

# SUB bust raises controversy

by Richard Whitby

Last Wednesday morning, two plainclothes policemen of the Halifax city force entered the card room of the Student Union Building and arrested a third year law student, Wayne Gillis, for possession of a narcotic. The narcotic involved was cannabis resin in the language of the law, hash oil to most other people. Since that day there has been a storm of controversy about who was responsible for calling the police in, why the management of the building was not informed, and most importantly, what can be done to prevent further incidents such as this. The allegations regarding responsibility refer in part to the campus security force. Though Doug Schaller,

head of the force, denies that any of his employees were involved and no concrete proof exists to dispute that, the events of last Wednesday nevertheless raise some serious questions as to the conduct of the CP's and the administration of the force, not the least of which is their hiring practices. A great case has been made in the Graywood and the cafeteria indicting a particular CP for his participation in the affair. It is not necessary to describe it any further, except to say it must be taken at face value - circumstantial. The question then, is why all the fuss about campus security? The answer that seems to be given, is that this incident is the catalyst for a series of long standing complaints about the con-

duct of the Campus Police.

Campus Security, or any one of the other euphemisms, was created from a need that developed in the athletic department for someone to maintain order at football games etc., and in the Student Union for some kind of supervision at Union events. At its inception, the Union had some control over it, however, in subsequent years, that control eroded to the point where it became an entity responsible only to the administration of the university. Consequently, it became a true police organization, run by police and employing people with a police mentality. It has been described variously as a junior Dick Tracey Club and the student arm of the RCMP. What makes the raid on the Union Building

scary to some is that there is no way of knowing who was responsible for bringing the City Police in Doug Schaller can deny the CP's role in the whole affair, but most students will not believe him because of the distrust that has developed on both sides. Campus Security is no longer regarded as perhaps a group of students trying to play cop or even sincerely trying to maintain order, but rather an organized group of professionals and semi-professionals to be mistrusted as any other police force is.

If then, the Campus Police are not responsible, then does this mean that the Halifax Force is embarking on a drive to clean out the Student Union Building? Some of the reports indicate that Wayne

Gillis was arrested by two plainclothes officers, and the day before the arrest there is at least one person who was approached by a suspicious hippie-looking person who wanted to buy some hash oil. Again the evidence may be circumstantial but there was overtones of police action from one area to another.

People get busted every day, but when it takes place in the Student Union Building, and it is rumored that another student called the police in, emotions tend to run high. It is difficult at this time what effect they will have on future relations with both the police of the university and the Halifax police, but it will be interesting to see what the future will bring in terms of what kind of say the students will have in running their own affairs.

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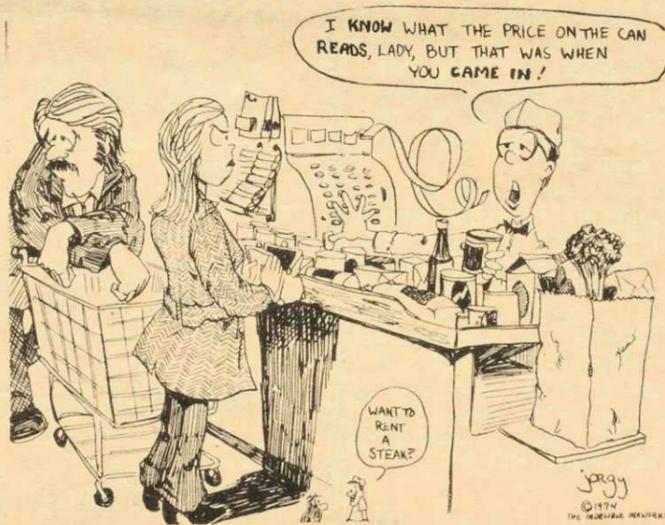
# The Politics of Money

by Dan O'Connor

The Honourable Andre Ouellet wants to be everyone's friend in a free market situation. That appeared to be his major message in a speech before the Law Students' Society on March 20.

M. Ouellet is the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and he presented his department from a legal viewpoint. The presentation seemed to combine elements of a recruitment drive for government lawyers, a defense of market economies, and praise for the government's current amendment of consumer and corporate legislation.

To use the minister's words, "We are not anti-business. On the contrary, we are attempting to create a market system in which business can operate effectively and in an atmosphere of public confidence." M. Ouellet added that he did not speak for business, but rather for the consumer. Under questioning Ouellet retreated to the position that he spoke for consumers within the government, not in public or before tribunals. If it is a question of government embarrassment from Consumer Affairs opposition to another department's policy before a tribunal being a necessary part of con-



sumer representation, The minister will not represent consumers.

To strike the appropriately ambivalent tone the minister pointed to law reform and redress of the balance of market forces as his priorities. In a portion of the remarks that was not prepared beforehand, M. Ouellet stated that if the free enterprise system fails it will be due to the mistakes of business, not the interference of politicians that is the cause of the failure. Perhaps because he was before a group of law students the minister did not explain the kind of market that he is trying to preserve, but it would appear to be one in which the government sets the

rules and business follows the rules or suffers government interference, yet preservation of the market rests upon how business follows the rules on ethics, not on the quality of the government-established rules and ethics. As Andre Ouellet himself explained, it was a general speech.

The excessive caution that plagues government appeared here and there. The notes for the address said that government action on substantial questions of industrial organizations will be put forward "within the year". Mr. Ouellet hoped that this would be put forward in the next session, by February 1976.

In the question and

answer session Ouellet opposed Government interference to stop lender abuse such as debt consolidation. In a free society he would only educate people to realize that easy credit is not good credit, yet he admitted that his department's education programme is timid. In relation to credit abuse, an area where an omnibus bill will be introduced after Easter, Ouellet was content to stop usury and loan sharking while encouraging banks to provide low-income people with privileged rate short-term loans on a basis profitable to the banks.

On safer ground M. Ouellet denounced those members of tribunals at the federal and provincial level who represent vested interests rather than the common interest. (The common interest includes consumers.) This is the matter that is "pissing me off" according to the minister. He offered no solution except resolve to have better appointments, but was firm in opposing one-sided tribunals.

Multi-national corporations, especially large petroleum companies, are not trusted by Andre Ouellet, you will be glad to hear. If Herb Gray's amendments (still before the House) has been passed, Consumer and

Corporate Affairs could have acted quickly in the dredging scandals, but now justice must take its course.

The final questions related to Andre Ouellet as a potential premier of Quebec. He stressed his support of Prime Minister Trudeau's selection of Marc Lalonde as Quebec leader of the federal Liberals, and spoke of how much important work he had to look forward to in Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Ouellet is sure that Robert Bourassa's government is just having the ups and downs that all governments suffer. M. Ouellet spoke at length on his interest in Quebec provincial politics, and how he would only get involved if there was a serious possibility that a separatist government was going to be elected. The mind boggled at the number of open options the minister is keeping.

Looking back at the Ouellet performance, one wonders if it was necessary for him to be so careful and general, if he was reflecting the government's policy approach. Before a specialized audience he could surely have provided more insight and understanding of his portfolio especially if one of the aims was to interest law students in economics, and in the department.