

AIP - - Rough justice

In the 1974 general election Bob Stanfield was saying that wage and price controls were necessary to defeat the inflationary spiral of the 'sixties and 'seventies.

At the same time the Prime Minister in seek of the parliamentary majority was saying that inflation was an international problem and there was nothing one country could do about it.

In the 'sixties and the early 'seventies, when the NDP was pointing out that corporate profits were increasing astronomically (sometimes by 100's of percents.) and the corporate sector of the economy was greatly increasing its share of national wealth, nobody was listening.

Then, one year later, when Pierre Trudeau instituted wage and price controls, Canadians wondered what they had voted for in 1974.

The government said that there were "changed circumstances" and that inflation was now a "national emergency."

There were "changed circumstances" all right. Starting in 1975, when many unions were coming out of long term agreements they had fallen behind the cost of living. They freely negotiated contracts that started to re-establish their wage-earning capacity vis-a-vis prices and profits.

Now, it is clear. When big-business is stepping up

inflation by increasing already fair profits, it is not a problem. But when the worker tries to keep up with increased costs, it is a National Emergency. Trudeau, in effect, declared class war on the working people of Canada. Labour has been made the fall-guy in the story of inflation.

After a year of the "Anti-inflation Program." Canadian workers have experienced what Jean-Luc Pepin meant by "rough justice". Workers who "appeal" to the AIP Administrator on a wage rollback, have it rolled back farther. Workers claiming an "historical relationship" with workers doing similar or even identical work, are not allowed the same wages. "Rough justice" is a euphemism for injustice.

The Canadian Labour Congress has done everything it can to protest the program and propose alternatives. They point out that food, housing and energy costs are not controlled. The protest fell on deaf ears.

Now, the CLC is calling for a Day of Protest across Canada to show the government that the Canadian working people will not stand this sham and injustice.

Last week the workers of France held a one-day general strike to protest a similar program, barely a month old.

The workers of Canada stood up this week. We stand up with them.

NUS referendum next week

Next week, among other things, we will be asked if we wish to continue our membership in the National Union of Students (NUS). This yes-no question must not be simply "checked off" with little reflection.

The immediate and long-term future of post-secondary education in Canada is passing through a crisis period of titanic proportions.

The federal government is trying, none too gracefully or subtly, to pull out of a major role in financing education. This will place the burden of post-secondary education on the provinces and the individual student.

In the Atlantic area where our provincial governments have not enough money to finance old age pensions alone they certainly cannot afford to increase financing to post-secondary education. Guess where that puts

the financial burden? You guessed it... students. How would you like to pay 80 per cent of your education yourselves, say 4,000 bucks a year?

For students to be aware of these things, in order to have any voice that the federal government will listen to, the students of Canada must be united and organized.

NUS provides us with that organization, and if we will it, our union can be united in building our future. There is no comparable alternative for awareness, unity, concern and strength to a national organization. We need a national organization and we have one; namely NUS.

If we are unhappy with NUS policy, let's change it, but we won't accomplish anything but rendering ourselves less able to stand united for our right to education if we opt out of NUS.



SUB in dire need of expansion

Some two and one half years prior to the completion of the existing Student Union Building, students on this campus voted to increase their student fees to build up a fund for the construction of a building. These students knew full well that the money they were paying would never directly benefit them. In order to make such a complicated

and expensive undertaking a reality, students had to lay foundations, and work diligently on plans for something that they would never see. It is clear, that without such work, the students of today would not have the benefit of a Student Union Building.

At this point in time, students
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