

Unions, NDP independent

Contrary to expectations, the organized labour movement is not solidly supporting any one political party, commented Alberta Federation of Labour president Roy Jamha in a Monday interview. Jamha is spending this week on campus as a visiting professor in the faculty of business administration and commerce.

The popular view is that unions are natural allies and benefactors of the New Democratic Party. In Alberta this is not the case, he said.

While the AFL does officially endorse the NDP candidates, he explained, this does not imply that all organized labour in Alberta does. Association by unions, to the AFL is on a voluntary basis. There are approximately 100 unions affiliated with the AFL and some 25 that are not.

In addition, the unions that are affiliated may stipulate that their affiliation fees are not to be used for any particular political party. Further, since affiliation is voluntary, unions have the option of following AFL policy, disagreeing, or withdrawing from the AFL. Individual unions may endorse any candidate of any party, Jamha remarked.

A survey done after the 1968 election shows the actual diversity of labour support for political parties. According to Jamha, 42% of organized labour members voted for the Liberal party. The vote for the NDP barely matched the number of votes for the Conservatives.

Another "misconception" in Jamha's view is the supposed large financial backing given the NDP by labour. The AFL operates the Committee on Political Education (COPE). This is the only section of the AFL that tries to raise money specifically for political purposes.

In Alberta, unionists are encouraged to donate 10 cents per worker per month to the COPE fund, the labour leader said. This \$1.20 per worker per year is further reduced since 20 cents is retained for local union use. In Canada 14% of the organized labour movement is affiliated with the NDP (1968 figures). If



one assumes a comparable figure for Alberta, there is little financial aid available for the NDP.

Another factor restrains whole-hearted support of the NDP, Jamha noted. Although the labour movement, through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), was instrumental in the formation of the NDP, labour has subsequently tried to keep itself independent of the party.

Though the CLC and the AFL do desire NDP election victories Jamha said, they also want to retain their independence and flexibility, even should the NDP form the government.

Too close an association and involvement with the NDP would restrict the bargaining power and potential of the labour movement were the NDP ever to be the government, Jamha commented.

As a result of these factors, Jamha said, the union effort in Alberta is concentrating on non-partisan activities. The AFL submits briefs and makes recommendations to the government in the hope of influencing government decisions. hm

"abolish foreign aid"

"Foreign aid should be abolished!" This is the view of Don Jansen, a recently returned volunteer with Canadian Crossroads International. He feels that the way foreign aid is presently handed out, it is paternalistic and often destroys the human dignity of the receivers. "With the withdrawal of outside assistance, countries would be forced to carefully control their spending. The people would also have greater

control over their own destiny," says Jansen.

Don Jansen was one of the five U of A students chosen to participate in an overseas work project this past summer. His particular endeavour was on the small island of Nevis in the West Indies. Together with two female students from Ontario, he worked for the local handicraft society on the island. This is one of the many cooperatives in Nevis. People feel they must band together to achieve a profitable margin. The small population on the island could not possibly support many competitive enterprises.

"The most rewarding aspect of the Crossroads experience for me was being exposed to another culture and actually being submerged within it," Jansen remarked. "You can read and study about other cultures, but it's not the same as living there."

He began to learn how to think in the mentality of the people. "One woman on Nevis bought an electric toaster and put it in her livingroom. A sign of status on the island is anything that is plastic. These kinds of phenomena are alien to our North American experience. They stem from the tremendous desire the people of Nevis have for technology," remarked Don.

The summer sensitized Crossroaders to the complex problems of developing nations, as well giving them a sense of their own country's involvement.

Don's experience raised questions for himself: "Does the modern world have a responsibility to developing nations? If so, how can this responsibility be carried out most effectively?"

For those interested in participating in an overseas experience during the coming summer, Canadian Crossroads International is holding an informational meeting Thursday, October 25 in the Meditation Room, SUB at 3:30 p.m. vr



The hangman, Jack Battery, had few customers on campus yesterday. Not even his black hood and miniature gallows could entice students to a meeting to discuss the end of the five year ban on capital punishment in Canada. He and Dennis Newsome are launching a cross-Canada tour to convince people that no noose is good noose.

abortions at Student Health

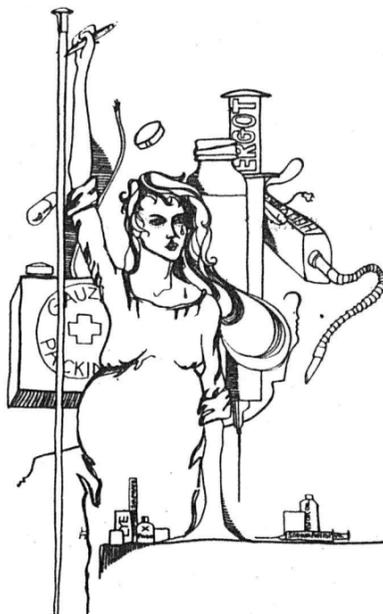
Ten months ago a University of Alberta student entered the offices of University Health Services. She suspected that she was pregnant. After two months of extensive examinations and interviews with city doctors and psychiatrists, she received an abortion in a small-town hospital.

This dilemma is being faced on the U of A campus by an increasing number of students. According to an Edmonton obstetrician, who wished to remain unnamed, current abortion laws allow "abortions to be performed only if to continue with the pregnancy would damage the mental or physical health of the mother."

"This law is left up to the interpretation of individual doctors," he added. There are no strict legal guidelines to determine the necessity for abortion.

Michael J. Ball, M.D., head of Student Health, stated that in the 1971 winter session at the U of A seventy-nine therapeutic abortions were handled for a female population of 6,981. Abortions handled through Student Health require consideration by a minimum of three doctors, two of whom must approve the case, as well as the doctor performing the operation, who cannot be on the committee. Because in Canada abortions must be performed before the fetus is twenty weeks old, suspected pregnancy must be confirmed as soon as possible.

Abortion referral represents either a failure to use birth control or a poor choice of method--both of which are unnecessary due to the availability of contraceptives, Dr. Ball said.



'respect for life' Voice of Unborn

"You are one of the lucky ones. You had the chance to survive. I am lying in a garbage bucket waiting for the incinerator. I may flail my arms and legs, struggling fruitlessly for hours, until finally the spark of life within me is completely beaten."

This is a situation portrayed in a pamphlet called "What About Abortion", which is published and distributed by the "Voice of the Unborn", a non-sectarian, community project dedicated to strengthening respect for human life in Canada.

In an interview with Theresa Parsons, head of the Edmonton branch of the association, she stated their objectives. They want a guarantee of life for the child and they believe that the only way this will be accomplished is through changes in the existing abortion law. The association asks that the law be repealed. They are striving to unite the voice of the public to represent their views.

According to research done by the association, legal abortions do not prevent "backstreet" abortions. Both rates have risen. The group has based this conclusion on figures from hospitals which have treated illegally aborted women.

"Voice of the Unborn" also believes that the upsurge in psychiatric illnesses is directly related to the rising number of abortions. They say that the increase in abortions doesn't legally can be

Any student may request oral contraceptives. A medical examination is required but in most cases a doctor will prescribe the pill immediately, making an appointment for a later date. Contraceptives for men are available at

any drugstore, without prescription. All requests for birth control are strictly confidential and in the case where a student desires specific information to be withheld from the medical record, the doctor will comply.

One relatively new method to prevent pregnancy is the "morning after pill" which, if prescribed within three days after intercourse, will prevent pregnancy. This pill is available through Student Health, although Dr. Ball stated that, "Unfortunately the majority of doctors don't even know about it."

Services for adoption and for keeping a child can be arranged through Student Health which will refer the single parent to an agency or day-care centre. Sterilization is also possible and involves a ten-minute process in the cases of males, or tubular ligation on the part of the female. Both methods are permanent and only six were performed last year. II

abortion repeal rally - Saturday

All those who are interested in making women's voice heard in the upcoming federal election must appear at the cross-country demonstrations to repeal abortion laws this Saturday, October 21st, according to the U of A Committee to Repeal Abortion Laws.

Edmonton participants will meet at 2 pm this Saturday, October 21, at the Legislative Buildings, and proceed to Churchill Square for a 3 p.m. rally.

The organizers see the demonstration as an "opportunity to make our voices heard, to point out the importance of the repeal question to the campaigning politicians and the electorate. It is only by involving ourselves in actions such as the demonstrations that it will be possible to achieve actual gains towards freedom and equality for women. The abortion repeal question is one that can unite many women in a struggle that will ultimately gain them the freedom of their bodies, and eventually their destinies."

"We must realize that women must have control of their own bodies, and recognize what can be done towards that objective. Only by women massing together in action can we present a powerful united front demanding our rights. By demonstrating we can make our voices heard by the government which oppresses us."

attributed to the "new morality"

An article in "Lifelines", a "Voice" publication, suggests that "many of the young women being directed to abortion wards today are no less moral--by today's standards--than our mother's were in their day. It is society that has change--the "new morality" is here, and Canada is gradually becoming abortion-minded."

The article goes on to say that because of the tremendous pressures for family planning and the emphasis on pollution and over-population, people are being conned into abortion as a solution.

The "Voice of the Unborn" is attempting to educate the public as to what an abortion really is. They believe that life begins at conception, and that we have no right to end that life at any time after. They advocate that the size and age of the human body should have nothing to do with its destruction.

The Edmonton branch of the association began in January of 1971 after the provincial chairman of the group from Vancouver contacted several religious and service agencies in the city to rally interested persons. These people were invited to attend an organizational meeting in December 1970, to unite their voices in abortion protest.

There are about 1,100 members in Edmonton at present. They are involved in the circulation of a petition throughout Canada which they hope will pressure the government into action. cm