

On CUPE strike

Senators to question Hicks

by Alan Adams

Some members of the Dalhousie Senate want President Henry Hicks to appear before them to explain the decision making process in negotiations over the strike with CUPE 1392. According to Economics Professor Mike Bradfield some senators "want to know why CUPE demands equalling one-quarter of one per cent of the university's operating budget" have not been met.

Bradfield said that questions should be asked concerning the decision making process involved in

the negotiating of a settlement. He added that he hopes Hicks will appear before next week's Senate meeting.

Rumors circulating around campus are that Hicks will be asked whether his priorities at Dal, are fiscal or academic.

As the strike nears the end of its sixth week, some departments are unsatisfied with the arrangements that have been made by the administration to maintain services.

In a letter to Vice-President Vagianos, Philosophy Department Chairperson Robert M. Martin said "we are disturbed

by our policies for refuse collection and mail distribution, insofar as they necessitate our doing strikers' duties." Martin questioned whether the university's policy of mail delivery, involved legal violations.

He said "you are legally prohibited from enforcing any employee to do a strikers' job, yet at the same time you make it impossible for us to obtain our mail, which we are legally entitled to receive, unless we do a strikers' job of delivering our mail." Martin said the university's response to queries on the matter—an "invitation to sue the University"—"was unhelpful and offensive."

Negotiations to date have not progressed to a point even near settlement. After two meetings both sides stand firm in their positions. CUPE wants an 85¢ increase over 12-14 months while Dal has offered 31¢ over 12 months or 85¢ over 20 months.

CUPE representative Al Cunningham said that there has been no attempt at negotiations since talks broke off last week. He said that "CUPE is flexible and ready to negotiate" and added "the university is hanging tight to seven per cent."

Vice-President (Administration) Vagianos stated "negotiations at the present are non-existent" but added "we are prepared to go back to the table." Vagianos accused Cunningham of refusing to hear all of Dal's offer saying that he left negotiations after he had heard our monetary offer. He added "I hope this finishes soon. I'm tired of cleaning."

Support for CUPE 1392 has

reached a provincial wide level as both letters of support and financial contributions for the union arrive daily at strike headquarters.

Last Friday over 250 people gathered in the SUB lobby and then proceeded to the A & A building where a petition with over 2000 signatures supporting the strikers was presented to Vice-President MacKay. (the Strike Support Committee had ordinarily planned to present the petition to President Hicks but Dr. MacKay informed the crowd that Hicks was in New York addressing the Dal Alumni Association of New York.)

Speaking to the strike supporters MacKay "urged the union to return to the bargaining table" to end the dispute. He said "in order to get a settlement it will take flexibility on both sides" and added "those of you who are students, I hope will support fee increases to offset salary increases." He accused the union of "not wanting to be flexible" and suggested that union officials want to keep its workers out on the streets over Christmas.

Financial support for the strikers has been going "fantastically well" according to Cunningham. An appeal has been sent to every CUPE local in the province asking a donation of \$2.00 per member be sent to local 1392. In addition a raffle for a box of "Christmas Cheer" has been going well and Cunningham felt that last night's benefit dance showed strong support for the strikers. He added that faculty donations are "picking up momentum" daily.

Economics Professor Mike Bradfield, who personally cir-

culated a letter asking members of the Dal community to donate one days pay to the strike fund, said his efforts have netted over \$1200.00 for the strikers. He added that this equalled only one-sixth on the monies generated from Dal professional people.

At the provincial New Democratic Party convention held in Halifax last week-end the NDP unanimously passed a resolution expressing "its support for CUPE 1392 and its concern about the anti-union attitude, the policies and budget priorities of the Dal administration." The NSNDP called upon the provincial government and university "to examine their financial priorities and funding arrangements."

Grievances have been filed against the university concerning members of the Operating Engineers Union (IUOE 968) being ordered to perform duties usually done striking CUPE workers. Vice-President Vagianos said the workers have the right to grieve the matters and said "if we are found in the wrong, then we well have to apologize to the individuals." A provincial arbitrator was to hold hearings today on the incidents.

Charges of assault and property damage will be brought against two members of CUPE 1392 involving an incident at Howe Hall on November 22. Physical Plant Co-ordinator Roger Jollimore said "you can rest assured when we lay charges we are pretty sure of our facts." Jollimore wouldn't elaborate on the charges because they are still pending.



Photo / Dalval

Vice-president W.A. MacKay responds to protesters about Dal's position on the strike

Faculty offered 9.5 % increase

by Alan Adams

Despite claims that Dalhousie can afford salary increases of only 7%, a 9.5% increase has been offered to the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

The administration's proposal, in a letter to individual members of the DFA, is based on a 7% general salary increase plus a 1.5% raise according to rank. Another 1% hike would be added to recognize special merit or special market factors.

Vice-president MacKay maintains the increase is within budgetary claims. "The cost of what we have proposed in terms of the budget of the university is 7.1%", he said.

Representatives of the CUPE 1392 were unavailable for comment at press time.

Questions have been raised about MacKay's decision to approach individual members of the DFA. Leo MacKay, of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, described his actions as "not illegal but very unethical." He said that the Trade Unions Act grants bargaining rights to the bargaining units and feels that the DFA unit should have been consulted.

DFA spokesperson Michael Cross said "it is a classic example of the failure of bargaining in good faith."

The administration's offer will be discussed at a DFA meeting this evening.

31 institutions

CEGEP students on strike

MONTREAL (CUP)—Students at 31 post-secondary institutions across Quebec have been either out on strike or occupying administration offices since early November in their fight against the province's loans and bursaries system. A Nov. 29 decision by 15,000 students at the Université du Québec à Montréal to boycott classes for four days added momentum to the protest.

The protest began with a walkout by students at the Rimousku CEGEP Nov. 8, followed by an occupation at the Chicoutimi CEGEP.

ANEQ met with Education Minister Jacques Yvan-Morin

Nov. 28, but Morin said he would not be able to give specific responses to the demands before Dec. 5. He said he needed time to consult with the cabinet and government financial advisors.

Students at the Loyola campus of Concordia University have reversed an earlier decision to stage a one-day walkout, but students at the Sir George Williams campus held a general assembly Nov. 30 to determine what action they should take.

The only anglophone institution to join in the protest is Champlain college campus in Lennoxville. Over half the

students voted Nov. 28 to hold a three-day study session. The present strikes involve over 100,000 students.

Students are demanding free tuition, elimination of independence criteria, a switch from loans to bursaries, and a reduction in parental contributions.

According to Marie-France des Jardins, Montreal regional spokesperson for l'Association nationale des étudiants du Québec (ANEQ), student representatives will discuss tactics as occupying local offices of members of the national assembly. They will also discuss coordinating a march on the assembly.

Inside

Every buddy and cultural underdevelopment

-Valdy-

Merry Christmas (and a happy Hanukkah)