



A group of demonstrators marched outside Halifax banks yesterday to protest bank loans for the South African apartheid regime.

Dal Photo / Grandy

People protest S.A. bank loans

"Stop racist loans, protect human rights" was the chant heard outside Halifax's banks Tuesday as a group of about 50 people protested the four major Canadian banks' policy of making loans to South Africa.

The demonstration, part of a nation-wide campaign, was sponsored by the local South African Information Group, and as well, representatives were in attendance from OXFAM Canada, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, the Student Christian Movement, and the Dalhousie Student Council.

Harvey MacKinnon, one of the organizers, considered the demonstration to be a success. "We're here to inform people about how the South African government is using our money to maintain their racist policies. People seemed very concerned and sympathetic to our campaign."

Previous to the march, letters were sent to the management of the banks who support South Africa, the Royal Bank, the Bank of Montreal, Toronto Dominion Bank and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Their responses indicate that they plan to continue to make loans to the South African government.

MacKinnon said, "People should use Canadian credit unions as an alternative to the direct investment in South African Apartheid Canadian banks not only maintain," but encourage the repressive system.

Similar demonstrations were held throughout the country Tuesday, the anniversary of the Sharpsville Massacre where 70 people were killed for peacefully protesting the policies of the South African government.

Regan speaks at Dal

by Valerie Mansour

Nova Scotia Premier Gerald Regan said Friday he opposes differential fees for overseas students. Regan, at a forum in the Dalhousie SUB cafeteria said that "the universities are richer if there are people from other countries. Universities should be international in scope." He said he hopes other provinces which have recently implemented differential fees would realize this.

The two-tiered fees are charged in Alberta and Ontario. Quebec has said it plans to charge the fees beginning in January, and administrators at Dalhousie indicated recently they would be considering the issue.

Both Regan and education minister George Mitchell insisted that universities should not increase tuition fees this year, but should instead make alterations within their own budgets. "Corners can be cut at every university," Regan said. "The government has to live within its means. There are cutbacks in every department."

Regan said that the "vigorous action" promised in the throne speech earlier this year will prevent

tuition increases. "Last year we were determined tuition fees wouldn't be higher than the cost of living and now we'll take the same action."

Tony Kelly of the Atlantic Federation of Students challenged the education minister on his presumption that tuition would not rise. Kelly cited concrete cases at various Nova Scotia institutions where students have been informed of increases. Mitchell considered the information "a surprise".

In response to a comment by Gene Long of the National Union of Students that last year's march on province house kept tuition down, Regan cried "You're full of baloney." "Everything was planned before the demonstration," the premier said.

The men were also challenged on the question of cutbacks. "There are cutbacks in every department, our salaries are below the rest of the country," one student told Regan. "We have the highest tuition in the country." "Why should students stay here and pay more for less, added another student. Isn't it defeating the purpose of education when our quality is going down?"

Info sessions for NB

SACKVILLE (CUP)—While Nova Scotia students plan visible protest action against cutbacks on March 30, New Brunswick students will hold information sessions at each campus to inform students how funding decisions are directly affecting their education.

The New Brunswick Coalition of Students decided at a meeting Saturday organized action such as the AFS plans for Nova Scotia are not appropriate to the New Brunswick situation. NBCS set March 30 as the date for the information sessions to demonstrate solidarity with the Nova Scotia students.

The coalition reaffirmed its primary policy position, that there be no fee increases, and decided to continue petitioning the government to maintain funding levels that would ensure the quality of education does not deteriorate.

Some students told AFS representatives at the meeting they

thought AFS policies, particularly its stand on free tuition, were unrealistic. AFS secretary-coordinator Tony Kelly replied that NBCS has been critical of AFS policies without adopting any of its own.

A delegate from the Université de Moncton said that since this was only the second meeting of the group they should devote their attention to more immediate problems.

The coalition joined other student organizations across the country to reject a proposed federal increase Canada student loan ceiling. Students agreed raising the maximum loan amounts would provide too much of an incentive to the provincial government to cut back on the size of student bursaries.

Students from New Brunswick's two francophone institutions attended the meeting but were hesitant to enter any formal membership arrangement with the coalition.

8000 students oppose cutbacks

TORONTO (CUP)—More than 8,000 students marched through Toronto March 16 to protest cutbacks in government funding of education and voice their concern for continued government neglect for the quality of education. It was the largest student demonstration ever held in Ontario.

Students from more than a dozen Ontario institutions met at the University of Toronto at 1 p.m., then marched to Queen's Park, shouting: "They say cutbacks, we say fight back," and "Cut Bill (Davis), not back."

There were nearly 2,000 students from U of T, and more than 2,000 from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute—one of the institutions hardest hit by the government decision to increase funding for Ontario institutions by only 5.8 per cent.

Gathering at Queen's Park, students heard messages of support from faculty and support staff associations, and from student organizations in the Atlantic Provinces, the Prairies, B.C. and from the National Union of Students in Ottawa. The rally had been endorsed by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and the Ontario Federation of Students.

Ontario premier Bill Davis and Minister of Colleges and Universities Harry Parrott continually refused to speak with students at the rally, despite repeated calls for "Harry".

Members of both opposition parties spoke with students, and were well received, as was Cliff Pilkey of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Just before the demonstration



started, occupations at two institutions ended so that students could attend the rally. The occupations at Guelph University and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute pressed demands for cancelling classes so that occupations at the University of Toronto ended the day before, when students said they had won their most important goal—publicity for the rally.

Occupations at Trent University and Carleton University the week before the rally were successful in closing those universities for the day of the rally.

Most universities and colleges remained officially open for the day, although students were told that there would be no repercussions taken against them for attending the protest.

For about an hour after the demonstration officially ended, 5,000 students continued to demand to see Davis and demand further action. Students from Trent University chanted for an occupation of the legislature, and when representatives of the Ontario Federation of Students told the students to go home, the 2,000 remaining protestors started shouting "Sell-out, sell-out."