and answer questions. Please plan to attend this important meeting.