2 Excalibur, October 25, 1973

Chile's had mass following Vorkers' movement had political consciousness

"We must build world solidarity. There is no other solution", according to Michel Chartrand, Québec labour leader, who was discussing the way Canadians must react to the bloody coup in Chile.

Chartrand was addressing a large crowd at a meeting called by the Chile Solidarity Committee at the Ontario College of Education last week.

The Chilean working class, he said, "was the best working class in the world." The military coup occurred, he said, because the rightists saw that they were dealing with a mature, politically conscious workers movement with a huge mass following. The fiery Québec orator drew wide

applause when he compared the role of the Chilean military to that of the Canadian army, RCMP, and police. Struggles like the Québec crisis in 1970, the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919, and even the rebellions in the 1830's, showed, Chartrand said, "they (the armed forces) are trained to crush the voice of the people when that

voice is too strong."

Chartrand denounced Canadian recognition of the junta, and said Mitchell Sharp, foreign affairs minister, was "part and parcel of the international band of bandits," involved in the continuation of such regimes.

'We went along with Vietnam and the asphyxiation of Cuba. We are still going along with Brazil," he said.

In Chile it is democracy and the working class which has been crushed by international imperialism, and we are linked unless we help them fight this imperialism.'

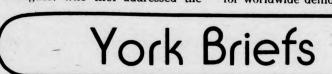
But Chartrand saw a reason for determined optimism even today. He explained that the revolutionary forces in Chile were beginning to struggle against the regime and urged the audience to continue to support the armed struggle in Chile.

NDP Member of Parliament John Rodrigues, who first addressed the

assembly, called for an investigation of the conduct of Andrew Ross, Canadian ambassador to Chile. Chileans arriving in Canada said the embassy doors were locked shut, and only those with Canadian passports were allowed to enter. The junta, he said, was called in to move those who refused to leave.

Bret Smiley of the Revolutionary Marxist Group (one of the groups in the CSC) described the coup as a massive defeat for the Latin American workers movement, but an important lesson also. He said that the Popular Front in Chile like that in Indonesia, Bolivia and Brazil "showed that the peaceful road to socialism is in reality a bloody deathtrap."

He concluded the meeting with an appeal for a united demonstration by all those who wished to support the Chilean struggle, November 4, the day chosen by the World Peace Congress for worldwide demonstrations.



Picketers needed to help strikers

The Aristic Woodwork strikers need picketers from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at the shop on Densley Ave. Contact the York Waffle at the booktable in Central Square between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Leftover liver and onions?

Liver and onions were recently sold for 80 cents at the Bethune-Stong cafeteria. The following day liver and onions were going for 75 cents at Central Square cafeteria. Anyone for leftovers?

English course as second language

York's Centre for Continuing Education is offering an intensive 10-week program. English as a Second Language, beginning Saturday, November 24. Call 667-2502 for more information.

York needs volunteers

Information York needs volunteer staff. Contact Mrs. D.Brown, 667-3746.

Fly to Acapulco now!

Information and application forms for A.O.S.C. flights to Acapulco are available from the York Student Federation, Room N111, the Ross Building. Christmas flights to Vancouver and Europe are pending. For information phone 667-2515.

Organize Handicapped Student Union

An organizing committee is being set up for Handicapped Student Union this week

Please call Judy Snow at 621-2405 or Nancy Steinberg at 667-2405 for details.

John Foster speaking on Chile

John Foster of the Latin American Working Group will speak on Christians and Socialism in Chile at Student Christian Movement discussion lunch Tuesday, October 30. Bring your lunch to the Vanier Masters Dining Room from noon to 2.



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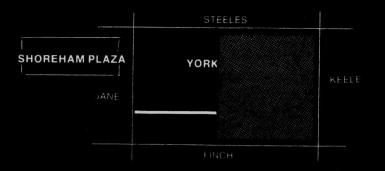
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