Are lawyers capitalist guerrillas?

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Many lawyers are no more than hired guns of the capitalist system resisting the forced of change, BC legislative member, Rosemary Brown, told 100 law students on Oct. 29.

"In legitimizing the status quo lawyers are the servants of capital ... they act as guerilla warriors against the forces of change," the New Democratic Party MLA said.

Such lawyers are usually the first to "colonize" areas of hardwon change and use them to make business, she said.

Brown challenged law students to examine where they will fit in the legal system.

"There has always been a minority of lawyers dedicated to helping others.

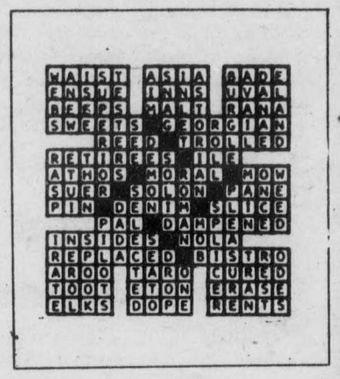
"A small number of lawyers do involve themselves with the real world, with prisoner's problems and the rights of native Indians, women and blacks," she said.

"A true socialist state, however would do more towards creating a just society than legal reform, Brown said.

During a question period students protested that the necessity of articling with large law firms restricts them from playing socially conscious roles.

Brown agreed saying, "The dilemma you have between making money and changing the social system is something only you can solve.

"You're not going to start fighting the system until you get in. You've go to be in it, you've got to understand it before you can change it."



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