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## Forum condemns arms industry

By ELIZABETH DONOVAN

NOVA SCOTIANS EXPECTING a high return from defence industry related companies like Pratt and Whitney may not be as enthused if they knew the federal and provincial governments were footing the bill.

"Between the provincial and federal government the Canadian tax payers were paying for 80 to 100 percent of foreign investment in Canada through tax breaks, loans and other subsidies," says Dalhousie economics professor, Mike Bradfield.

Speaking to a small audience in the Burke education building at St. Mary's university March 11, Bradfield along with two other participants in a public forum described the way foreign multinationals that produce arms can harm communities.

Roy Johnstone is a peace activist currently researching Pratt and Whitney Canada Inc. He says the promise of job creation is just a diversion to justify the grants the companies are receiving to produce military products.

Pratt and Whitney manufactures engines for civilian and military aircraft. Company officials say the plant will create 300 jobs.

"The total amount of provincial taxpayers' subsidy may run as high as \$60 million. The first phase will produce only 300 jobs at a cost of more than \$400,000 per job created," says Johnstone.

He says he is not convinced 300 jobs will be created.

"What guarantee do we have of those jobs? We don't know. The N.S. Dept. of Development refuses to publicize the agreement with Pratt and Whitney."

It's this behind-closed-door negotiations between big companies and the government that Roy Johnstone mistrusts. He says there should be more input from people about what is being produced, as well as how its financed.

"United Technologies which is 99 percent owned and operated by Pratt and Whitney had sales totaling \$10 billion last year, half of which was military sales. We don't have any influence over that decision-making process. There are definitely better ways to spend that money effectively," says Johnstone.

St. Mary's economics professor, Martha MacDonald says she is concerned about the vulnerability of workers who are dependent upon these defense industries for their only source of employment.

"The defence industries are

heavily subsidized, they are vulnerable to the frequent changes of high tech equipment. When there are slumps in the industry the government must continue to subsidize the company to protect jobs," says MacDonald.

MacDonald says politicians must look for alternatives other than emphasis on defence industries.

"If we don't push for alternatives, we may be asking people to choose between principle and pay cheques."

Bradfield has a lot to say about alternatives. He says politicians still look to multinationals for fast solutions to solve Nova Scotia's unemployment problem instead of investing money in local businesses that are cheaper.

"As soon as you talk about a company that proposes over 100 jobs they start to have political clout. Local companies haven't had a chance to create opportunities because its going to the multinationals.

Bradfield says in the early 1970's Nova Scotia Industrial Estates Limited spend \$23,000 per job for foreign companies, while the New Brunswick Developers Corporation, who took the local business route, spent only \$4,000 per job."

## Survey calls for women's centre at U of Saskatchewan

**SASKATOON (CUP)**— A permanent women's centre for University of Saskatchewan students will finally become a reality if the school's student council accepts the findings of a recent survey.

"It was a good survey. We should go with the results. I think there should be a women's centre," says student council president Al Shpyth.

Shpyth was the councillor who introduced a motion at a September 1983 student council meeting to shut down the university's 11-year-old women's directorate, which he said was "too political." Services for women students on campus were only replaced when a temporary women's centre opened in January 1985.

The survey of 200 women students, presented to the council March 14, recommends a women's centre be set up to provide referral, information and support services, and if economically feasible, crisis intervention.

Researcher Wendy Woo said she hopes the council considers possible duplication of services by other student organizations on campus and whether the centre should take a "political" stand. The council planned to discuss the recommendations March 21.

Though women interviewed for the survey admitted women's issues were political, 43 per cent

said the centre should not take a stand on political issues. Twenty-four per cent said the centre should do so and 32 per cent said they did not know.

A majority of participants, however, said the centre should represent and be responsible to women students' views and political issues.

Sue Paul, co-ordinator of the temporary women's centre, says she thinks some women misunderstood the word "political." She says the survey should have dealt with specifics, not generalities.

Paul says she hopes the student council accepts the recommendations in the survey for the centre's structure.

"They should pay attention to the women's recommendations that the centre be autonomous. I would like to see an autonomous centre with women in control of the finances and decision-making. It is necessary for women to define the women's centre."

Paul says about 150 students have used the temporary centre since its opening and response has been good.

Cheri Spooner, council vice-president of finance who was involved in the survey, says she hopes the permanent centre will be set up before April.

"But I don't think that is possible. There will probably be a committee set up over the summer to structure the centre," she says.

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