

# gateway

Tuesday, November 29, 1983

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Bill 110 denounced

## Big protest

by Mark Roppel

About 5000 construction workers from across the province gathered in front of the Legislature yesterday noon to protest amendments to the Labour Relations Act.

Bill 110, which was scheduled for second reading yesterday, would allow unionized construction firms to set up non-union affiliate companies, if workers in the non-union shops voted to stay out of the union.

Shouting, "kill 110" and "we want jobs," the protestors booed Labour Minister Les Young and cheered as Leader of the Opposition Grant Notley told them that they were fighting for freedom.

"You stand for the rights of people," said Dave Wherlin, President of the Alberta Federation of Labour, as he denounced this "rotten piece of legislation."

Young introduced the legislation in an attempt to prevent larger union firms from being undercut by smaller non-union

firms in the recession-riddled construction industry.

But the unions say the bill is nothing more than an attempt to undermine their power and pay workers less.

Wherlin cited Bill 44, the legislation which made it illegal for public service employees to strike, and Bill 110 as part of the government's plan to deny the rights of workers.

He drew parallels with the attempts of Bill Bennett's Social Credit Government in BC to impose policies of restraint.

Wherlin read a telegram of "support and solidarity" from the Building Trades Council of BC and the Yukon.

Wherlin said the government should concentrate on "policies of full employment."

Forty-seven buses were chartered to bring approximately 1,500 workers from Calgary and Southern Alberta to the protest.

After the speeches, the protestors dispersed peacefully.

It was one of the largest demonstrations faced by the Lougheed government.

## Finance Board needs changes

by Ken Lenz

Students' Union VP External Andrew Watts has compiled a program for reforming the Student Loan remission system.

Watts wants the provincial government to move to a one year remission system because he feels there are problems with the present method.

At present students who receive loans have to apply for remission (grants from the provincial government) after they graduate.

The grant is then deducted from the principle they owe.

"Now students don't know how much they owe until after they graduate," says Watts.

With a one year remission system students would know each year how much they have to actually pay and how much they will receive from the government. But more importantly, the one year remission program would save money for the government and the students themselves.

Under Watts' system, "...the government would be paying interest on less money because remission would have already been paid." Watts continued, "they pay interest on, say, \$10,000 in the student's final year of studies when they could be paying on \$6700 or less if remission was paid yearly."

As well, many students have to make higher payments than they should between the time their remission is being calculated and the initial time of loan consolidation because the principle is

higher before remission.

Watts also feels the one year program would provide a more current and streamlined record-keeping process for the government.

"They already calculate the remission... a one year check would save time and eliminate much of the risk for error," he says.

"By its own admission the SFB agrees that checking back four or more years can be very time consuming, and leave more room for error than is necessary."

Pending council approval on Dec. 6 the report will be forwarded to the appropriate governmental agencies.

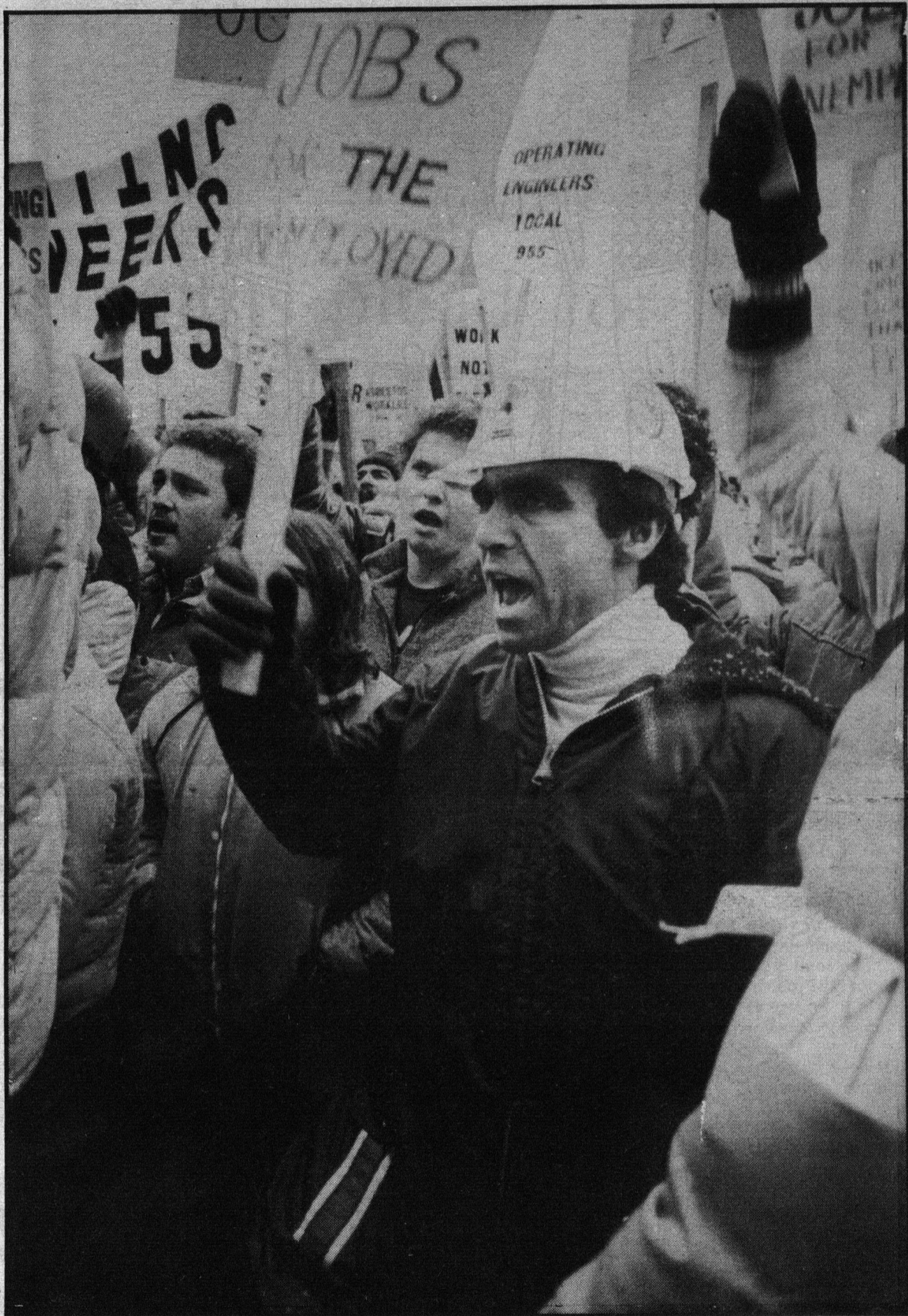
By Ninette Gironella

Despite opposition from both the business community and the Students' Union, the Board of Governors is voting on a motion this Friday that could result in the opening of a privately owned retail travel office in CAB.

The Board is being asked to approve the appointment of Tradewinds Smith as the travel agency for the university, subject to satisfactory negotiation on a number of details, including rental and space arrangements.

The aim of the motion is to lower the University's costs by centralizing as much as possible the travel arrangements of its staff. The potential annual savings of this move could be in the order of \$500,000.00.

Of the fourteen travel agencies that submitted bids to the



Angry construction workers protest Bill 110

## U of A may endorse redundancy

university, Tradewinds Smith was selected unanimously by the review committee.

According to D. C. Norwood, of the office of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), the service would be "geared to serve university staff needs."

However, staff would not be obliged to use the service although they would be strongly encouraged to do so.

The opening of a branch on campus would be "convenient for faculty," claims Harold Smith of Tradewinds Smith. He adds though that it would be a full service office and would thus look at dealing with students as well.

There are already two travel agencies on campus, in the Students' Union Building and HUB, and questions have been raised as to whether a third is

necessary. Cindy Fowler of Canadian University Travel Services (CUTS), a CFS service, says "I don't think it's necessary. With the existing travel agencies on campus probably the needs of the University could be met."

If the travel agency is approved, it is not certain if CAB would be the location, although this is the most likely.

According to John Williamson of the Office of the Vice-President (Facilities and Service), CAB is the best location that has been considered. "The agency wants it on a trafficked route since it would be dealing with the university population."

When examining the various areas, the administration tried to "lean away from spaces that are more academically oriented."

The Students' Union is op-

posed to the proposal. "It's a dangerous precedent" claims President Robert Greenhill.

Wesley Sawatzky, the undergraduate representative to the Board of Governors comments, "with the ever-increasing student enrollment, lounge or relaxation space, which I consider academic space, cannot and must not be sacrificed for non-academic reasons." In a letter regarding the issue, Sawatzky says, "the University's apparent willingness to locate a commercial, privately owned business, duplicating easily accessible existing services, displays appalling insensitivity to the already critical shortage of high quality lounge space in the most heavily used area of campus."

However, the space required for the travel agency would be

continued page 7

photo Bill Inglee