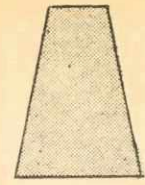


Dalhousie Gazette

Vol. 103

January 29, 1971

Number 14



Le Chateau
Men's Wear Ltd.

SCOTIA SQUARE
2179 GOTTINGEN ST.
5520 SPRING GARDEN RD.
HALIFAX, N.S.

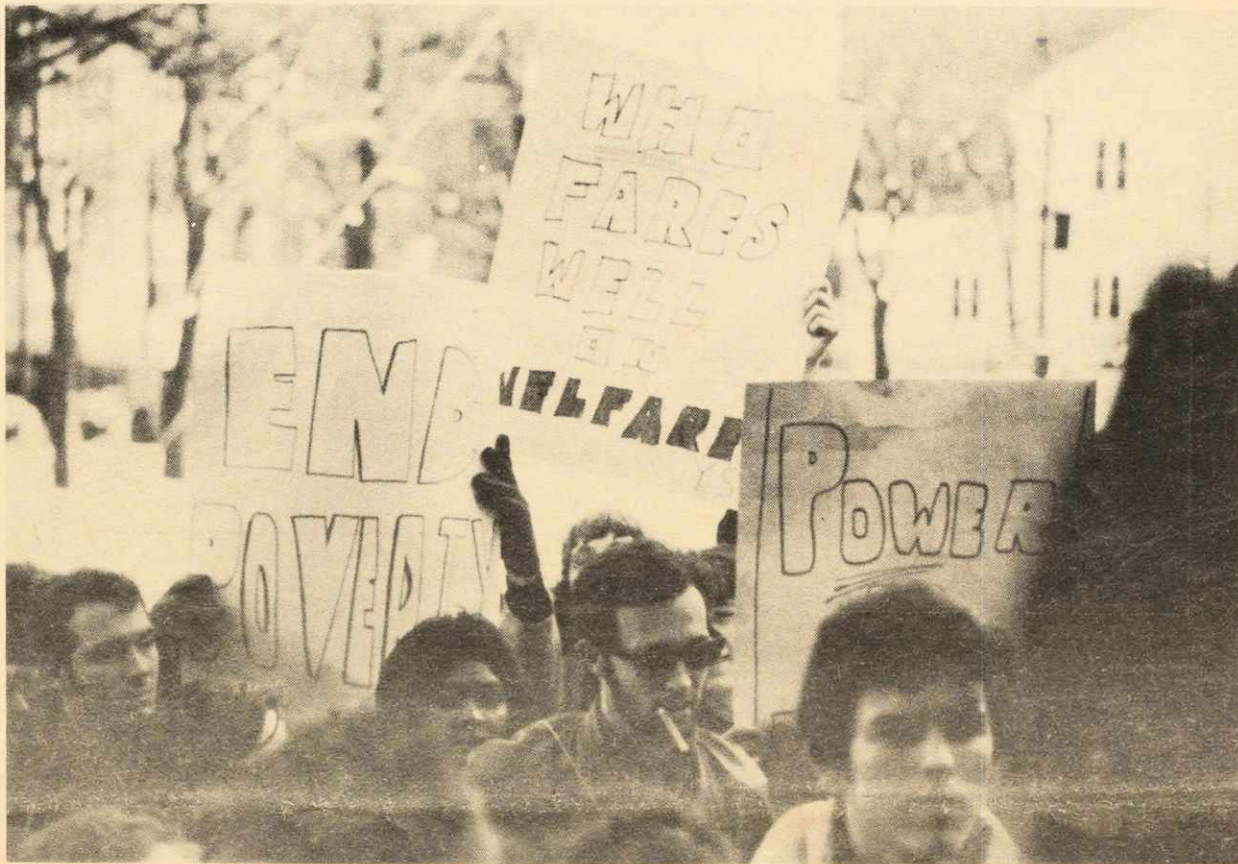


photo by Elio Dolente

100 Halifax-Dartmouth people marched on City Hall and Province House Monday to protest the problems of the Canadian poor. (see story pg. 3.).

The Halifax-Dartmouth Welfare Rights group, in co-ordination with poor people's groups across the country, demonstrated last Monday against the discriminatory system which keeps them in poverty. The following are their demands. For more details, see story page 3.

On Monday, Jan. 25, people across Canada will be taking the first few steps in an all-out, unified march against poverty. We are beginning "a massive assault on the true causes of inflation, poverty and unemployment. We will be satisfied with nothing less than a program which aims to bring about a redistribution of wealth and power in Canada."

Our struggle is the struggle of all oppressed and exploited people in our society: the poor, the unemployed, working people, racial and ethnic minority groups, students and others. Our enemies are the small handful of very rich who feed themselves like vultures on the flesh of our society and the governments who serve their interests in defiance of the crying needs of the majority of our people.

We dismiss once and for all the myth that people are responsible for the conditions of poverty and alienation in which they are forced to live. In a country where governments deliberately create unemployment in order to protect the interests of the rich, in

an economic system which is unable at any time to provide full and meaningful employment for all people, welfare can no longer be considered a privilege to be granted or not at the whim of some petty bureaucrat. It is, rather, a right, as inalienable a right as the human dignity which our society now steals from the majority of its people.

We refuse any longer to hang our heads in the presence of the rich and powerful. We call in one strong voice for a society in which there is real equality among all people, a society in which discrimination, exploitation and oppression have no place. As the first step toward this new society we make the following demands:

HOUSING

- 1) To enforce the law against slum-landlords
- 2) To provide a sufficient number of low income housing units
- 3) To include community planning in these housing units — i.e. no more Uniacke Square Concentration Camps

WELFARE

- 1) Food — The present food allotment under Welfare is 5 years behind the times. It is based on the 1966 food prices, at which time food was at least 25% cheaper. This means a welfare recipient can not meet the basic minimum requirements as set out in the

Canada Food Guide.

- 2) Food vouchers be done away with, and cash or cheques issued in their place.
- 3) Clothing — The present allotment is a mere \$9/ person/month — hardly enough to put a shirt on a man's back.
- 4) Fuel — Welfare provides only 1/2 of the needed \$1/ day to heat a house or apt.
- 5) School Supplies — Again, welfare provides only 1/2 of the needed \$6/ child/ year
- 6) Emergency welfare service to be operated 24 hrs/ day.
- 7) An all night drug store
- 8) Complete medical and dental coverage.

EMPLOYMENT

- 1) Increase the basic minimum wage from the present \$1.25/ hr. to at least \$2.00/ hr. Even at that level, a 40 hr. week would still put a worker below the poverty level.
- 2) Increased job opportunities.

DISCRIMINATION

We call for an end to all over discrimination against people on the basis of colour, sex, or class.

Our march today is a first step toward a truly just society. We call on all people to join us today, tomorrow and as long as is required for the achievement of our goals. Through unity and determination we will gain our objectives.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!