

# 'Students should stop shopping at Capitol'

by Mark Simkins

Students should stop shopping at the Capitol Stores, Mark Flanagan, International representative for the United Food and Commercial Workers said Monday.

Capitol store management refuses to negotiate with striking warehouse workers of local 1973 of the UF and CW, he said.

Philip Arnold, the general manager, and co-owner of Capitol Stores with Norman Newman, did not return any of the phone calls of the reporter.

"Workers at the warehouse have the right to organize and negotiate a contract but the company refuses to recognize this right", he said.

"It is just union-busting, ... Nova Scotia has the worst labor laws in the country. In Quebec, workers have the right to negotiate a first contract once the union is certified."

Local 1973 of UF and CW won certification by an 11 to five vote in March 1980. The first contract demands were for wage parity with warehouse workers at other local chainstores, a grievance procedure and a seniority system.

Capitol Stores did not even make a counter-offer, instead they just sat there making good money and paying less than one-half wages of workers in Dominion or Sobeys, he

said.

On July 7, Capitol Stores fired three members of the union and suspended two others. The union has appealed this to the Labor Relations Board.

Final appeals on the appeals will be heard December 19 at the Labor Relations Board.

"The only reason the government seems to have gotten involved in the strike at the Trenton Rail plant is because the number of workers involved is so big", he said. Labor Minister Ken Streach says he won't get involved in the strike of Digby bus drivers, he added.

"What can you do in a province like this?" he asked. "Only four of the original 11 unionized workers remain on picket duty, the rest have found other jobs. Two have had to go to Alberta to seek work and one to Montreal."

"We have to hurt the company financially, but I don't know what else we can do. We have handed out a lot of boycott leaflets, but the company treats the strike as a joke".

"It is very hard for the picketers as Christmas draws near. Public opinion seems to support the picketers, and if only more people would stay away from the place. . . and show Capitol that it can't



Tom Higgins

operate that way."

Strike pay for picketers is between \$40 and \$100 a week, depending on need, he said.

"The company has spent more on lawyers fees and paying scabs than it would ever had paid if it had settled with the local", he added.

The scabs hired by the company are just young people who don't understand the situation, and their turnover is quite high anyway, he said.

"There was a lot of student support when they were asked to boycott Capitol Stores, but we haven't been able to make it back to the store near Dalhousie for awhile because of lack of manpower", Rubin Coward, local 1973 union member said Tuesday.

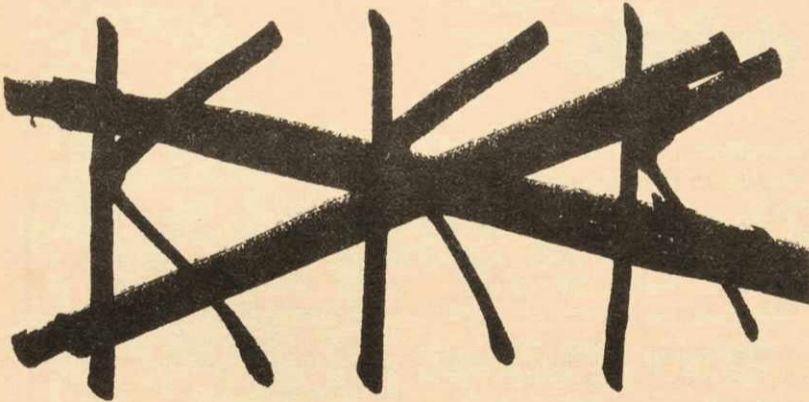
"I don't know what will be the outcome of the strike, but there is no end in sight right now", he added.

Support has come from

Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, however there have not been enough people picketing to stop trucks from entering the Capitol store warehouse, he said.

The Union is asking people not to shop at any of the Capitol Stores or frequent the Derby, the Steak and Stein, and the Ice Cream Factory (also co-owned by Arnold and Newman).

## Anti-KKK coalition formed in Halifax



by Anne Nicholls and Glenn Walton

An anti-Ku Klux Klan group is forming in Halifax, and Roger Davies, a spokesperson for the new Coalition Against the KKK says he hopes there will be a large student contingent on it.

Referring to recent interviews on local radio stations with Klan organizers, who appear to be contemplating establishing a group in Nova Scotia, Davies says "We don't actually know how much is actually happening with the Klan in Nova Scotia so far. It appears that they have a regional organizer, and it appears they've had some initial meetings; people have written into their national organization so there may have been some contacts established that way."

The coalition against the KKK hopes to attract as broad a spectrum of people possible

and thus will concentrate first on collecting information on KLAN activities. "We should wait till after this meeting on the 17th just to get our organization set, and we'll be making tentative press reports. We've got some research to do, everything we know up till now we want to pool and prepare some basic committees on education, the legal aspect, that sort of thing."

The group has sent out letters to community groups and met with an immigrant group, as well as talked to some media people. Davies emphasized the danger of sensationalising Klan activities and providing the group with publicity, and indicated that some media people have agreed to cooperate.

One bad example was a recent photograph in a Kitchener newspaper: "It was just one person who wanted to

get the Klan started. That was sensationalism." Nevertheless, the group hopes to form a solid opposition to the idea of the Klan moving into Halifax.

"It's ridiculous to say that it can't happen here. People say it's just some crazy guy in Toronto, but the conditions which make things favourable to the Klan exist here just as much."

When asked whether the large black population in Nova Scotia were one of the conditions, Davies replied, "Historically the Klan has been different in Canada than in the States. It's been directed against immigrant workers who had come in to work in the mines in Western Canada in the 20's and 30's. There were some actual confrontations and their hate literature was mainly against Quebecois and Catholics and immigrants; it was a different approach than in the States where it was against Blacks and Jews. It's hard to say what they'll pick up once they get started." He mentioned that most of the hate literature coming out of Toronto was against Pakistanis.

Davies also said that a petition had been started in Dartmouth, and the same was being attempted in Halifax. "It's a good thing; it's a statement that they don't want the Klan."

Davies also referred to the legal debate over the right of

the Klan to exist in Canada: "The civil liberties organization doesn't know yet what their position is going to be. Other groups have come down on different sides of the fence. Some have been prepared to defend the Klan for freedom of speech ideals, others are fighting the Klan with the anti-hate literature laws."

Citing again the need for some sort of deterrent to the

## Nfld officials back off promises

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—St. John's city council is reneging on traffic safety promises say students at Memorial University.

Both the Memorial student newspaper, the Muse, and the student council say the city council intends to increase speed limits and eliminate crosswalks from a roadway where a Memorial student was killed in October.

Following the death, about 2,000 students blocked the roadway saying a skywalk should be built over the highway. Both the federal and municipal government agreed to help fund a skywalk, which is to be built next April. In the meantime the city council agreed to lower speed limits and establish three crosswalks.

establishment of a local chapter, Davies said he hoped the issue would be debated in classes. "It's an emotional thing with people, and it looks like the opposition will be pretty strong, so maybe they won't get started."

The anti-Klan meeting is on December 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building at Dalhousie University, and is open to everyone.

But now the council says lower speed limits have incensed impatient motorists. The council has proposed getting rid of the two crosswalks and replacing them with one set of traffic lights.

The Muse says "This kind of double-dealing does not sit well with students". The paper says if the council is allowed to proceed with its plan "students can forget that they ever succeeded in their blockade".

The student council says if it had its way, "the crosswalks will not be removed." The students have also received support from the administration of Memorial University. E.R. Williams called the proposals "unreasonable and inhumane."