

Fails to stress causes

Poverty conference misses point

by Bruce M. Lantz

An anti-poverty conference of 90 delegates in Kentville concluded with the establishment of the Nova Scotia Anti-Poverty Organization (NSAPO).

The organization, which is affiliated with the National Anti-Poverty Organization, is committed to struggle with poor people's groups throughout the province to bring about better

conditions.

"We have committed ourselves to work and to fight together to eliminate the causes and effects of poverty", said organization president Allan

Patterson of Halifax.

"Our conference has recognized the necessity for direct political action," he stated, "and will not hesitate to act, when necessary, with and for all poor people in this province."

The March 10-12 conference passed resolutions dealing with the law, youth, the status of women, rural poverty, unemployment, housing, welfare and politics.

Most of the conference's emphasis appeared to be toward forcing the government to meet the needs of poor people; it thus failed to lay the major stress on the causes of poverty. It was some of the resolutions from the floor that placed poverty in the proper context.

One of these demanded that funds given large corporations to encourage them to establish in this province be channeled into workers' co-operatives,

which would provide jobs without taking huge rake-offs. Another demanded that the unemployed with skills be used to train those without, at the same time building much needed housing for minimum prices.

Other resolutions demanded price controls on essential commodities, additions to the medicare scheme and subsidized daycare for wage earners as well as welfare recipients.

The conference condemned the management of the Cornwallis Inn in Kentville, where the gathering was held, for paying employees below the minimum wage. Females there are presently paid \$1.10 per hour and the males \$1.20 an hour.

The organization plans to develop more lobbies of the poor in the province and then co-ordinate their efforts into an overall pressure group.

Students accept compromise

Most demands met at U of T

TORONTO (CUP) — Hundreds of University of Toronto students ended a day long occupation of the university's main administration building on Tuesday, March 14, after forcing the administration to agree to most of their demands.

About 600 students re-occupied Simcoe Hall March 13 to press for demands that the new \$43 million John Robarts Research library be made open to all members of the university and the general public. A library committee report had recommended that access to the stacks be limited to graduate students.

The re-occupation came after a mass meeting heard details of Sunday's police attack on demonstrators who had occupied the Senate Chambers since Friday night.

In the Sunday raid, 18 people were arrested and charged with trespassing, assault and obstruction. Among those arrested were Varsity editor Tom Walkom and Student Administrative Council president Bob Spencer.

The Monday meeting heard faculty member Fred Winters describe the series of secret administration meetings that

lead to the decision to bring in the police. As the meeting ended, students voted to occupy the Convocation Hall and Simcoe Hall.

Students forced open the doors and took over the building with no opposition from the campus police there. A negotiating committee was formed to meet with acting administration president Jack Sword and demand that he address the students at 7 p.m. that evening in the Senate Chambers.

When Sword finally appeared at 9:30 p.m., the 800 students who were cramped in the tiny area were tense and hostile. He was greeted with boos and hissing.

The compromise announced included:

- An administration commitment to push through proposals in the academic Senate to open the library stacks to all, and reduce the present borrowing fee of \$50 to a minimal amount.

- A commitment to press for the dropping of charges against those arrested when the police broke into the student-occupied Senate on Sunday.

- A commitment to not call the

police on campus unless there was a "clear and present danger to the essential functions of the university" and to not call them without prior negotiation.

After Sword's departure the students debated for two hours on the proposals and sent the negotiating team to clear up some details. About 200 students remained in the Senate Chambers all night.

On Tuesday the administration refused to accept any amendments to the original proposals. After lengthy argument the students voted to accept the compromise and mass for the Senate meeting on March 20.

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