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## Competition is death to the poor

duplicate the full range of models produced in the United States which further increases costs. And in this respect too our reliance on foreign investment has been reckless.

And third, a corporation that is fully controlled by a parent corporation in the United States is vulnerable to its parent's control over pricing policies, which can be used to draw money out of the Canadian economy and pump it into the American one. This is done quite neatly by overpricing the services sold to the Canadian junior plants by the American senior ones, and underpricing the products going from the Canadian plants to the American ones. So whenever the

American corporations want a bit of working capital, the Canadian subsidiaries can be counted on to provide it.

(Heavy American investment has, of course, produced economic distortion in other ways; the fact that Canadian industry is disproportionately located in southern Ontario, according to economist Michael Ray, can be largely traced to the influence of American senior plants, which want their Canadian junior plants where they can get at them.)

In the end, then, the only sensible attitude consumers can have towards corporations is one of intense hostility; for corporations that are able to control their markets are stealing the consumers blind. Consumers are in effect taxed

without representation through rising prices, so that corporations can finance research and development and underwrite the expansion of their empires. In a competitive situation, prices would be lower. But the people who run corporations look upon competition in the same way Australian ranchers look at rabbits - cute, but too expensive.

The control of markets by corporations pays off for the workers who are lucky enough to work for those corporations; industries in the centre economy have no real reason to fight to hold the line on wages, if the price of increasing them can be passed along to the consumer. (The work force, in return, is expected to be reliable and

co-operative; long-term planning must be made secure.) Of course, what the workers in the centre economy gain as workers, they lose to some extent as consumers, for they pay the same rising prices as everyone else.

The principle of competition is almost sacred in our society. But as far as the working poor are concerned, competition, as it is practised in Canada, is death. For the economy discriminates against workers in competitive industries in favour of the workers and owners of powerful, non-competitive corporations.

The competitive model, in short, does not represent reality; and government policy makers should stop pretending that it does.

## CONFERENCE POVERTY IN CANADA

March 7th, 8th, and 9th  
Dinwoodie Lounge -- Students Union Building

Tuesday, March 7th. 7:00 p.m.

POVERTY IN CANADA - IAN ADAMS - Author of the TRUDEAU PAPERS,  
the POVERTY WALL, the REAL POVERTY REPORT

THE STRIKE IN NOVA SCOTIA - HOMER STEVENS - Pres. of the United Fishermen  
POVERTY AMONG FISHERMEN and Allied Workers Union.

POVERTY AND THE FARMER - FRED GUODMONDSON - Director of organization  
and education for the NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

Wednesday, March 8th 7:00 p.m.

POVERTY AND THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:

- SPEAKERS: (a) Gene Mitchell - Executive Secretary of the Alberta Federation of Labour  
(b) Bill Macdonald - Pres. of the Letter carriers union, Local No. 15  
(c) Don Gardiner - Deputy Minister of Labour Province of Alberta

9:00 p.m.

NATIVE PEOPLE

- SPEAKERS: (a) Harold Cardinal - Former Pres. of the Alberta Indian Ass.  
(b) Archie Hedgeson - Pres. of the Native Brotherhood Society  
(c) Spokesmen for the Metis Association

Thursday, March 9th 7:00 p.m.

THE WORKING POOR AND THE UNEMPLOYED:

- SPEAKERS: (a) Jack Scott - Socialist and revolutionary minister  
(b) Paulette Attebury - Chairwoman of Humans on Welfare  
(c) Hu Harries - Member of Parliament

9:00 p.m.

SOCIAL CHANGE - A SOLUTION TO POVERTY

- SPEAKERS: (a) Prof. Carmicheal - N.D.P. Waffle Caucus  
(b) Gary Perly - Chairman of the Canadian Liberation Movement  
(c) Representative from the Committee for an Independent Canada

Saturday, March 11th.

There will be a series of Seminars and Workshops held all day Saturday at the Tory Turtle Bld. Participating in these discussions will be Ed Smith, Editor of 'Our Generation' and Christain Bay, Political Science Professor.

Further announcements about the seminars will be made during the conference.

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