



THE 1997

PEOPLE'S

SUMMIT

on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT

COMMUNIQUE

issue
3

YOUTH
FORUM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1997

THE CANADIAN

FEDERATION OF

STUDENTS

SPEAKS OUT ON

EDUCATION

by Manjeet Birk, 16, Saanichton, BC and Joy Roberts, 17, New Zealand, with Brianna Spicer, 16, Langley

The third day of the Youth Forum started off with an analysis of APEC and post-secondary education by guest speaker Maura Parte, BC chair of the Canadian Federation of Students. The CFS, which is made up of representatives of colleges and universities from around BC, is concerned about cuts to post-secondary education funding, and made the connection that APEC will not help students' campaigns to stop the cuts.

Parte explained that cuts to funding cause higher tuition fees and privatization, and raised concerns about accessibility to post-secondary education, reduced

public input and control, and curriculum based on business and economic interests.

In a workshop following Parte's speech, participants addressed the increasing privatization of public post-secondary institutions. To understand the difference between the two, delegates were asked to define each one separately. Students found that public education is cheaper, and therefore

more accessible, and that public institutions are accountable to the public and students, giving them more control, and also the right to organize student unions.

UBC student protesters have been jailed for refusing to sign a condition that would have prohibited them from protesting at the site of the APEC leader's summit.

CFS also addressed the irony of APEC meetings being held at the University of British Columbia, where the president has offered the Student Union Building as a security headquarters for APEC, without consulting students, and despite student action against the APEC meetings. UBC student protesters have been jailed for refusing to sign a condition that would have prohibited them from protesting at the site of the APEC leader's summit.

Child labour workshop: poverty leads to the need to work

by Zoé Jackson, 17, Comox, BC,
with Sandi Chih, 17, Richmond, BC

According to the 1989 UN Convention on the Declaration of Universal Rights for Children, children "have the right to be protected from economic exploitation." Delegates at yesterday's workshop on child labour met to determine their perceived ideas of what child labour includes. Dangerous working conditions, forced labour, less access to education and low wages were some of the issues raised.

Kristin Patten and Lee Bensted of the BC-based Students Commission facilitated the group, which split into two-person mock interviews based upon profiles of child labourers, helping the group to gain a better understanding of the causes of child labour, and how widespread it is. The youth delegates found that, because of poverty or a lack of education, many who were working had no alternative.