

You really know you're drunk when

# The Gateway

you complain about the small washrooms upon leaving the hall closet.

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The crowd was less than enthused with the presence of Premier Peter Lougheed at Monday's rally. It seems nobody likes the man administering the medicine, especially if it's seen that the medicine is worse than the disease itself. Photo Greg Neiman

## Workers burn their contracts at rally

by Greg Neiman

Following a rally at the provincial legislature Monday, some members of the crowd burned their union contracts to symbolize what they saw as the death of the collective bargaining process in Alberta.

About 2,000 people, mostly members of the Alberta Federation of Labor (AFL) attended the rally to say that the federal wage and price control scheme has ended their right to fair arbitration.

Held in conjunction with a march on Parliament Hill in

Ottawa by the Canadian Labor Congress, the rally was organized to make plain the inequities of the federal anti-inflation scheme, and to deliver complaints against provincial policies regarding inflation control.

From a federal perspective, workers said they felt themselves unable to bargain in wage agreements because they had been locked in to a control system. But they have yet to see examples from the Inflation Control Board of prices being frozen or rolled back.

Provincially, the workers complained of service cutbacks from the government in the form of the 11% ceiling, in a period when government spending overall is being increased.

Premier Lougheed addressed the crowd briefly to say that all Canadians should bear the burden of the battle against inflation. He defended his 11% freeze saying services and education were not being cut back, but that there was "a lack of growth" in these areas.

Social leader Bob Clark said in his speech that "restraint can't rest on the backs of the wage-earners."

NDP leader Grant Notley said it was never part of the wage control program to control prices, but only wages. "It's a wage and wage control program," he said.

"Let's do away with it, and start with something where everyone does his part," he said, amid cheers from the crowd.

"We fought too long for collective bargaining," said Gene Mitchell of the FAL "we're not going to give it up."

The crowd struck up choruses of "solidarity forever" before dispersing, leaving behind a garbage can of smoldering contracts.

In a later interview Grant Notley said one result of the rally could be "a strong labor militancy in Alberta." People will begin to pressure the government more, he added.

## "Corporations on welfare"

by Kevin Gillese

RED DEER - Provincial NDP leader Grant Notley told newsmen Saturday that he was in sympathy with the problem local governments in Alberta are faced with "in that they're stuck with an 11% guideline while the provincial government is not."

Notley was speaking in reference to the provincial government's budget, which was handed down in the Legislature Friday evening. "That budget," he told the Alberta NDP convention here, "represents a full 16.8% increase over the estimates of 1975-76."

Notley claimed the main reason the budget ran so much above the original estimated increase of 8% is because the government issued \$327 million in special warrants last year.

"The government makes one estimate in the spring," he said, "but once the House has recessed for the summer, they just start handing out special warrants ... and they get away with it. That's why there is such a budget discrepancy."

Notley also criticized Premier Lougheed's government for the reduction in corporate tax revenues of \$106 million - "yet another example of corporations on welfare."

"Although Social Credit and Conservative governments have always been very friendly with corporations," Notley said, "the situation this year is just damned ridiculous."

Notley said he felt the increased expenditures in the areas of legal services and housing were substantial and he applauded the provincial government for its action. "But we still do not have a good legal program in the province," he added, "and the Tories have not yet developed a comprehensive plan to make the most of their housing schemes."

Notley said that it did little good for the government to spend greater amounts of money to battle spiralling costs if it did not develop comprehensive planning to go hand-in-hand. "If you're going to improve housing," he said, "then you've got to deal with land banking, heavy tax on speculators and so on, to ensure its most effective use."

Notley said the most serious aspect of the budget was its nearly total dependence on revenue from non-renewable resources. "The manna from heaven is going to be short-lived," he said, "and then it should be interesting to

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Local boy makes good

## Terry Sharon new FAS pres

by Kevin Gillese

Student housing, educational funding and declining standards in post-secondary education were major topics of discussion this past weekend, during the first annual spring conference of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS).

The conference was held at the Lethbridge Community College and FAS President Terry Sharon called the conference "most rewarding in regards to participation by member institutions."

"We had absolutely great participation," Sharon said, "with delegates representing over 50,000 students in Alberta post-secondary institutions present. We had places like Fairview College bringing two people - and their total students' union membership is only 87!"

Forty delegates and twenty observers, representing twelve member institutions, attended the conference. As well, two colleges - Fairview Agricultural and Medicine Hat Community - joined FAS during the conference.

Sharon listed declining standards of education as the most discussed issue at the conference. "It was the issue that came up all the time," he said, "and most of the delegates in attendance recognized the severity of the situation facing students at post-secondary institutions in the province."

Sharon said that FAS felt a strong need to produce a policy on the many facets of advanced education - as it pertains to the student - and so mandated the incoming FAS Executive to compile a policy paper over the summer, to be brought for discussion before the fall conference.

"The paper is to discuss things like housing, grants and loans, transferability, admissions and standards, accessibility, where education is going today, and where we think it should go and so on," Sharon said. "This will be our major area of concern over the summer and we will likely hire a research assistant to help in that regards."

Sharon added that two areas of immediate priority FAS focussed on were a consolidation of FAS representation on member campuses and a move

towards public support for FAS and its objectives. "We've done well in establishing support in our five months of existence," explained Sharon, "but we must consolidate that support on member campuses. As well, we must begin to solicit support from business, labour and the general public because the standard of education in Alberta is as important to them as it is to us, the students."

Sharon said FAS condemned the government for its lack of action on the pressing problem of housing and also questioned the rationale behind the use of a "remission" system in Alberta; a grant/loan system which is the only one of its kind in Canada, Sharon said.

FAS established membership rates of 50 cents per student per institution over the conference but has left it up to the individual campuses as to how the monetary union will take place.

Sharon said that officials in the provincial government have begun to recognize FAS as a



Newly elected FAS president Terry Sharon.

voice of Alberta students and said the minister of advanced education and manpower, Bert Hohol, had agreed to meet with FAS at regular intervals throughout the upcoming year.

Sharon was elected president during the conference, serving on a FAS executive with students from the U of C, U of L, Grant MacEwan, Olds Agricultural and Grande Prairie Regional Colleges. He is past vp (services) for the SU and a fourth-year education student on campus.

## The case of surplus growth

There was an error in the story printed in the March 18 Gateway regarding the university surplus this year.

The operating surplus for this fiscal year will be closer to \$3.75 million than the \$1.5 million reported last Thursday. The new figure was reached in time for the preparation of next year's preliminary budget to be considered by the Board of Governors at their meeting on April 2.

Lorne Leitch university vp (finance and administration) said their estimate of a \$3.5 million surplus was made public during the tuition fee increase debate. He told The Gateway that even with the extra money, fee increases are justified in order to maintain the quality and level of education on this campus.

Leitch said the Board would probably set the surplus aside

to ease the problems of large class size and academic understaffing, but the tuition increase was necessary "just to keep things the way they've been this year."

Leitch would not say what the operating surplus predicted in the new budget will be, but he said it would be "cut down greatly" and hinted it may even be an operating deficit.