

# CLC charges Bell making illegal profits

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) called last Friday for the nationalization of Bell Canada claiming the Canadian Transport Commission (CTC) cannot effectively regulate Bell's operations.

The CLC presented a 23-page brief to the CTC which condemned Bell's proposed rate increases because they would cause increased hardship to "the old, the infirm, the disabled, the unemployed, the pensioners on fixed incomes, the underprivileged, and native peoples residing in the regions of northern Quebec, Labrador, and the Northwest Territories."

Bell wants to increase the basic rate for telephones from \$5.40 to \$5.80 per month; double installation charges from \$11 to \$22; double pay phone charges from 10 to 20 cents per call; create a "directory assistance charge" of 25 cents per item except in the case of a number not in the phone directory, a blind caller, or calls tendered from a hospital or hotel room; and increase service charges on long distance calls and on the per minute overtime rate.

The CLC charged the CTC is not protecting the public's interests, but Bell Canada's, and suggested the "regular has become the regulated".

The Congress' brief details what it says is illegal profit-taking conducted by Bell since 1958 in violation of rulings made by the Commission and the Board of Transport Commissioners (BTC) The Board is the CTC's predecessor.

In 1967 Bell's earnings reached 6.8 per cent profit and climbed to a high of 6.9 per cent in 1969. The profit range for that period set by the Commission and the Board was between 6.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent.

Bell controls 6,000,000 of the 9,700,000 phones in Canada. In attacking Bell's charges for services as excessive, the CLC compared the cost of a telephone in metropolitan areas with over 100,000 users.

Calgary - Edmonton	Winnipeg
\$4.25 (public)	\$3.90 (public)
Burlington, Ont.	Quebec City
\$5.80 (Bell)	\$5.90 (Bell)

The main reason Bell gives for the requested increases is that "its rate of return is so far below the level of a fair and reasonable rate of return under existing circumstances and conditions that the company's financial strength is seriously weakened."

Bell says rate increases are "necessary to make telephone shares a more attractive investment". The 1973 requests will merely "prevent deterioration of the profit position of the company" while those for 1974 will "improve profit and thus improve the ability of the company to raise capital."

Bell's financial profile is much better than the corporation is willing to admit. A brief submitted to the CTC last March by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) is enlightening.

"Bell Canada's net earnings in 1970 were \$210,759,000. Net income, after interest, discounts and premiums on long-term debt was declared to be \$133,262,000. This figure, when added to the declared provision for depreciation of \$183,850,000, represents a cash flow through the corporate treasury for that year in the amount of \$317,112,000."

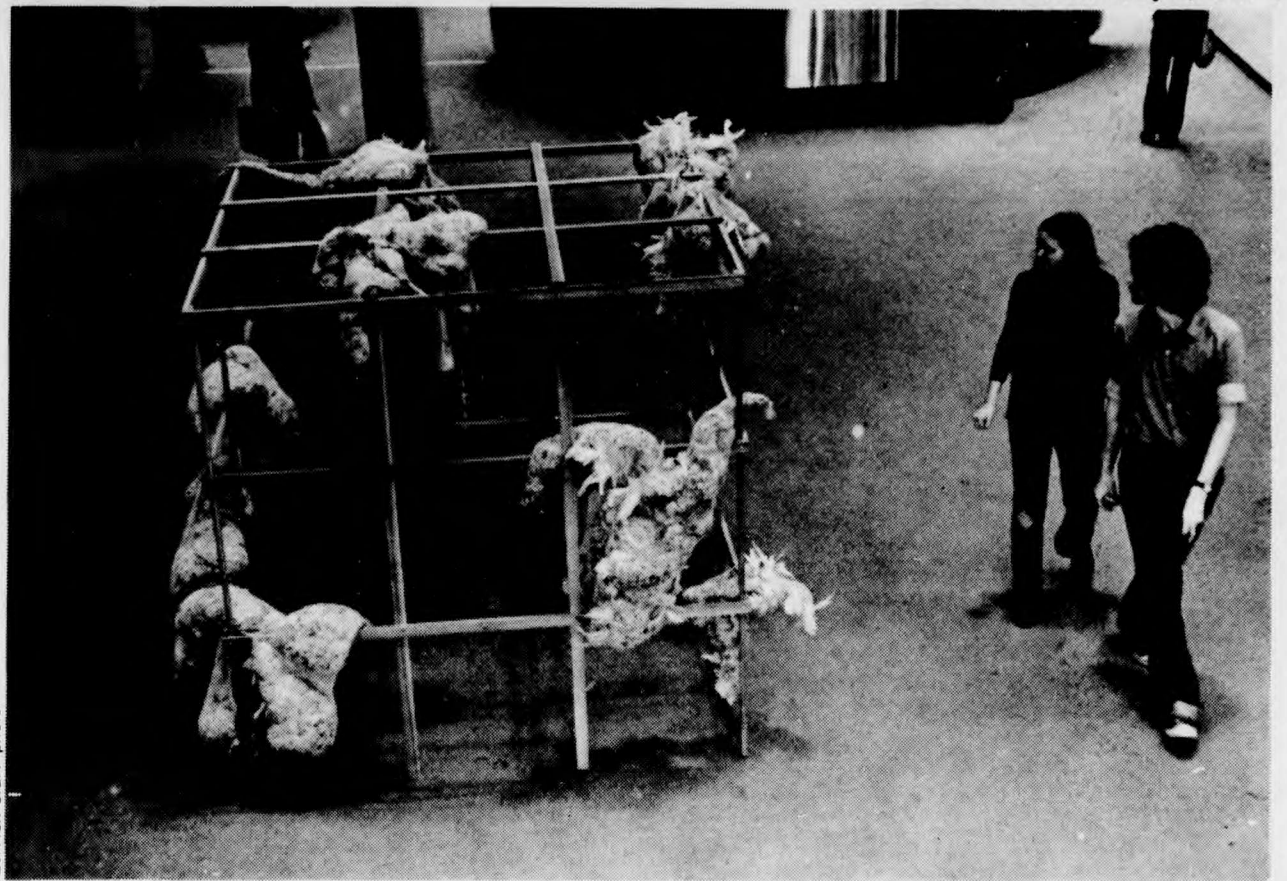
The UE concludes "that the amount mentioned is a formidable sum and in our view it should be more than enough to maintain and improve the technological competence of the company in providing service, especially domestic service." This idea is supported by the fact that Bell's net earnings "have increased in every year since 1943 and in the eight years 1963-70, net earnings have more than doubled," the UE said.

The development of modern telephone technology — advanced switching and transmission systems especially — supposedly means less expensive, more efficient service. Technological improvement means more productivity and increased productivity heralds better returns on the invested dollar. UE notes:

"In 1957, Bell's peak employment year, 41,363 employees handled a daily average of 18.6 million local telephone calls and 336,000 long distance calls. In 1970, just over 39,000 employees, a reduction of some 2,000, were required to look after a volume of service that was practically doubled that of 1957. Daily averages for 1970 were 25.4 million local and 790,000 long distance calls."

UE suggests "Bell's continued earnings growth and expanded capability through technological advance warrant a decrease, rather than an increase in rates to domestic subscribers."

No reductions appear to be in the offing at present.



Lerrick Starr photo

"Drawing on three dimensional graph paper" features wood, brass, beads, cheesecloth, sequins, feathers and dandy wipes as its arrange at will components. Installed Monday

in the library by Brad MacIver and Wendy Hendershot, the piece invites people to climb inside and to really get involved in a piece of art.

## War being waged against thieves

By KEN MYRON

Crime on campus is not paying as well as it has in previous years according to a report recently released by York security.

The report revealed that in the three months before the new year campus theft amounted to \$9,855. This figure is \$50 higher than the same period in 1971, but is also \$4,500 less than the figure for 1970.

Since 1969 buildings on campus requiring patrol have increased by 40 per cent and while the security force has grown 16 to 20 per cent. Yet security head George Dunn along with his 13 crime crusaders continue to wage battle against thieves.

The report arms security with the facts on areas of the campus hardest hit by theft. The secluded Stedman lecture hall, accessible by car, had over \$1,700 worth of projectors stolen in the last six months of 1972. The portables located south of the Ross building were robbed of more than \$1,000 worth of drums when thieves said they had to move them to Burton. And the newly opened Bethune residence had fixtures worth \$676 stolen.

Dunn, a Scotland Yard graduate who philosophizes behind a pipe, says part of the problem is "that people are casual and the campus is wide open. One really shouldn't assume every one is Simon pure."

In an attempt to catch the non-pure, burglar alarms have been set up in the bookstore, art gallery, and certain lecture halls. On top of that is a \$200,000 security budget to cover everything from salaries to uniforms.

Dunn said he personally believed York would not see violent crimes like those at U.S. universities. Universities there have been plagued by rapes and the occasional homicide. Traffic and entrances have had to be policed.

At the moment York has no such policies. In the last year one rape and stabbing have been reported to security. And according to Dunn this is pretty respectable considering "this community has 10,000 people."

Dunn added that if his crew was to successfully combat the evils of crime, there would have to be "an interest by the community." Security can be reached at 667-3333.

## Student strike closes university

MONTREAL (CUPI) — Students from Montreal universities came together at McGill University last Saturday to hold a teach-in on the current struggle of Quebec students against the provincial government's new fee ruling. The teach-in occurred as the student strike that shut down the Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM) entered its second week.

The ruling states that students must pay all past debts to the universities, including second term tuition by Feb. 15 or be expelled permanently. The order presently applies to the UQAM and the Université de Montréal.

A student from UQAM asked for solidarity among students from all universities. About 3,000 of UQAM's 11,000 students and 1,000 Université de Montréal students will be eligible for expulsion by the university because of the ruling.

The students most affected by the ruling are people from the working class who must rely on part-time jobs and government loans and bursaries to pay their tuition. Although 3,000 students at UQAM receive government aid, only 300 do not have to repay the province.

The students have denounced "economic measures that become selective measures". They want up to three years after graduation to pay their fees, so no one will be denied an education through lack of money.

The UQAM administration continues to insist that the university is open yet picketing has shut down the university since the strike began. Students went on strike Jan. 25 claiming the situation had reached an impasse. The strike followed a brief student occupation of administration offices Jan. 24, which was broken up by riot-squad police. The professors' union has

declared its solidarity and recommended that professors not cross the picket lines. Because of their own problems with the university, they have joined the strike.

At U of M, the administration has backed down because of widespread student protest and has extended the fee deadline to next September.

Students are still opposed to this half-measure and plan to intensify the struggle along with UQAM students in the weeks to come. They emphasized the need to fight the ruling now rather than wait until summer when the government could railroad the ruling through with very little opposition.

### News Briefs

#### Ritch elected to head left slate

Monday afternoon, the United Left Slate at York elected Dale Ritch, as the slate's presidential candidate for the CYSF elections.

The ULS adopted a program which places the fight against the cutbacks, campus war-research and supports daycare. The ULS plans to hold campaign meetings each day in N109R at 12 noon and invites all interested students to participate.

#### Vietnamese New Year's celebration

The Association of Vietnamese Patriots in Canada is sponsoring a Vietnamese new year celebration to be held in Toronto and Montreal on Saturday February 17. Activities will begin on the York campus next Tuesday. Films and slides will be shown in Curtis Lecture Hall C between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and there will be a photography display in Central Square. For further information, 767-5796.

#### OFS to discuss fee strike status

A general meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students will meet at Guelph University this weekend to discuss the current fees strike. Over 6,000 students at York still have not paid their fees; the highest percentage of any Ontario university.

#### Student needed for senate committee

The Council of the York Student Federation requires one undergraduate student and one graduate student to sit on the Senate Committee on Rights and Responsibilities. For further information, contact: David Clements, CYSF, 667-2515.

#### Speaker on Canadian abortion laws

Linda Meissenheimer, a member of the Young Socialists, has just returned from a Saskatoon conference of the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal Abortion Laws. She will speak on Why Canada's Abortion Laws Must Be Repealed, this Friday evening, 8 p.m., room 204 in the complex at Glendon College.

### York Briefs

#### Faculty association wants to unionize

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The University of Manitoba Faculty Association has applied to the Manitoba Labor Board for certification as bargaining agent for the university's academic and library staff.

The application follows the refusal of the board of governors to grant the association voluntary recognition as bargaining agent.

The association says it wants to represent all 1,134 full-time academic and library staff members at the university. It now has 770 members. The association also wants to include university president Ernest Sirluck, his four vice-presidents, and faculty deans in the bargaining unit. All are association members.

If the Labor Board approves the application, the University of Manitoba would become the first English-speaking Canadian university with unionized teaching staff. The faculty at the University of Quebec and many American universities are unionized.

#### Demonstrators arrested at U of T

TORONTO (CUP) — Seven people were arrested February 1 after a demonstration outside University of Toronto. Five men and two women were taken into custody by campus police and were later turned over to Toronto City Police.

Demonstrations have occurred daily this week after no guarantees against layoffs and contracting out were given to the service employees union. U of T announced it would not pursue threatened layoffs but would give no guarantees.

Committee members decided free access to the building must be maintained, and if necessary, metro police would be called on campus. The administration, however, did not forewarn the demonstrators of its intentions.

Two students and a U of T worker were charged with assaulting police. Another worker faces two charges of assaulting police. A third student was charged with disturbing the peace, while her husband will face charges of assault causing bodily harm, common assault and mischief of private property. Another student was charged with obstructing police.