

Trudeau says

# Unemployed our priority

by Scott Vaughan

"The federal government has no particular duty to help students any more than it has a duty to help any other citizen of Canada. Right now our priority is not students, but the unemployed," said Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at a press conference in Halifax following a closed meeting with Nova Scotia Premier Gerald Regan.

The two government leaders met last Wednesday afternoon for two hours as part of a series of federal-provincial dialogues initiated by Trudeau. Trudeau said the central areas of interest during his talks with Regan were the province's economy and national unity. Topics of particular concern, according to the P.M., were the province's high unemployment, the high cost of energy, and the problems facing the fishery and coal industries.

The main purpose of the ten scheduled meetings with the premiers is, according to the Prime

Minister, to gain "the consensus, through dialogue, of the attitudes and particular problems which face the country at this time." Trudeau said that at the conclusion of the meetings, the federal government would initiate some form of action based upon the input of the various premiers.

One of the central purposes of the federal-provincial talks is to gain the consensus of the various provincial leaders in regard to the proposed revision of the constitution. Trudeau said he was not advocating a "special status" position for Quebec in terms of a new constitution, but only used the term as one option open for consideration.

The Prime Minister was not optimistic that his forthcoming meeting with Premier Rene Levesque would produce any significant change in the premier's attitudes. "Levesque means business," said Trudeau, "and no amount of fruitful dialogue will alter his drive for separation."

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## Faculty and Engineers negotiate contracts

by Eric Lawson

The Dalhousie Faculty Association and the Operating Engineers are currently involved in contract negotiations and disputes with the university administration. The university is offering a 5.5% increase which does not equal the rise in the cost of living.

The DFA's negotiations with the university are proceeding at a snail's pace. The DFA presented the university with a final, unconditional list of proposals on October 31, and the administration retired to prepare a set of counter-proposals. These counter-proposals have not yet been released, and Vice-President Andrew McKay has refused comment on the faculty's proposals for a collective bargaining procedure. McKay did, however, stress his opposition to collective bargaining at a meeting of the Senate held on Monday.

The DFA is scheduled to have a membership meeting on November 23, during which the current

negotiations and proposals for a union will be discussed. The DFA executive is in the process of setting up a committee to serve as a liaison between the general membership and the executive, so as to sound out the membership's opinions concerning their bargaining situation. DFA president Philip Welch refused comment on how the faculty felt about unionization until after the membership meeting.

The Dalhousie local of the International Operating Engineers is currently in a strike position, but also has not yet decided on a definite policy for the immediate future.

Reg Fenerty, Business Representative for local 968, claims that all attempts to re-open negotiations with the university have failed due to the fact that the administration will only discuss next year's contract, and has repeatedly refused to discuss money in this year's settlement.

The local will be in a legal strike position for six months, and Fenerty



claims that some coordination of policy may take place between the variety of university associations and union locals currently negotiating with the administration. According to Fenerty, discussions of issues of mutual interest have taken place between the Operating Engineers, the Dalhousie Staff Association, and the Dalhousie Faculty Association. Although nothing concrete has come out of these talks, the persons involved have dis-

covered a mutual dissatisfaction with the negotiations with the administration, and may plan to act in concert against the university.

A meeting of the local with union officials was held Wednesday, and there will undoubtedly soon be a commitment to a definite strike policy. According to Fenerty, "unless the administration makes some immediate concessions, a strike is the only course of action left open to us."

## Dal Bookstore fair?

by Denise Roberge

Dissatisfied with the bookstore? A lot of students seem to be. But according to Irving Kirk, manager of the bookstore since this August, those who are critical of the Dalhousie bookstore simply do not understand its policies and operations.

A president's advisory bookstore committee has recently been organized to develop the bookstore's goals and policies. The committee has been in existence for some time, but has not been active in recent years. While the committee does

not really expect to effect any concrete changes this year, it hopes to do so by next fall.

The primary obligation of the bookstore is to serve the students by providing textbooks at reasonable prices. Almost all textbooks are priced according to the publisher's suggested retail prices, and although they may seem high, the prices are not sufficient to cover the bookstore's expenses. More often than not, the bookstore loses money. When it does make a profit, it amounts to only a few thousand  
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