

of the student population a decade earlier. The number of first degrees works out at around 450 a year, and the U.G.C. says that this is enough to satisfy not only the demand for trained agriculturists in Britain but that from overseas as well.

On the machinery for making these decisions, the U.G.C. says that the main committee must be held responsible for all decisions, right or wrong, although in this case the committee did consult the subject panel responsible for agriculture whose chairman is Sir Harold Sanders, now deputy chairman of the U.G.C. and who was professor of agriculture at the University of Reading from 1944–54 and afterwards chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture. According to a spokesman of the U.G.C., the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has been informed of the scheme for rationalizing agriculture, though it has not been embarrassed with the details.

Cost of Learning

THANKS to Governor Ronald Reagan, people far from California now know that his state offers its citizens free education at college and university. Not that Mr. Reagan, a fortnight in office, is proud of California's century-old record of free university tuition. He wants to keep his Republican campaign promise to reduce government spending and proposes to cut the university's \$240 million annual budget by 10 per cent. To recoup these losses, he suggests that the university—with nine campuses and 80,000 students—and the network of state colleges—with about 127,000 students—should charge tuition fees of several hundred dollars a year. If this were to happen—and it is by no means certain that it will—the new fees could keep away as many as 20,000 new students next autumn. In turn, the state's admirable Master Plan for Higher Education under which the university and college network expand with the population would be brought to a halt.

To be accurate, higher education in California is not absolutely free of charge. Residents of the state pay about \$240 a year at the university in various required fees. Those from outside its borders pay almost as much as they would at a private university—about \$1,000. The state's Finance Director, who seems to be the Iago of the plot, thinks that perhaps too many Californians are going to university just because it is so cheap. Any graduate of a high school or other secondary school is eligible for the university if he has a *B* average. The state colleges are even more catholic: they take in secondary school graduates with a *C* plus average. These colleges might be harder hit than the university by an imposition of tuition fees, for their intending students presumably are more easily discouraged than the more gifted ones who are hell-bent for university.

With the prospect of political storms on the way, people are already wondering if the university's branch at Berkeley will be able to hold its teaching staff. The mood of the undergraduates at Berkeley, following the celebrated riots of recent years, is said to be restless, even anarchic. The Reagan assault on the university's independence could set off another round of mass demonstrations, sit-ins and strikes which could in turn drive away those young teachers looking for a place to do serious and serene work.

While California's problems are exotic, state-aided colleges and universities throughout the United States are finding themselves forced to raise their traditionally low fees. Some of these are still surprisingly modest, even by British standards. At the University of Texas, a Texan student pays only \$100 a year. Someone from outside the state must pay \$703. New York's prestigious state university at Cornell is more expensive—about \$600 for a New Yorker, about \$1,000 for outsiders. The University of Hawaii generously charges the same fee—\$232.50—to those from the islands and those from the mainland. Tuition charges are relatively low for outsiders at the University of Arkansas (\$470), the University of Ohio at Bowling Green (\$550) and Louisiana State University (\$620). The cost of tuition at Harvard and Yale works out at \$1,800 a year with roughly the same amount for board and lodging. Only the universities of Idaho and Connecticut have somehow been able to resist the temptation—or the necessity—of charging for higher education.

British Fees Go Up

IN Britain, too, tuition fees are to be increased in the interests of the economy, and, it is claimed, the balance of payments. The Department of Education and Science, which says that the tuition fees for university students are about £70 per year, and for technical college students £30–£40 per year, intends to increase them to £250 and £150 respectively. A furor has been caused because the increase is to apply only to students from overseas. Foreign students already embarked on courses in Britain will not be quite so brutally treated; their fees are to increase by £50 per year.

Critics of the proposals say that more than 70 per cent of the foreign students in Britain come from developing countries, and will have the utmost difficulty in finding the extra money. Some, who arrive without qualifications at British technical colleges to qualify themselves for British universities, will be faced with increases amounting to £760 over five years. Critics also claim that the saving the government hopes to make, £5m, is pure speculation, and that the moves made by the government to offset the additional cost will apply only to a minority of students already in residence, and not at all to those arriving for the academic year 1967–68. A more philosophical point is that the assistance will only apply to students sponsored by governments and government organizations, and not to those who come on their own initiative.

Abroad, the proposals may seem to be a crude way of summarily reducing immigration into Britain and assistance from Britain to developing countries. Certainly the fuss seems hardly worth the putative failing; the government may well be shocked by the intensity of the reaction, which shows no signs of dying down. As in California, students are likely to make the most noise, but they may well be supported by some academics.

Forward by Degrees

SUBSTANTIAL progress is reported by the Council for National Academic Awards for its second year of operation up to September 30, 1966. The Council has considered 104 courses, and has approved 66, most of them honours degree courses. It has also announced