



One Fight

Students and Workers

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Pickets at university gates, student union shut-downs, striking support staff and the closing of two Quebec community colleges marked campus support of the Canadian Labor Congress day of protest Oct. 14.

In response to specific requests from both labour and student leaders to rally behind the day of opposition to the government's wage controls, the National Union of Students and many councils voted support in principle.

At Marianapolis College in Montreal joint student-faculty support caused a campus shutdown after a 3 p.m. student affairs committee decision to support the protest.

Faculty at the St. Lambert campus of Champlain College surprised students by failing to appear to work causing that campus to be shut down all day.

Student unions at Carleton University in Ottawa and the University of Regina locked their doors to beef up pickets at campus gates.

At Regina 50 people mounted an early morning picket.

The Carleton contingent joined maintenance workers and faculty in a four hour picket that succeeded in blocking traffic, until police diffused the action, urging cars and buses through the line. Then pickets joined about 3,000 demonstrators on

Parliament Hill and in front of the Anti-Inflation Board.

Student picket lines were also set up at the universities of McGill, Sir George Williams, York, Manitoba, and Toronto.

At McGill only 10 percent of the 300 support staff workers were on the job and many, along with students, joined a 15,000 strong march in Montreal.

At York only half of the 12,000 campus population showed for classes or work. Fifty pickets at the six campus entrances advised people of the day of protest, while law students marched against Osgoode Hall.

Buses were denied access to the University of Manitoba campus by 25 diligent pickets who refused to allow police rerouting of the vehicles to deter their blockade. A few classes were cancelled as afternoons forums were held.

At the U of Toronto all teaching assistants walked out, while a spirited rally of 65 people heard student president Shirley French proclaim "students are labor". Both the law union and some library workers participated in picket lines started in one of the library buildings by the East Asian Students Course Union.

A hundred University of Alberta students marching in zero-degree weather, received a warm welcome from demonstrators at the provincial legislative buildings. Representatives from campus organizations were greeted with chants of "Students-Workers, one fight". Many of the 200 support staff walked out for the day while faculty voted support in theory. About 15 percent of the classes were cancelled.

A critical note was voiced by New Brunswick Labor Council president Phil Booker who found the student leaders of UNB weak, unorganized and with negative attitudes.

Worker's Protest Across the Country

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(FTQ), Centrale de l'Enseignement du Quebec, Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux, Confederation Mondiale des Travailleurs, La Ligue des Femmes du Quebec and about 1,000 students.

Labor leaders attributed the large turnout in the province to the length of time workers had been unorganized, the educative function performed by the labor movement and increased awareness on the part of workers of collusion between employers and politicians in determining working conditions.

FTQ president Louis Laberge said the day of protest was only the first step in a national campaign against the anti-inflation measures introduced by the Trudeau government and that the campaign is far from the finish. Future action can be expected, he said, and for a first try the day "wasn't bad."

Bus and metro maintenance workers picketed bus garages and were supported by some drivers. However, police moved in and broke up picket lines. Service was about 60 percent normal during the morning rush hour, according to transit officials.

Labor leaders expressed general satisfaction with the turnout.

TORONTO (CUP) -- Nearly half a million

workers stayed off their jobs in Ontario on Oct. 14, in defiance of an Ontario Labor Relations board ruling that said political strikes on the day of protest were illegal.

Sudbury was completely shut down by members of the United Steelworkers of America, who struck the Inco mines.

Oshawa was closed by the United Auto Workers, who struck the city's General Motors plants. The Canadian automobile industry was shut down for the day, as workers in Windsor, London and Oshawa walked off.

In London, an estimated 5,000 workers, representing six unions, marched on the local federal building.

In Thunder Bay, ten unions walked off. Others were unable to because of the threat of legal action. Altogether, about 7,000 were out in the northwest of the province.

In Toronto, 10,000 demonstrators marched

on Queen's Park. Transit drivers supported the protest, but did not walk off. They wore black armbands instead. Protesters numbered 15,000 in Hamilton.

In Ottawa, 2,000 people demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Anti-Inflation Board.

Reports from smaller centres in the province suggest uneven response to the

protest call, with at least some services and plants shut down in all areas.

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Downtown stores were empty, most offices were devoid of workers, buses were not operating and streets were jammed as 7,500 protesters marched on the Vancouver office of the Anti-inflation Board Oct. 14.

The protesters assembled at a downtown plaza, where they heard B.C. Federation of Labor president George Johnston say the day of protest was a "fantastic success."

Bus drivers stayed off the job, at least for the morning, even after management threatened to fire anyone who did not show up for work. But, in a historic decision, the B.C. Labor Relations Board ruled the strike was not illegal, since the protest was political in nature and not directed at an employer.

Neither of Vancouver's two daily newspapers published. However, all reporters, copy editors, circulation personnel and editors showed up to collect their day's pay. All craft and mechanical unions stayed off the job.

No B.C. ferries operated and only about one quarter of the provincial government employees stayed home.