

# Ontario labor rejects federal controls

KITCHENER (CUP) - Organized labour in Ontario rejected and condemned the federal government's wage and price guidelines on November 3.

At the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) annual convention here 1,300 delegates representing Ontario's 800,000 unionized workers passed a strongly worded resolution against the guidelines.

The resolution described the government's policy as "shamelessly one sided, patently dishonest, highly undemocratic, unworkable and possibly unconstitutional."

During the discussion on the motion no one spoke against it though there were many who called for an even stronger resolution. About half of those who spoke wanted a national demonstration and a one day strike.

Gordie Lambert of the St. Catharines and district labour council said to the OFL executive, "Lead the demonstrations, don't wait to be invited, organize them yourselves."

And when he said, "If one worker is jailed... then we should shut the province down," he received loud

applause from the delegates.

Two delegates representing locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) advised the OFL to follow the example set by CUPE at its convention where it passed a resolution directing all locals to defy the wage guidelines. The two delegates called for a national one day strike and a demonstration in Ottawa.

A delegate from the United Electrical Workers reiterated several previous speeches by comparing the wage and price guidelines to the War Measures Act. He said "Some union leaders

ducked then and that was the start."

He said the unions must take on the establishment and there was only way to do it: "a machine shutdown".

Several speakers compared the guidelines to the War Measures Act and warned in a variety of phrases that "democracy was not in good hands".

Speeches against a national demonstration generally called on their locals to get the full support of their membership.

Lucie Nicholson of CUPE and Stu Cooke of the United Steelworkers of America both said they had been to demonstrations at Queen's Park where fewer than 1,500 unionists turned out.

And their sentiments were echoed by another speaker who said "demonstrate, yes, but when you have the troops behind you."

But it was the more militant speakers who drew the applause from the delegates, and in the two hours of discussion there was

never any doubt that a motion condemning the government policy would be passed. When a vote was called only a handful of delegates voted against the resolution.

The sentiment of the convention had been expressed earlier by OFL president David Archer in his opening address Monday morning. He told union leaders to continue negotiations despite the wage guidelines and said unionists should be prepared to go to jail to fight the government policy.

The resolution was a distilled version of Archer's opening speech. It offered several recommendations on how to combat inflation. It urged unions to cooperate with the Canadian Labour Congress and its mass education program aimed at exposing the government's anti-inflation policy.

Locals were asked to contribute to a "war chest" to finance the campaign against the policy and to step up the drive "to organize the unorganized".

## Reminds Liberals of pledge

OTTAWA (CUP) - "I challenge you here today - as the rank and file of the Liberal party, as the people who helped elect the government - to tell Mr. Trudeau to live up to his election promise that he can make the economy work without imposing controls."

That was the challenge CUPE President Grace Hartman placed in front of the delegates at the Liberal Party policy convention held here November 7-9.

The government's economic programs, Hartman told the 2200 delegates representing Liberal riding associations across Canada, amounted to no more than "wage controls without price controls", and was inequitable because it hit the wage-earner while doing nothing to get at the causes of inflation.

She quoted Trudeau during the 1974 election campaign as stating that "income controls risk hurting

the small and the poor" while dividends and executive salaries are allowed to rise "because there are so many loopholes to squeeze through."

Hartman said the delegates had an obligation to the Canadian electorate to make sure the 1974 campaign pledge of no wage and price controls is lived up to.

The delegates thought differently although no specific resolution

was passed supporting the controls.

One policy, passed without debate, called on the government, through the Department of Labour, to become directly involved monitoring union financial affairs, to hear appeals from persons dismissed from unions, and to supervise strike votes and other procedures normally controlled by the membership of a union.

## B.C. budget restrictions cause student protest

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Students from three Vancouver community colleges walked out of their classrooms November fourth to protest the budget restrictions forced on community colleges by the British Columbia government.

The students from the Vancouver Vocational Institute, Vancouver Community College and Capilano College waved placards and chanted slogans saying the restrictions will cause a drop in educational quality of the colleges.

After marching through Vancouver streets, about 75 VVI students invaded the downtown headquarters of the Vancouver Community colleges where they were told the restriction would not necessarily mean cutbacks.

VCC administration head Tom Gilligan told the students that he "cannot agree there will be cutbacks, but I can't say there will not be."

Gilligan said he couldn't say anything and did not know anything until BC education minister Eillen Dailly, who made the restrictions, announces her approval of the new budget for VCC.

A boycott of classes that same day at Capilano College was supported by 85 per cent of the students, said the student union vice-president.

About 150 Capilano students, joined by ten faculty members, marched six miles to Vancouver's school board offices, also in protest to Dailly's budget restrictions.

## Wage controls ends unknown

WINNIPEG (CUP) - The Manitoba government is not sure how the federal wage controls will affect Manitoba universities and colleges.

"We have given our approval in principle," said Ben Hanuschak, Manitoba Minister of Colleges and Universities. "We're waiting for the final working out of details by the federal government."

The provincial finance ministers are meeting with the federal government on November 26 to work out these details. Once these are figured out, Hanuschak said, they will apply to universities and colleges as well.

The November 26 meeting is very important, according to a Manitoba department of finance official, because it will decide "whether or not the provinces will comply with the program."

If the Manitoba government does go along with the federal programs there will be a specific list of what institutions are affected by the guidelines.

The guidelines will apply to the universities, the official said, but because they are "pretty loose" no one knows what this means.

One possibility is to cap the total amount of money the universities spend but let them spend it in whatever ways they feel best, he said.

Another was to place a 10 per cent ceiling on all wage increases, which would substantially reduce the amount of money the universities would get from the government.

## Executive gets 22% hike

WINNIPEG (CUP) - The Student Union executive at the University of Manitoba have been granted the 22 per cent pay hike they asked for, even though it violates the "spirit" of the federal government's wage and price controls legislation.

The U of M student council voted overwhelmingly October 30 to grant the executive a \$100 raise to \$550 per month.

A motion to give the executive an increase of only \$50 per month was defeated.

Few councillors doubted the executive deserved the raise. The first question asked was, "Do you think it is enough?"

"We can't expect the executive to work so hard without paying them properly," said one representative from the council.

## Warns of increasing shortage

WASHINGTON (ZNS-CUP) - A researcher at the Worldwatch institute in Washington D.C. is warning that the next energy crisis could be caused by shortages of - not oil or food - but plain, old-fashioned firewood.

Worldwatch was set up last year by an independent group of scientists to monitor such global problems as the food and energy crisis.

Researcher Eric Eckholm says he has found that a severe shortage of wood is now threatening most

poor countries of the world, where nine-tenths of the people depend on wood as fuel for cooking and heating. Eckholm says the rising population and more and more demands for firewood are facing woodcutters farther and farther from settled areas to search for wood.

Eckholm says the firewood shortage has become so severe in Asia and Africa that some families spend more than one-fourth of their income just to buy wood alone.

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