

# Citizen's Voice



by Catherine Dyke

In February of 1970 a recommendation was presented during Urban Encounter Week to form a coordinating agency for citizens groups in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. This week was sponsored by the Nova Scotia Volunteer Economic Planning Board and aided by federal funds. Experts in numerous aspects of Urban living discussed the problems and the potentials of the metropolitan area. One year later the MOVEment for

Citizens Voice & Action was founded upon a Local Initiative Project grant. It is now founded by the Department of Urban Affairs, Department of Central Mortgage and Housing, and Department of Secretary of State. MOVE is presently a coalition of almost 40 groups, with that number steadily increasing as more organizations realize the strength of cooperation and communication. Its members range from the Downtown Halifax Business Association through to Halifax Welfare

Rights. Dalhousie Legal Aid and the Dalhousie Student Union are also member groups of MOVE. MOVE acts as a Resource Information Center and Communication System for its member groups. It is staffed by trained personnel who facilitate access to equipment and meeting space.

Over the past few years MOVE has been responsible for several informative briefs and presentations on topics such as the proposed Quin-pool Road Development and the Environmental Act. Recently a short paper entitled "What was the Halifax-Dartmouth United Appeal" was prepared by a member of the MOVE Staff. It points out some interesting and not very well known facts about the United Appeal. For instance there is no body which determines funding priorities for community service projects. Money is allotted at the whim of the Board of Directors of the United Appeal upon which sit such people as the President of Halifax International Containers, the Vice-President of Saint Mary's University, a trust consultant of Montreal Trust and the President of Chevrolet/Oldsobile to name just a few. The member groups of the United Appeal consist of approximately 50% local organizations and 50% national organizations. The National organizations are groups such as the Red Cross, the YMCA/YWCA and the Boys Scouts. An interesting fact about these groups is that they receive nearly 75% of all money United Appeal allocates compared to a meager 25% for local citizens groups.

While MOVE is not prepared to take a stance either for or against the United Appeal a copy of this report is being sent to the Local Executive in order to give them a chance to correct any mistakes before the brief is released publicly. The main reason that MOVE as a whole will not take sides upon the issue; aside from the fact that it is an apolitical organization, is that a few of the member groups of MOVE are among the 50% who receive 25% of the United Appeal funding. It was felt that a negative stance by MOVE could endanger the already precarious position these groups maintain.

Many member groups of MOVE are considering taking a position about the United Appeal individually. In the near future the Dalhousie Students Council will also be determining where they stand upon the issue. All persons interested in further information or involvement in MOVE or the United Appeal are invited to come to the Community Affairs Office, Room 216 of the Dalhousie Students Union Building.

## DSA SI! CUPE NO!

For the past three years the Dalhousie Staff Association has represented the non-academic employees of Dalhousie. On February 20, 1974 at a meeting of the DSA, CUPE (The Canadian Union of Public Employees) was invited to come on to the Dal. Campus. It was felt that the DSA had outlived its effectiveness in dealing with management on the behalf of the staff.

CUPE represents clerical, technical, library and non-academic staff in fifteen other Universities in Canada. Many employees felt that CUPE being a successful and also the largest Union in Canada, could, where DSA failed, resolve the many problems staff at Dalhousie faced. A number of employees at Dal are dissatisfied with the job evaluation programme the University recently conducted, and as if common knowledge Staff is underpaid and recives only minimal fringe benefits. Many Dalhousie employees are concerned about local control. Knowing that CUPE strongly supports the development of local unions, played a major part in the decision to invite CUPE.

Quite a controversy developed over the presence of CUPE on Campus. Hard campaigning came from both sides. On Thursday Sept. 5, a referendum for non-academic employees was held CUPE lost the vote solidly. The Dalhousie Staff Ass. will continue to represent Dalhousie employees.

CUPE		
Yes	176	% of voters no. - 61
No	282	% of all eligible no. 54%
		88% voter turnout.

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