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### Loan appropriation pending in House of Representatives would affect University of Montana students

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LOAN APPROPRIATION PENDING  
IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WOULD AFFECT UM STUDENTS

MISSOULA--

The proposed increase in the National Defense Student Loan Fund, which is pending in Congress, would add over \$50,000 to the fund at the University of Montana, said Donald J. Mullen, financial aid director at the Missoula school.

The House of Representatives' bill HJR 928 calls for a \$74 million increase in National Defense loans for college students throughout the nation for the school year 1969-1970, said Mullen.

Currently, the loan appropriation is set at \$155 million for this year. This would be increased to \$229 million for the entire country if the proposed bill is approved.

Mullen said that the House of Representatives was scheduled to vote on the issue last Wednesday. He has received no word on the voting results as yet.

Associated Women Students organizations from every institution of higher learning in the state have endorsed the bill, according to Mullen.

He said financial aid directors from all Montana colleges and universities have written letters to the Montana Congressional Delegation in Washington D.C. The governor's office in Helena has also notified the Congressional Delegation of local interest in the proposed legislation, said Mullen.

The UM financial aid director said that the entire Montana Congressional Delegation has assured Gov. Forrest H. Anderson that they will work for the increased appropriation.

LOAN APPROPRIATION PENDING--2

At a recent regional meeting of the Rocky Mountain Association of Official Financial Aid Administrators, which Mullen attended at Utah State University, a high official from the U.S. Office of Education said that President Nixon also must approve the bill in addition to the Congressional approval.

Mullen said the high official said there is a good possibility that the president will not approve the appropriation because of the tight national budget.

"If the proposed increase is fully approved by both Congress and the President, financial aid officers can expect to receive the money sometime after the first of the year," said Mullen.

An Educational Opportunity Grant appropriation was attempted in September but was rejected by Congress, said Mullen.

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