

Cullenization of Canada

by Alan Adams

About 175 people attending a rally of the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment were told that recent government cutbacks and "the Cullenization of Canada" will be drastic for the Atlantic region.

Bernard Gunning, President of Local 80320 of the Public Service Alliance of Canada referred to the Cullenization by quoting Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen as saying "if there are no jobs where you live—leave." He said the government is trying to save money through enforcing strict unemployment insurance qualifications saying, "they are using the areas of high unemployment as a whipping post for the reasons behind our economic ills." (Under the recently passed legislation to qualify for UIC benefits, unless you have worked 14 weeks both last year and the year before or have worked 20 weeks in the last year, you can't qualify for benefits.) He explained that a program he worked with, the

Land Registry and Information Service (LRIS) was a peculiar victim of cutbacks. The LRIS generated "a lot of international and national interest in the program" said Gunning. He added that "the federal government even encouraged the Maritime Premiers to get involved in the program" but then cut the funding off.

Ernie Horn, President of the Guysborough Local of the Maritime Fishermens Union, said that because a fisherman's wages and stamps are determined by weather conditions, the government "is trying to cut our throats" through increasing unemployment insurance qualifications. Horn explained that fishermen "don't want to be spoon fed but the government does not care for us." He invited federal politicians to change positions with him saying "we'd soon see how long they would last."

Debbie Dostol, a former employee of Pro-Femini (a job finding agency for women which was a victim of cutbacks) accused the govern-

ment of ignoring the working woman. She said that women "are on the bottom of the government priority list, regarded as a reserve army of workers." Dostol added that women are "still confined in the traditional job ghetto." She said in the present working conditions "women don't have a fair chance to make a decent wage."

Brian O'Neal, a spokesperson for the Newfoundland Association for Full Employment explained that "the biggest export of this region is people." He said the Atlantic region "is bountiful with resources but other people control them." He added "it's crucial we work together to see that this problem is solved. We have the people,

they the money."

The Coalition For Full Employment passed a resolution "damning the federal government for using working people as its answer to the unemployment problems." They called on all Canadians "to unite together to call on our federal and provincial governments to provide jobs for all and profits for few."



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New Gazette Structure

Gazette staffs have elected a five member editorial board to take over the duties of editor Marc Allain who announced his resignation last week. The possibility of a single full-time editor was ruled out early in last Saturday's staff meeting since present staffers who have the necessary experience for the

job aren't willing to abandon their academic pursuits in mid-year.

The five co-editors are confident that they can share the various responsibilities of an editor while maintaining their academic standing.

Those elected by staff are: Matt Adamson, Nigel Allan,

Alan Adams, Elissa Barnard and Daniele Gauvin.

Staff response has ranged from, "five heads are better than one" to "too many cooks spoil the broth". Another staffer explained, "editing is about administration, writing, leadership and frustration...

they should manage."

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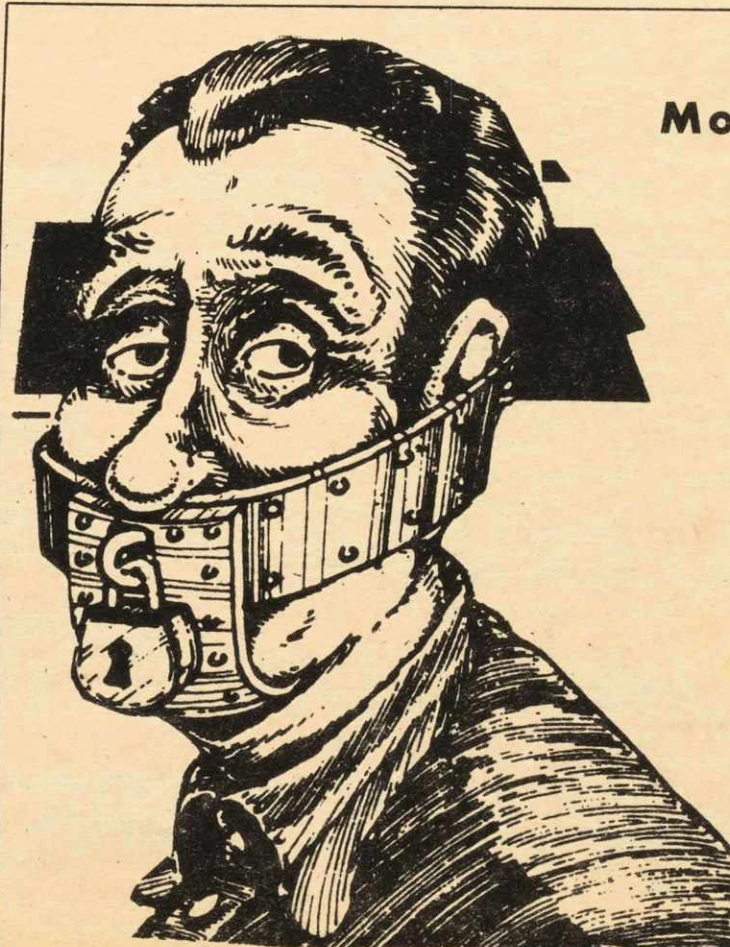
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