

Ritch, Golden, Paddle agree

Wage curbs: 'now, we can never catch up'

By BRENDA WEEKS

The new wage and price controls are outrageous and a fraud perpetrated on the Canadian people, according to Mark Golden, vice-president of the Graduate Assistance Association (GAA).

In an interview with Excalibur on Monday, Golden said, "This is a sign that the government is not on the side of the Canadian worker since the problem of inflation is not caused by what people get paid anyway. Surely, they must be able to see how the labour share is

getting smaller, while the capital share is getting larger.

"Inflation is a problem of the social order," he explained, "and the tiny staff the government has looking after prices is totally powerless to control such a huge problem. I will support any effort made by the labour movement to fight these new controls."

CYSF president Dale Ritch predicted that university students will suffer under the new programme.

"The limited summer jobs available to students now will fall even further behind the rate of inflation," he said. "Under this new programme, the 17 per cent level of unemployment that university students across Toronto faced last year will only increase."

Ritch cited a need for increased assistance to students from OSAP. "If this programme can hope to

cover the rising student unemployment and the state of inflation, there must be changes made in OSAP. I make a call for a radical restructuring of student aid programmes in Ontario. The need for free tuition is even greater now as well," Ritch said.

Concerning the government's 10 per cent increase-in-wage limit, Ritch mentioned that president Macdonald has already imposed these wage controls on the staff, and has insisted that the CUPE local adhere to the deadlines of the freeze.

"I am prepared to support the CUPE local in pursuing a wage hike greater than the 10 per cent government limit," Ritch said. "The CUPE workers have lost to inflation at the hands of the government over the years, and this low ceiling is not reasonable in terms of their needs."

"The national CUPE office has told us to ignore these guidelines for now, and negotiate as if there was no control as yet," Ed Gorton, president of the local CUPE office told Excalibur on Tuesday. "In a couple of weeks a meeting will be held for a further decision as to what will be done, but we haven't gone too much over the 10 per cent limit for now anyway," Gorton added.

According to Jack Granatstein, president of the Faculty Association, the situation at YUFA is "still in limbo while serious consideration is being delayed."

"The salary commission has met, but since the law hasn't been passed yet and the provincial government has no new rulings, it is too soon to tell yet," said Granatstein. "But this does not change the argument for certification, since collective bargaining is another advantage to be had outside of wage increases."

In contrast to Granatstein's statement, Gabrielle Paddle, president of the Staff Association (YUSA), told Excalibur that "certification doesn't mean anything anymore".

With the vote pending next week to see whether or not YUSA will be certified, Paddle said, "how ironic it is that we have worked so hard to be certified over these last two years, and now the government slaps this

wage freeze on us. Now we can never catch up on wages. This is a bad move for a lot of people."

In expressing concern for faculty salaries, Bill Farr, vice-president and budget chief of York, told Excalibur on Monday, "Staff wages have always lagged behind salaries outside the university milieu. Now this legislation will put us in a position where we are less able to correct the lag. This means our salary increments will be a lot less than we had hoped for."

Excalibur asked Farr if the cutbacks in government funding to universities could be construed as a cost increase, thereby justifying a tuition hike next year.

"Universities have had nothing to say about tuition increases over the past five years," Farr replied. "Normally, if we were to increase the fees, our government grant would automatically be less, but it is difficult to analyse whether the category of tuition fees falls under the income and price guidelines."

Farr pointed towards the extreme cost increases of the physical plant at York as a cause of trouble in the future. "It does not look good for the university budget," he said. "With the soaring costs of fuel and electricity, it is expected that there will be a three-quarter of a million dollar increase just to supply the physical needs here at York."

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Coming Events

The Winters-McLaughlin Film Series will present Seven Capital Sins, directed by seven film directors including Jean-Luc Godard, Roger Vadim and Claude Chabrol. The films will be shown in the Winters JCR next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is 75 cents for Winters and McLaughlin students and \$1 for others.

The Canadian Association for Israel Philately has set up a programme for all York students. A stamp club discussion group dealing with Israel and Judaica will be lead by the youth director of education. If you would like to join our group, please sign the posted notice in the Jewish Student Federation office in the Ross building.

Pierre Berton's television programme The Great Debate is taping on November 4 at 7:15 p.m. The topic is "Resolved: that there should be freedom from the press" with Seymour Hersh, New York Times (for) and Mark Harris, author of Bang the Drum Slowly (against). Interested members of the York community are invited to participate by attending the taping being held at 38 Yorkville Ave.

The recently formed York University Squash Club is looking for players to represent it in an inter-club tournament on November 1 and 2. Any level of player is invited to join. An entrance fee of \$2 should be paid at Dr. Labib's Sports Store.



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