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Chretien at Law School

by Leo Jacobs

Energy Minister Jean Chretien told a crowded auditorium of Law students that the federal government battle with Newfoundland over offshore-oil jurisdiction will not be totally resolved in the courtroom — no matter what the decision.

"I am very frustrated that there are no negotiations with Newfoundland because whatever the legal solution, there will be a need for a political settlement," said Chretien, "and Newfoundlanders an ill-afford the delay with their present economic situation."

Asserting that the federal government can't be excluded from the offshore-oil industry, Chretien said "there will be conflicting jurisdiction because we have the responsibility for the marketing of oil, the oceans, fisheries, and international environment."

Chretien predicted that even if the federal government loses the battle for jurisdiction, they will win because "if we lose we will have to consider the oil as the same as that in Alberta, and there we keep the money through the special tax on oil."

Chretien said he has been unable to get closely involved in the negotiating process since assuming the energy portfolio in September. "He (Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford) doesn't want to talk to me, though I am open to discuss the matter with him."

The Federal government is willing to modify their position from the type of agreement made with Nova Scotia for sharing revenues, if necessary, said Chretien.

Admitting that the nuclear energy industry is not marketable at present, Chretien said "the possibility of a market for Canada's nuclear technology in ten or fifteen years makes me reluctant to scale down the industry."

"I will be reviewing our involvement in the near future," he promised, but demands for dismantlement of the industry "are asking a lot."

Chretien had originally been asked to speak at the Law School when he was Minister of Justice, and so he gave a short speech on the struggle to bring home the constitution.

He also explained that he felt there were two important requirements to be a successful politician "like myself." Choosing the right party and being a lawyer.

Chretien also took time to criticize Peckford, saying that it is easy to win an election by claiming that "the feds are trying to rob you."

The self-sufficiency goal of the National Energy Program is viable, but an agreement with Newfoundland and increased Arctic and Atlantic development are vital to its actualization, he said.

The goal of fifty percent Canadian ownership of the oil industry by 1990 will likely be achieved, said Chretien, and if Dome Petroleum "accepts my offer of equity it would soon become fifty percent Canadian too."

Arrested over the Cruise...

MONTREAL (CUP) – Seventytwo people, including several students, were arrested in a Remembrance Day attempt to halt production of the Cruise missile guidance system at Litton Industries' Toronto plant.

A coalition of anti-nuclear groups organized the action to protest the Canadian governmentsubsidized manufacture of the Litton guidance system.

The Cruise missile is expected to be tested in northern Alberta this winter.

The government is using public money to build the Cruise missile, which is "not a defensive weapon," said Janet Mrenica, a Concordia University student who was later arrested. "I don't believe in that."

About 500 protestors were prevented from closing the plant by blocking access to the building by 200 to 300 police officers. About 150 protestors risked arrest as they set up human blockades at two intersections near the plant.

Police moved in at one intersection as soon as the blockade was established. Concordia University student John Kinlock was pushed by police and challenged on his first attempt to block the road. Kinlock and two of the protest's coordinators were the first to be arrested.

Police re-routed traffic at the other intersection. One motorist said "They have a point, but I've got to get to work. My boss is right behind me."

Many protestors were dragged

by the arms, legs or hair. Some were shoved to the ground. Others were angry that police horses came perilously close to protestors sitting on the road. Julien Haddock, a McGill Uni-

versity student, said "after the first movement, the cops got a little rough. They threw some people on top of others and then they got heavy with the horses. I think they realized that they weren't going to scare us with one rough tactic.

"It's the police who are the obstructors, they set up the barricades," said another protestor. "It's surprising to see how protected Litton is, and how vulnerable and unprotected we are, except in our numbers."

Protestors have in the past distributed leaflets to Litton workers and committed acts of civil disobedience.

The 72 arrested protestors were charged with obstruction of justice. One protestor was charged with assault and battery, another with resisting arrest and a third with trespassing.

The women arrested were released on \$500 bail after signing a waiver agreeing to stay away from Litton properties until the matter is resolved by the courts. The men were released provided they agreed not to demonstrate, picket, distribute leaflets or speak to each other except for reasons of defense.

Several who were arrested refused to give their names and personal information and are still being held.