

TAKE BACK OUR VOICE

UNB students joined the Canadian Federation of Students in 1988. CFS stood for a principle: CFS should give students a voice, and tell government what we think.

There's a new CFS elite in Ottawa, and they've got a new idea: CFS should work with non-student groups and tell students what to think.

That's the new CFS. They tell you they lobby government, but the facts tell you that they don't talk to anyone but their elite friends in Ottawa. They tell you they're democratic, but their meetings silence your voice. CFS wants your money, but not your input. On March 22 & 23, you can tell them that *students deserve better*.

CFS has earned your "NO" vote. Here's how:

NO Lobbying: In the first six months of 1994-95, CFS met with only 9 MPs. To date, the CFS office in Ottawa, with a \$ 500 000.00 per year staff, has set up *fewer than 15 meetings with MPs*. By contrast, the New Brunswick Student Alliance, with less than 2% of CFS's budget, has met with 49 MPs.

NO Credibility: A recent *Ottawa Sun* editorial stated that "students must realize that their legitimate concerns have been hijacked by the radical left." They were referring to CFS. In that case, CFS had just joined with the International Socialists to picket Lloyd Axworthy's house, where protesters screamed obscenities at the Minister's 9-year old son. CFS put forward no alternatives, and even urged students not to present to the Parliamentary Committee studying funding and student loan changes.

NO Ideas: CFS still lobbies for zero tuition and all non-repayable loans. This was the policy nine years ago, and it hasn't changed since. The zero-tuition option is not endorsed by any major political party, and CFS was told 2 years ago by an *Ottawa Citizen* editorial "Time to join the real world..."

NO Democracy: At the last CFS meeting, members were not allowed to ask questions of the executive or about the budget. When students at some campuses voted not to take part in the strike, CFS recruited the International Socialists to go to those campuses and pretend to speak for their students. In May 1994, the CFS Executive refused to let the members see a report that took 2 years and \$ 5 000.00 to prepare. When asked to produce it, one member of the executive replied that she had burned it.

NO Priorities: While Bill C-28, amending the Canada Student Loan Program, was before the House of Commons, CFS spent \$ 3000.00 on a junket to Mexico for a conference called "Social Reform, Agriculture and Democracy", where the Deputy Chair of CFS discussed issues such as "Wal-Mart" and the "plain packaging of cigarettes." One hour before the recent federal budget came down, which cut \$ 66 million out of education in this province, CFS was busy faxing out a writing campaign to protest US economic sanctions against Cuba.



Students Deserve Better!

VOTE **NO** ON MARCH 22 & 23