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the Gateway

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...if you steal from many, it's research.
Wilson Mizner

Protest for human rights

by Lucinda Chodan

Placard-carrying protestors chanting "Release the Chartists" demonstrated against the Alberta visit of the Czechoslovakian ambassador to Canada yesterday.

Approximately 20 demonstrators marched at Government House during a luncheon meeting between Premier Lougheed and Czech Ambassador Stefan Murin. They were protesting the current trial and imprisonment of ten Czech human rights activists belonging to the Charter 77 group.

The group formed after the signing of the Helsinki Pact to document human rights violations in Czechoslovakia. Six of the activists received up to five years in prison Tuesday for subversion.

The Czech ambassador did not comment on the protest.

The demonstration was organized by the university's Committee in Defense of Soviet and East European Political

Prisoners. Committee spokesman Bohdan Krawchenko said the trial had important implications for Eastern Europe.

"This is the largest political trial in Eastern Europe in a decade. If they can get away with trials of this magnitude, the future of dissidents in Czechoslovakia is in doubt.

"We're here to let (the ambassador) know that people are concerned."

Demonstrator Chrystia Chomiak elaborated. "We consider that these are political trials. These people documented violations of human rights as outlined in the Czech constitution. For publishing these violations of human rights, they were charged with subversion."

NDP leader Grant Notley asked the Alberta government Tuesday if it planned to express concern about the trials to the Czech government. International Trade Minister Horst

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Cutbacks campaign to be organized

The Students' Union Cutbacks Committee devised a detailed plan of action for the first leg of its anti-cutback campaign in its second meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The group has begun organizing for its role in the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) card campaign.

In the card campaign, FAS member campuses will send postcards to the provincial minister of advanced education and manpower. The cards outline student positions on cutbacks and accessibility to post-secondary institutions.

The card also outlines four fundamental points: the need for adequate funding to match inflation and expand current programs without tuition increases; the importance of student representation on the Canada Student Loans Plenary Group, the Alberta Student Finance Board, and any body developed to deal with new student aid plans; a new federal and provincial student aid plan based on grants to be developed for 1980/81; and a demand for

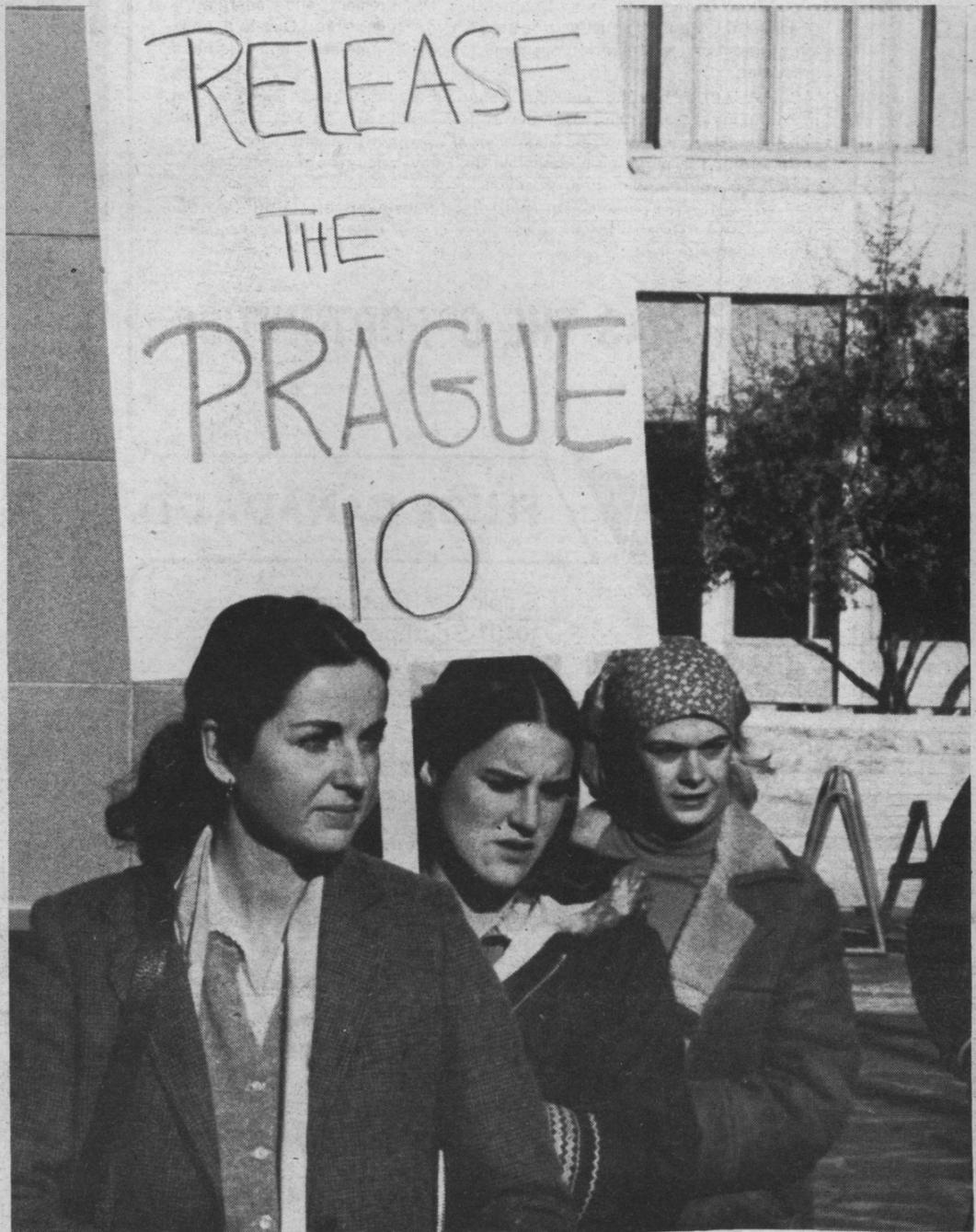
no tuition fee increases and a reduction in the number of faculties and departments which have quotas.

Each campus is being asked to distribute the cards to students and have them signed. The cards will then be returned to FAS for delivery to the minister. Posters advertising the campaign will be appearing shortly at the U of A, according to vp external Tema Frank.

Plans for renewed research into the cutbacks issued were also discussed at Tuesday's meeting. The committee hopes to construct a detailed list of effects cutbacks have had on the quality of education and use the results of their research to back up their proposals to the provincial government.

Attendance at the meeting was low, but Frank attributed the small number of students to mid-term week.

The next meeting of the Cutbacks Committee will be held Tuesday, October 30 at 3:30 pm in Room 142. All students are invited to attend.



Three of the protestors who demonstrated against human rights violations in Czechoslovakia at Government House on Wednesday.

photo Russ Sampson

Focus on student aid

TORONTO (CUP) - Establishment of a federal-provincial task force to "examine the total question" of student aid, including accessibility to post-secondary education, was announced late Monday.

The surprise announcement was made at the conclusion of an unpublicized meeting between Federal Secretary of State David MacDonald and the Council of Ministers of Education (CME).

It was also decided that "at his earliest opportunity", MacDonald would introduce amendments to the Canadian

Student Loans Act to make students in a trimester academic system eligible for student aid. Currently, students enrolled in courses of less than 26 weeks duration are not eligible.

The statement said the task force would look at the debt load of students, portability of student aid (for students transferring from province to province) and accessibility to post-secondary education when examining the Canadian student aid situation.

Observers expect the task force could be the first step in the establishment of a new student

aid plan.

The announcement took the National Union of Students (NUS) by surprise. In September, NUS was told by the CME it would be able to meet with a subcommittee of the CME before the ministers' meeting in January. One of the main topics of the meeting was expected to have been student aid.

NUS is hopeful there will be student representation on the task force, said NUS researcher Jeff Parr. He said a previous study by the Liberal government

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Student group supports new tuition fees report

by Portia Priegert

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) has expressed support for a recently released report on the rationales for determining student contributions to post-secondary education.

The report, compiled by Dr. Steve Hunka of the U of A's Educational Research Services and a Grantham Task Force member, was designed as a response to last year's Grantham Task Force on the student contributions to post secondary

education.

Lake Sagaris, executive officer of the FAS says the report is "everything the Grantham Report should have been and wasn't."

She says she's impressed with the extensive research Hunka conducted and with his systematic approach to the Grantham recommendations.

In particular Sagaris praised Hunka's illustration that the salaries of university academic staffs have not increased more

than the inflation rate since 1969. She says this shows that faculty members are not "gouging the public purse" as the Grantham Task Force maintained.

She also says Hunka's documentation that the university is one of the least expensive post-secondary institutions has important implications when changes to the system of government funding are considered.

She says if the government undertakes a policy of indexing

(linking their contributions to post-secondary education to student contributions) it will mean large fee increases in technical schools and some provincial colleges. Since the government now pays for a relatively higher proportion of those institutions the effects of indexing will be felt immediately, she maintains.

Sagaris also praises Hunka's examination of the value of education in terms of societal benefits, the provincial

economy and the situation in other countries.

"Most people think that a university education costs the same or more in other countries," says Sagaris. "That simply isn't true. In Denmark and West Germany for instance, no fees are charged.

"Hunka exposes the Grantham Task Force's lack of factual basis for their recommendations," she says.