

BLIND RIGHTS MOVEMENT DEMANDS GOVERNMENT ACTION

by Martin Dalley

"When the Blind Rights Action Movement began meeting, our aim was to bring the inadequate facilities and environment and the lack of special educational and vocational opportunities at the Halifax School for the Blind to the attention of the Nova Scotia Department of Education. We have decided it will serve no purpose to just improve the education or the School for the Blind if the overall education plan is inadequate and if employment and vocational opportunities remain as limited as they now are."

President of BRAM, Edward Russell, said, "We want the best system there is. We are not prepared to compromise our hopes and ideas with regard to the new deal for the blind people. We are aiming for the best deal possible."

Now that the brief has been submitted to both the administration and teaching staff of the School for the Blind, BRAM's next move is to find out where they stand with the school and then approach the new government and see what their attitude is toward the brief concerning the problems of the blind.

A meeting will be held in the near future with both the teaching staff and administration of the School for the Blind. BRAM expects both factions to support and sign the brief. If they can't support the brief, it will be taken to the public for its support.

"The problem of the blind is a moral issue," said Russell. "If the people in charge of the education of the blind don't show concern then the public should be given a chance to judge our case. Justice is

on our side."

Letters have been sent to other Blind Schools around the world to find out what can be done for the blind.

Recently, members of BRAM took a trip to the Deaf and Mute School in Amherst to see how a special education system is run by the government. No decisions, however, have been made with regard to this educational system that would benefit the blind.

Discussions concerning the Amherst situation is now underway with the administration at the School for the Blind.

Discussions between BRAM and various federal government representatives in Ottawa indicate that in Nova Scotia the government may not be taking full advantage of new and improved financial resources that could be tapped to help the blind in their education.

As an example, BRAM has learned that several years ago revisions made in federal legislation relating to the payment of funds to blind students for the purpose of obtaining university education had never been taken advantage of in Nova Scotia. However, such benefits have been available to all blind students in Ontario since 1967. In Ontario, blind students going to university receive \$168.00 per month (\$147.00 if they live at home), free tuition and \$50.00 for books.

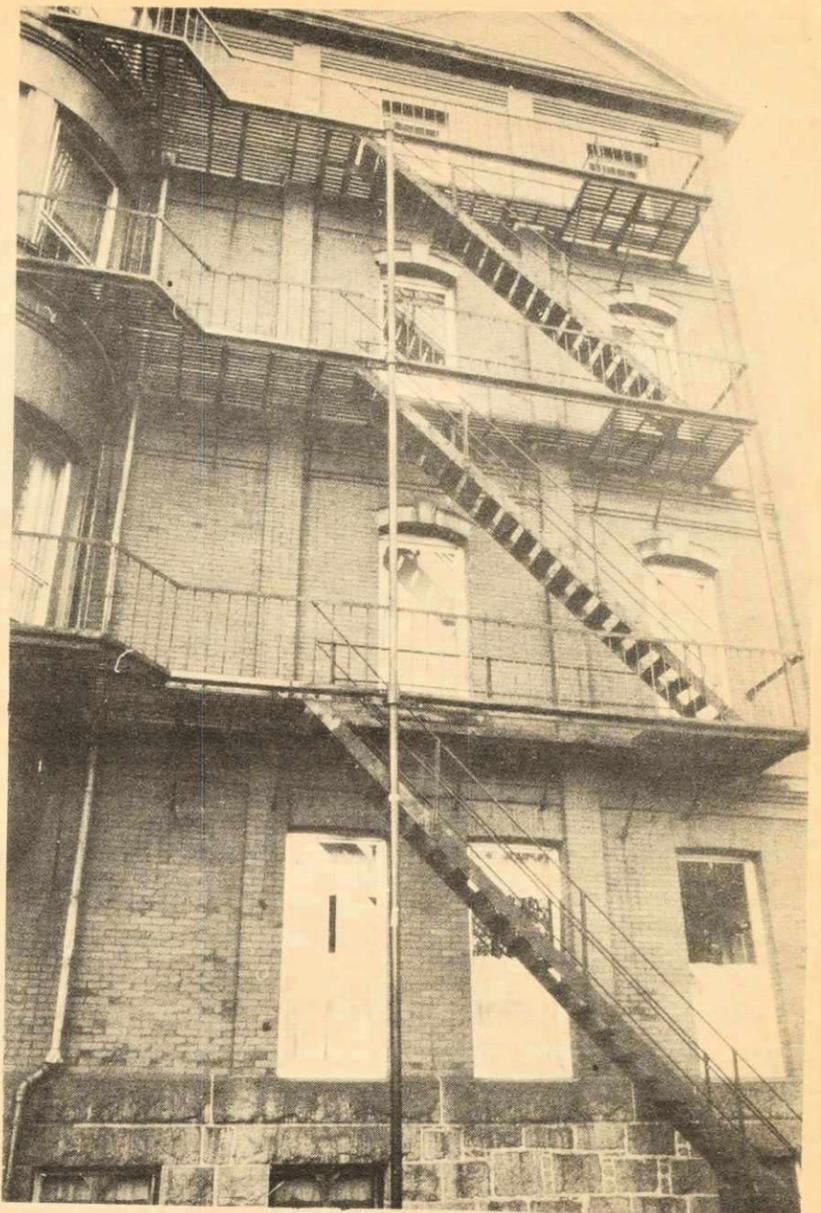
At this time in Nova Scotia, blind persons going to university have only been able to get government funds if they were taking courses to get a trade or profession, excluding Arts. Commerce has been the only practical course available to the blind

students under these restrictions in the Maritimes. It was only when one blind student, investigating federal-provincial agreements on grants to the blind, discovered the difference between Nova Scotia and Ontario, that he was able to point out the failure of the Nova Scotia Government. At that point, they agreed to grant him funds for a university course that permits him to take the course of his choice.

"We think it deplorable that no agency

entrusted with the care of the blind saw fit to inform the student of such programmes. University education must be available as a choice open to the blind student and so must the necessary funds to allow him to exercise his choice," said members of BRAM.

The movement's lack of finances seems to be the biggest stumbling block at the present time. "We cannot get things moving properly without finances," said Russell.



This is the fire escape at the back of the Halifax School for the Blind at University Avenue and South Park. Presumably, in the event of fire, blind schoolkids are supposed to find their way to safety down these stairs. BRAM maintains that facilities at the school are inadequate.

Red Chinese lackey Trudeau hides truth about FLQ, reveals U.S. politician

NEW YORK (CUPI) — The Front De Liberation Du Quebec is a Red Chinese revolutionary group "Determined to overthrow the Canadian government and establish a People's Republic of Canada," says John R. Rarick, Louisiana Democrat.

A member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rarick says that "Despite the recognition of the communist threat (FLQ), Mr. Trudeau and his government . . .

extended diplomatic recognition to the government of Red China and has given indication of supporting the Red Chinese admission to the United Nations."

Apparently this act of recognizing China is part of an attempt by the "left wing extremist" Trudeau to play games "with the Canadian people, and their attention is being diverted by a skillful maneuver in sensitivity training."

Mr. Rarick also criticized the news commentators for "No longer" describing the FLQ as a "Communist Chinese movement." The media, Rarick says, may be fearful of embarrassing "Canada's new ally, Red China."

"Mr. Trudeau has exploited the realities of the situation magnificently," Rarick said in all seriousness. "The shock troops of the FLQ are safely in jail protected from the Canadian

people and Trudeau's ideological friends of Red China have been extended diplomatic recognition without any backlash . . ."

Rarick is worried about what these latest diplomatic moves by Canada will mean to the safety of U.S. democracy.

"And we of the United States now have Castro and the Soviet fleet on the South — Trudeau on the North — our fighting men in South Vietnam — and our attention directed to Middle East. "Where next? Bonn? London? Or here in the United States?"

'Not worth talking about'

Don't sweat it, says Dal

No. It doesn't matter. It's not important.

That's what the Dalhousie University Senate says about the War Measures Act and the recent activities of the federal government.

The Senate voted at its last regular meeting last month not to discuss the matter at all.

Two professors, F. W. Lawvere

and A. C. Thompson, had suggested the Senate discuss whether the Senate should condemn the government "for its imposition of the rule of Fascism on the Canadian people."

The number of those voting for and against this motion was not revealed in the official minutes of the meeting. None of the discussion was recorded either.

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