

# ANTI-WAR ACTIVITIES TO INTENSIFY

## Spot Light Canadian Complicity in Indo-China

The Prairie regional anti-war conference during February 5 and 6 in Saskatoon set the stage for an intensification of the activities of the antiwar movement during the next few months, centering especially on Canadian complicity in the Indochina War.

The conference, attended by more than 80 antiwar activists from across the prairies including 39 from Edmonton, analyzed the experiences of the antiwar movement during the past period and passed a number of resolutions on proposed actions.

The conference moved to carry a campaign around links between the Defense Research Board and the university. The DRB, which assigns research and development projects to many Canadian universities, including the U of A, represents, because of its links with the US war machine through NATO, NORAD, and other pacts, a concrete example of Canadian and campus complicity in the war. March 29 has been designated a student day of protest and should see actions on campuses and in high schools

across Canada.

Local demonstrations will, as well, be organized on April 22 in line with the call put out by the National Peace Action Coalition in the US for broad-based peaceful actions against the war.

Major action too will be carried on against the Suffield Defense Research Station which has been the site for testing and development of chemical and biological warfare for the Canadian-British-American military, and which will be used this summer by British troops for maneuvers. The anti-war movement will attempt to initiate the formation of broad Suffield Action Coalitions which will organize a prairie-wide action during the summer at the Suffield Station.

The conference speakers included New Democratic Party MLA Bev Dyck. In a telegram which Dyck read, NDP leader David Lewis expressed his continued support for the antiwar movement. Dyck said that the NDP has consistently taken firm stands against the US involvement in the war but admitted that the actions of the NDP have often lagged behind

their words. Dyck pledged that he would take any actions within his power to stop war research for the DRB from being carried out on campuses for the DRB.

Dr. Stanley Rowe of the U of Sask Dept of Plant Ecology spoke on 'chemical and biological warfare and ecocide in SE Asia'. Rowe said that the US had two ways of attacking "the enemy": either to kill them individually or to attack their life-support system. This has meant a policy of calculated destruction of the environment. He said that 1/7 of Vietnam, and of this 90% forest, had been sprayed with defoliants. Vietnam, which was formerly a major rice exporter, now imports large quantities of rice and probably even after the war is over, will not be able to be self-sustaining.

George Semeniuk of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labor spoke to the conference of 'trade unions and the war'. He said that an effort has been made to paint labor as the villain in the problems of the Canadian economy. He pointed out

however that the real cause has been the massive military expenditures in the US which have resulted in inflation in both the US and Canada. He said that increased trade union involvement in the antiwar movement will come about when workers begin to see more clearly that the war is the cause of the economic problems.

John Warnock, co-author of the book "Partner to Behemoth" spoke on Canada's role in US military alliances. He traced the development of Canadian dependency on the US military and said that NATO and NORAD represent for the US a way of effectively controlling the foreign policies of Canada and other members. The US sees Canada as a "national strategic stockpile" and as "the most stable resource base for the US". He noted that Suffield has been the home of most of the testing of chemical and biological warfare for the Western powers. He also pointed out the role that the supposedly neutral International Control Commission has played in Vietnam. Canada was originally

chosen to sit on the Commission in order to represent the so-called 'Western' position on Vietnam, and he said it had done so in a very crude fashion. For example, when the bombing of the North began in the sixties, Canada submitted a minority position (against India and Poland's condemnation of the bombing) which was almost a carbon copy of a US document called "Aggression from the North".

One of the most significant developments out of the conference was the formation of a Prairie Student Mobilization Committee. The formation of this organization follows out of the experience around the Amchitka demonstrations when previously untouched sectors of the community were mobilized. The Student Mobilization Committee will attempt to consolidate the gains of the antiwar movement out of the Amchitka experience by organizing the movement on prairie-wide basis and co-ordinating such actions as the one proposed for the summer against Suffield.

## The \$50.00 Question

Fifty dollars is now available to anyone who would like to raise a voice against the cause of abortion law repeal.

Students' council, Monday, voted to give \$50 to each side of the coming Students' Union referendum on whether or not abortion laws should be repealed. It appears likely that the U of A Committee for Abortion Repeal will be given the pro-abortion funds.

At last night's meeting, Science rep, Beth Kihunky, moved that the returning officer of the SU be directed to publicize the referendum on abortion repeal, and that the committee avowing this be given \$65 to publicize their point of view.

The U of A Committee on Abortion Repeal at a previous meeting presented a representation calling for the referendum. At the beginning of last night's meeting, the committee asked that council take a stand on the issue for the referendum.

The first motion passed rather easily (14 in favor, four opposed).

On the second motion, Dentistry rep, Jim Guild said, "If they (the committee on abortion repeal) want the students' opinions on this issue, I don't see why they should want to sway people's opinions on it."

Co-ordinator Doug Black said, "By giving \$65 to this committee, we are insinuating council is with it." Several other councillors seemed to back Black's view.

However, Kihunky, and some others felt that the students for the referendum to be meaningful students should be informed.

The second motion was defeated (four in favor, 12 opposed).

Law rep, Gerry Riskin, then moved that \$50 be given to each side to publicize their views, the money to be granted at the discretion of the returning officer. If no one claims the money for either side, it would not be spent.

Black argued that this would

be a bad precedent, giving a group money to support their view on the referendum issue.

Riskin said that it was not bad

to inform the electorate.

Academic vice-president, Dave Biltek said that this did not set a precedent. In 1966 council gave

money to both sides in a referendum on the U of A's re-entry into the Canadian Union of Students.

## Riskin and Spragins Running for Office



Gerry Riskin

Gerry Riskin and Rob Spragins announced Monday that they are running for President and Vice-president of the Students' Union.

Riskin who is now law rep has been a commerce rep and has been on the VGW and B.A.C.U.S. executive.

He is currently vice-president of the Law Club and the chairman of the Constitution and by-laws Committee. He is also a member of D.I.E., Finance Board, and a G.F.C. committee member.

Spragins who is now Commerce rep, is involved with a major study of Students' Union budgetary procedures. He has also served as an active member of the Awards Board and the Constitution and By-laws Committee.



Rob Spragins

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**SUNDAY FEB 13th -**  
 premiere of "JABLONSKI"  
 1 show only - free admission - 8 p.m.