

# Labor's reaction

Labor has been organizing throughout the summer and fall in preparation for a massive demonstration Oct. 14 against the federal government's anti-inflation program. Through interviews and statements made at labor meetings, labor's reasons for staging the protest and their feelings towards the government's controls programs become apparent.

by Tom Baker



**David Leadbeater**

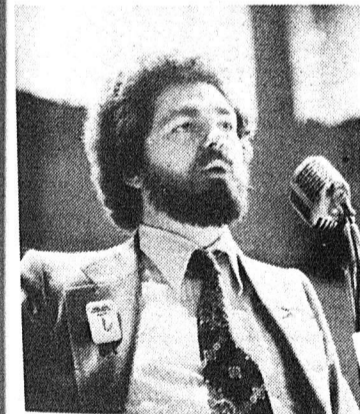
Alderman for city of Edmonton  
"The current strike of CUPE 52 is an example of the effect of the wage control program on collective bargaining. The city refuses to bargain in good faith,

**Warren Carrigata**

Publicity director of Alberta Federation of Labour's Day of Protest. Editor of AFL newspaper: Alberta Labour.

"It is important to march on Oct. 14 or if you are unable to get off work, to at least donate a day's pay to the Day of Protest fund. Masses of people in the streets will be a graphic illustration of the seriousness of Canadian opposition to the controls.

"Students have an obvious interest in joining the actions. The unemployment and increased tuition fees you now face and the wage controls you will face in the summer and upon graduation are results of government attacks. Students, of



**John MacInnis**

Member of Prov. Exec. of NDP. Former exec. assistant to Grant Notley.

"The Anti-Inflation Board's direct assault on our standard of living has encouraged a common cause of the NDP and the labour movement. A successful Oct. 14 protest will cause loud moanings, all the way from the board rooms of Bay Street to the front benches of the Alberta legislature.

"Some amazing information has been revealed by Ed. Broadbent's Anti-Illusion Board. Corporate profits are soaring at the same time as wages stagnate under the control program. For example in the first six months of this year, Calgary Power enjoyed a 33% profit increase, Alberta Trunk Line 55%, and Carmen Developers of Calgary 300% over the same period last year.

hiding instead behind the AIB regulations. The *Edmonton Journal*, which isn't particularly known for its interest in truth, has tried to turn the public against this legal strike.

"We are all in favour of ending inflation, but worker's wages or in fact government expenditures are not the real cause of inflation. It is no wonder that wage controls and government cutbacks have not stopped inflation. Corporate control of the economy is the main culprit. The profiteering promoted by the CMHC and the provincial government has increased speculation and inflated housing costs.

"Oct. 14 is the beginning of greater political involvement of trade unionists and all working people."



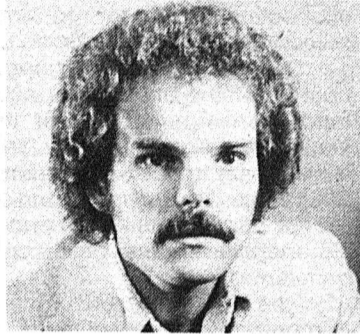
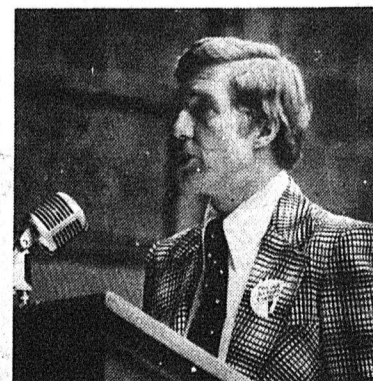
course, are also consumers and can easily recognize the absence of any price controls. We hope that students will organize themselves against the wage control program. I imagine this will include the boycott of classes and the formation of a student contingent in the march.

**Gene Mitchell**

Vice-president Alberta Federation of Labour. Provincial organizer for Oct. 14 Day of Protest.

"Under the wage control program, 2 million workers have had their negotiated wages rolled back and as of mid-August \$156 million in wages has been saved by the corporations. By the end of the year it is projected that 2.8 million people will lose \$500 million in wages.

"We are serious about defeating this legislature; we want it removed from the books immediately. Support for our protest is growing every day — both from within and outside of the labour movement. If everyone who is opposed to Trudeau's program is on the streets Oct. 14, the protest will be a big success."



**Don Tapscott**

Member of Parade Committee for Oct. 14. Head Marshall of march.

"In my opinion, it has become clear that these controls are a fraud: they were not designed to stop inflation and control rising prices at all.

"We are entering a period in which the standard of living of working people — the vast majority in our society — is being seriously eroded as a result of the government assault.

"There are several points about the controls that should be noted; they increase the wage gap between men and women, they make it illegal to escape poverty, and they are anti-democratic. The nullify the democratic right to collective bargaining.

"I feel that Oct. 14 will see one of the most truly democratic events in Canadian history; millions of working people standing up to assert their rights, their dignity and their humanity against an authoritarian and arbitrary government that is acting against the interests of the majority of Canadians.

"Over the past year our numbers have been growing. On March 22 we took a big step when tens of thousands of workers demonstrated against the legislation. These actions had a great impact on millions of people and took our fight to a new stage. Oct. 14 is the next step. It will enable everyone in the country to act together, to gain confidence and strength in unity."



**Lynda Little**

Metro NDP coordinator for Oct. 14. Non-union support coordinator for AFL Day of Protest Committee.

"For Oct. 14 to be a real success, all groups affected by the government's policies of cutbacks in social service spending, must unite with the labour movement on the streets. This includes students, women's groups, native associations, pensioners, and welfare groups.

"Because of the positions many student unions have taken and for other reasons, the majority of students at this time probably do not support the Oct. 14 protest. There needs to be real education around this. If students understand the issues, they will support the action. Oct. 14 is just the beginning of this process."

think there has been greater redistribution of wealth by implementation of controls?

MCMILLAN: No, I mean that the people who would have been hardest hit by severe unemployment would be lower-income groups, non-unionized labor, the least powerful people in the country.

GATEWAY: And so you think controls have worked?

MCMILLAN: Basically I have no faith in permanent controls and very little faith in temporary controls. But the government wanted to change people's expectations and it's obvious that that had to be done. A survey just recently showed that something around 60 per cent of people surveyed thought the wage and price control had had some effect. And I think the implication there is that people's expectations have been modified somewhat, so in that sense

controls have been good.

Canada went through the Second World War with reasonable success under controls. Basically the problem with controls is a government is not capable of pricing decisions in an economy and so they can't handle controls on any more than a temporary basis. So, Trudeau is not being definite about the period for controls and I don't

blame him. I hope the controls won't go on much longer and don't think they can be anything but temporary. But already we've seen modifications in prices and wages, inflation is down and employment is beginning to climb again. Trudeau is just caught in the position where he has to do something about inflation yet can't afford to make definite statements and raise people's expectation levels again. It's a touchy situation.

**No cabaret this week  
Native Awareness Week's  
POW-WOW  
will take its place.  
October 16, 7 p.m. in Dinwoodie.**

**STUDENTS UNION FORUM**

Wednesday, October 13  
3 p.m. Tory TL-11

A short talk and question period with  
**WALTER STEWART**  
Washington editor for Maclean's Magazine

**PRESIDENT  
and  
PRIME  
MINISTER**

a comparison of the American and Canadian political systems, with a warning to Canadians.

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