

## Groups organize to oppose Drapeau in civic election

**MONTREAL (CUPI)** - Community and labor groups in Montreal are organizing to oppose mayor Jean Drapeau in the upcoming civic elections.

Although the elections are ten months away, militants in the Parti Quebecois, in community groups and in Quebec's three major trade union federations are forming committees to mount an effective campaign for a more livable city.

The Montreal daily *Le Devoir* published a statement issued by a union group entitled "Montrealers must retake control of Montreal". Although it has not been adopted as a policy statement, the working paper attacks Montreal and its "king" for the miserable existence of much of its population:

"To live in Montreal is to work hard; to know little of well-being; it's to lose hours going to work because public and private transportation facilities are inadequate; it's breathing worse and worse because pollution continual-

ly mounts; it's coming home to a room that is too small, to hourse yourself within walls that are too old because decent lodging is out of reach; it's cursing winter because the streets and sidewalks are badly plowed; it's for a large part choosing between privation and being in debt."

The objectives and apparent political direction are quite similar to those of FRAP, *Le Front d'action Politique*, a community organization that ran a complete slate of candidates in the last civic election.

Support for FRAP appeared relatively strong and it looked like Drapeau would have his control of city council challenged. While they did not run a candidate against Drapeau for mayor, they concentrated on the council's fifty two seats.

A week before the election, Quebec's Labor Minister was kidnapped along with the British High Commissioner. The War Measures Act was read.

With the sweeping powers of the Act, Drapeau had his major opponents, including union representatives, teachers and community leaders, arrested, using the situation to discredit his opponents.

Two days before the election, Drapeau told the media blood would flow in the streets if FRAP managed to gain city hall.

Montreal elected Drapeau and his Civic Party in a sweep.

The paper goes on to attack Montreal in more detail.

It has the worst pollution, the worst low cost housing and the poorest sewage treatment in the country.

According to a survey, 10 percent of primary school children need hospitalization, and a quarter of these are suffering from malnutrition.

In 1970 Montreal spent 4 percent of its budget on housing, while destroying 2,000 housing units a year. In the ten years up to 1970, only 2,300 low income housing units

were started.

The upcoming Olympic games are, according to the paper, another example of why the city is "not for Montrealers". The money slated for low income housing is being used to finance the Olympic

Village, the plans of which have been condemned by the city's planning department. Recreation budgets are frozen until 1976 to help finance the Olympic stadium.

The groups are meeting in the first part of February to plan action.

## Faculty receive union cards

**HALFAX (CUP)** - Union designation cards were distributed Jan. 31 to members of the St. Mary's University faculty association.

Two organizations are bidding to unionize the faculty and become their bargaining agent: Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

The move to unionization is a bid by the faculty association to win more say in university government.

A 51 per cent majority vote in favor of either CUPE or CAUT is necessary for the faculty to become officially unionized. The winning organization would become the bargaining agent.

However, speculation is high among faculty members that most will not return their cards, signifying they do not want to unionize.

The results of the vote will be released Feb. 15.

Faculty association president Jack Ginsberg said unionization is needed because faculty isn't adequately represented on the Senate and Board of Governors. They have 50 per cent of the votes on both bodies.

"Most of the by-laws are acceptable to us," said Ginsberg, "and the faculty is satisfied, but it took so long to get (those by-laws) that we wasted time."

Ginsberg said faculty resents the administration view that professors are 'employees' and claimed "certification will normalize relations between faculty and administration. It's a legal device for more fruitful relations."

Officially the Board of Governors is neutral in the matter.

### High costs cause

## Low enrollment at Memorial

**ST. JOHN (CUP)** - Many eligible graduating high school students are not attending Memorial University because of the high cost involved.

This was the finding of a university committee set up last fall to determine the cause of a 25 per cent decline in the number of students entering Memorial's first year in 1973 compared to 1972.

A questionnaire was sent out to 8,000 high school students asking for their opinions and plans.

Most of them (88.5 percent) said the decline in enrollment was caused by the provincial government's decision to have students assume greater responsibility for the cost of university education.

In the mid sixties enrollment was free to Newfoundlanders, who also received a living allowance to attend Memorial.

Now all Memorial students must pay tuition fees. A student has to borrow \$1400 before becoming eligible for government assistance.

Students at the trade and vocational schools, meanwhile, continue to receive free tuition and other subsidies. Last year these schools had to turn away three out of four applicants.

The committee, while refusing to lay the blame for the decline in enrollment on the government's student aid policies, said there is a need to "review and improve" those policies.

## NUS launches campaign for student parity

**REGINA (CUP)** - The National Union of Students (NUS) decided Feb. 3 to launch a nationwide campaign to win students an equal say with faculty and administrators at all levels of decision making in universities and colleges.

The decision was made at a NUS central committee meeting held Feb. 1 to 3 in Regina.

Delegates noted that groups of students in many areas of the country are fighting for parity with faculty and administrators in

decision making, but that communication between these groups is almost non-existent.

NUS will attempt to co-ordinate these efforts and act as a clearing house for information. NUS will also act as a strong central lobby to bring pressure to bear on provincial and federal governments.

New legislation concerning post-secondary education is currently being drafted in six provinces.

Delegates at the meeting

expressed fears this provincial legislation may again ignore student rights and needs, and resolve to make student demands known to all provincial Ministers of Education this month.

During the past two years, nearly every province conducted at least one inquiry into the operation of the education system. In every report, student rights have been ignored or, at best, been given lip service.

## Guelph teaching assistant complains about her release

**GUELPH (CUP)** - A sociology Teaching Assistant has been fired by the Sociology - Anthropology Department at Guelph University for her attempts to have a professor re-hired and her help to students organizing a course union.

This is the claim of Olive Holmes, the fired T.A. She says she was clearly given to believe that she support for Prof. Michael Pettitt and the course union were the reasons for her 'non-renewal of contract'.

Soc-Anthro chairperson K. Duncan claims he was merely exercising his prerogative in judging the suitability of candidates for teaching positions. He refused to elaborate on the criteria he used to judge suitability and the new factors that had arisen to disqualify Holmes, who had already served as a T.A. for three semesters.

At least one professor in the department requested that Holmes be hired as his T.A. this semester.

But Duncan refused to authorize her appointment despite a shortage of T.A.s this semester at Guelph.

A number of professors in the department are known to have used class time in the same way that Holmes did: to encourage students to pressure for the re-hiring of Pettitt and to encourage development of the course union.

Duncan maintains he is fully within his rights in refusing to hire any T.A. and says he feels no need to explain or justify his actions. He did suggest it is "time to have new faces around."

## Grass impairs work ability

**VICTORIA (CUP)** - At last, proof: Marijuana impairs one's ability to work.

A University of Victoria student and part-time library worker lost his job recently. He was fired because he was convicted of possession of Marijuana with intent to traffic.

Terry Leahy was arrested November 24 when police found a pound and a half of sweet-smelling herb in his apartment.

Six days later a registered letter arrived from the library informing Leahy that if he was convicted his job would be over and until the trial he was suspended.

Leahy pleaded guilty in late December. He was fined \$300 and

sentenced to two years supervised probation. Normally, the judge told him, he'd have gone to jail for defying the law, but seeing as he was a student and hadn't been in trouble before, they'd let him off easy....

A library administrator, Bob Campbell, told Leahy it was university policy to dismiss people convicted of criminal offenses. Leahy should be among the last to lose a job in BC because of a criminal conviction. The BC government's amendments to the Human Rights Act, which have been passed and are now awaiting proclamation, forbid the very kind of firing Leahy was a victim of.

Duncan has refused to co-operate with the course union. We "asked Duncan for his permission to set up an informal meeting between students and faculty in order to talk things out and set up course evaluations, but all he said was that he would not co-operate," said a student representative.

Earlier students met with Duncan to discuss student input to the department's decision-making process, the establishment of an advisory committee for the development of new courses, and the invitation of well known lecturers to Guelph. "All that Duncan said was that he would not help out," said a student.