

Labour conference

Boycott of junta urged

by Paul Clark

Good as it may be, take Chilean wine off your dinner menu and leave Chilean grapes and apples on the supermarket shelves.

That was part of the message last Friday from Eduardo Rojas, exiled vice-president of Chile's largest trade union until it was outlawed by the military junta which overthrew the Allende government six years ago.

Speaking at the 24th annual convention of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labor (NSFL) in the Hotel Nova Scotian, Rojas urged the steelworkers, coalminers, caretakers and other workers present to continue boycotting Chilean goods to fight Pinochet's criminal dictatorship.

"A boycott of trade by everyone outside Chile is so important", he said.

He praised worker solidarity in fighting for the democratic rights of Chilean workers, several times emphasizing, "Juntos nos venceremos, juntos nos venceremos!" (Together we shall overcome!)

The Canadian Labor Congress has called for a boycott of Chilean goods and workers all over Canada are helping weaken the fascist regime,

Rojaz said. "The plight of the people following Allende has not been in vain".

Following Rojas's short speech, workers rose from their seats to give him a standing ovation.

Gerry Yetman, leader of the NSFL, called him the "briefest and best speaker of the day."

Rojaz told the *Gazette* after the speech that he left Chile in 1973 to take asylum in the Netherlands. Since that time, he said, he has travelled all over Europe and North America, enlisting help in the fight to restore democracy to Chile.

Rojaz said that it is not true a boycott on Chilean goods will hurt the average Chilean citizen.

"Workers are getting no benefits," he said, "only a small sector is benefitting from the profits".

A return to democracy is not unrealistic, Rojas stated, the "whole continent is moving that way".

He cited new democratic governments in Bolivia and Ecuador, democratic advances in Peru and Brazil, and stressed the importance of the recent popular revolution in Nicaragua.

Rojaz noted that the U.S., which was instrumental in the

overthrow of the Allende government, would like to control future change, "but they couldn't in Nicaragua and won't be able to in Chile".

In the six years since the coup occurred, it is estimated that the Chilean government has had 30,000 people murdered and nearly 100,000 imprisoned without charges. Reports of widespread killings, imprisonment, torturing and exile has led the United Nations and other organizations to condemn the violation of human rights in Chile.

Marc Allain, a member of Halifax's Latin American Information Group, said that since the junta's takeover the Chilean people "have experienced up to a fifty percent decline in real income; a tripling of unemployment rates and a dramatic rise in malnutrition and infant mortality."

Canada, he said, forms the second (after the U.S.) biggest bloc of foreign investment in Chile.

Businessmen justify their action by saying it's not illegal, he said.

"It's a good investment", Allain pointed out, "no pollution laws, no organized labor and starvation wages".

He also mentioned some more ways to fight the Chilean dictatorship.

Besides boycotting Chilean goods, letters can be written to one's MP, to Premier Buchanan, to External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald or to Prime Minister Clark, requesting an end to government loans and trade links with Chile. Since all the major

Canadian banks have loaned money to Chile (including the Royal, Toronto Dominion, Nova Scotia, Commerce and the Bank of Montreal), one should transfer one's account to a credit union.

This information can be passed on to other students, friends and community groups, said Allain.

Unemployment insurance

Talks planned

OTTAWA (CUP)—Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey agreed September 17 to involve the National Union of Students in a consultative process taking place before any changes in unemployment insurance are introduced.

In the first meeting between NUS and Atkey, the minister said the confidential government paper outlining possible cuts in unemployment benefits is only a "discussion paper" and that the government will be seeking input from labour and women's groups as well as from NUS, according to NUS chairperson Alex Daschko.

At the meeting NUS representatives outlined their concern about the possible effects on students of changes discussed in the paper, which was leaked to the press earlier in September, said NUS researcher Jeff Parr.

Atkey told NUS that no concrete proposals have been made to the government and that none will be made until the consultative process is completed, probably in late fall, Parr said.

But at a meeting with Atkey September 14, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women said the minister told them that the review of the unemployment insurance program will result

it was decided at King's that \$10 was a rather exorbitant fee, and a deduction of \$5.00 was requested. The Dalhousie Student Union, however, refused to back down, and the reaction from the University of King's College was to build a new lounge exclusively for their students.

Past President of King's College Student Council, Wally Stephen, was embroiled in last year's debate on the issue. He told the *Gazette* this week the contribution that the University of King's College makes to Dalhousie University should be taken into consideration. For examples, he cited the eight professors provided by King's, writers for CKDU Radio and the *Dalhousie Gazette*, as well as participants in the various societies at Dalhousie.

"I have faith," he said, "that this year's executive at Dalhousie will be more flexible on the issue and there will be a better spirit of cooperation than last year."

in cuts.

NAC condemned proposed changes outlined in the discussion paper which would reduce benefits to low income earners, who are disproportionately women. NAC says there should be no cutbacks in unemployment insurance at a time of high unemployment.

"Reducing benefits even further is to fight the serious economic problems of this country on the backs of those least able to afford it, the unemployed."

Atkey said at the meeting with NUS that the creation of a new Youth Employment Secretariat, announced September 15, will allow the coordination of all current federal youth employment programs.

But Atkey also said, in reply to criticism of the low wages paid under the current Young Canada Works program, that there is no additional money available to increase the salaries.

NUS told the minister that students working in the program, which usually pays the minimum wage, cannot save enough money during a summer to pay for their studies in the fall.

Daschko said he felt the meeting went well but that NUS hopes to meet regularly with the minister in the future to discuss specific issues in greater detail.

King's still out



by Margaret Rumsey

The student councils of Dalhousie University and the University of King's College have yet to come to any terms this year on a fee to charge King's students for the use of facilities at the Dalhousie Student Union Building.

Dick Matthews, Student Council President at Dalhousie, has written to the President of the University of King's College Student Council, suggesting that \$56 be paid for full use of the SUB

facilities as well as the Dalplex. Matthews thinks the \$56 is a good deal and does not see why the King's students should get a special rate.

It is doubtful, though, if this proposal will be received with much favour, as Frank Beazley, King's Student Council President, said although he expects there will be a fee, he cannot see a charge as high as \$56. He has not yet responded to the letter.

With the current situation,

King's students are not permitted in the SUB unless signed in by a Dalhousie student. The only exceptions are those on the *Gazette* or CKDU Radio staff.

It had appeared that the matter was resolved in the 1977-78 academic year. A draft agreement had been drawn up stipulating that King's students would pay \$10 to use the SUB facilities, but the agreement was never signed.

Subsequently, the next year,

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