

GST: a punishment?

MONTREAL (CUP) — A national anti-Goods and Services Tax coalition is calling on Canadians to use civil disobedience to fight the tax.

The "No to the GST Committee," founded three months ago by Manitoba hairdresser Vaun Gramatovich, has been travelling across Canada billing the GST as the biggest tax scam this country has ever seen.

"I'm urging you to be typical Canadians," said Gramatovich. "When April 30 comes around, don't do anything. Don't file your return. Just leave it sitting on your desk. The fine you get from the government will be between \$20 and \$30."

Federal New Democratic Party finance critic Lorne Nystrom has called the GST a regressive tax.

"Now the bank teller and the bank president will be paying the same seven per cent tax on a pizza," said Nystrom.

The GST will tax Canadian consumers seven per cent on "everything from diapers to coffins," he said.

Gramatovich also pointed to the increase in Canada's debt, from \$70 million to \$356 billion under the present Conservative government.

"Our taxes have been raised 31



times [since Brian Mulroney was elected]," said Gramatovich. "I'm tired of being told the business of government belongs to elected officials."

The introduction of the GST will spell political doom for the

Mulroney government, Nystrom said. "You can only get away with this once too often before you become a former Prime Minister."

The NDP is trying to stall the GST legislation in parliament to give citizens a chance to mobilize against it, Nystrom said.

David Somerville, head of the National Citizens' Coalition — a right-wing group which opposes government spending on everything but defense — said there is no guarantee the GST will stay at seven per cent.

He said the manufacturer's sales tax had increased 50 per cent from nine per cent in 1984 to 13.5 per cent this year.

"It's going to affect people's lifestyles," said Rickie Cohen, a welfare recipient, "The GST penalizes the poor and helps corporations."

Patrice Fortin, former leader of J'en Arrache, the Quebec equivalent of the Rhinoceros party, asked, "Is the GST a punishment for the Meech Lake Accord, now that it's in trouble?"

TUNS

Industrial Research Internships in Engineering and Computer Science

Technical University of Nova Scotia

The Technical University of Nova Scotia has established a number of Industrial Research Internships in specific areas of endeavour.

The Internships will support outstanding graduate students in engineering and computer science who are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

The program will provide funds to supplement the scholarship earnings of selected students to a maximum of \$26,000 annually. In exceptional cases, internships will be offered to candidates who are not scholarship holders. Internships are awarded for one year, and may be renewed for subsequent years, on satisfactory performance.

Applications will be received for the 1990/91 academic year for projects related to:

- enhancement of nutritional values in dairy foods
- steel slag utilization in asphalt mixes
- modelling techniques for geotechnical processes
- sensory based intelligent systems for manufacturing processes
- dust explosibility studies

Internship holders are expected to proceed toward a degree at a full-time pace and will be engaged in projects of significance to Canadian industry.

To apply, please write by March 15, 1990, to:

Dr. Tom Gill, Associate Dean
Graduate Studies and Research
Technical University of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 1000
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2X4

Applications should include: summaries of educational experience and employment record; an indication of academic standing; descriptions of extra-curricular activities or special projects that are pertinent to the position.

CFS votes tied

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canada's student federation has a one-win, one-loss record this year, after students at Acadia and the University of Western Ontario cast their ballots last week.

At Acadia University in Wolfville, students voted 61 per cent in favour of paying \$4 per year to join the federation, which represents about 400,000 post-secondary students.

Students at London, Ontario's University of Western Ontario voted 44 per cent against joining the federation.

Five more campuses — University of Waterloo, University of Winnipeg, University of Ottawa, Simon Fraser University and l'Universite Ste. Anne — will be holding votes in the next few weeks.

Federation information officer Catherine Louli said referenda were most common in the spring.

Acadia student council president Maura Donovan was happy with the referendum results. "Students on this campus know which way to vote," she said.

Waterloo and Ste. Anne are holding referenda on joining the federation, while the other three campuses will be "reviewing" their membership.

Council off limits

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — More than four months after they complained about impaired access to the student council offices, disabled students at Memorial University say things haven't changed much.

"I don't think there is anyone in a wheelchair who could get into the [offices] on their own," said Memorial disabled students association member Helen Morris.

Morris originally criticized the entrance to the offices in September for being difficult to negotiate, and student council executives promised changes. But Morris said things are much the same as ever.

Student council president Robin Russell said the doors have been made easier to open.

"The tension on the doors has been released instead of installing a button," to open the doors automatically, she said. Russell also said the council has made arrangements to make the office's front desk more accessible.

But Morris said releasing tension on a door wouldn't solve the problem.

"In a manual or motorized [wheel]chair how are you supposed to manoeuvre?" Morris said. "You have to open the door and keep it open with one arm and push your chair through with the other."

"Can you imagine wheeling up to a door, leaning forward to grab the handle, opening the door and backing up at the same time?"

U of T access fee

TORONTO (CUP) — University of Toronto students may donate \$90 over three years to make the campus wheelchair accessible.

But even if the student council approves the idea of a campus vote on the special levy — which will raise about \$4.5 million — the university's disabled services coordinator says it won't be enough.

Eileen Barbeau, said she supports the proposal, but it will take about \$10 million to make the university accessible.

"I think we're in the worst situation (in comparison to other universities), because we're old, we're large and we have many buildings," Barbeau said.

The student levy would be for ramps, elevators, and wider wash-room doors.

the GAZETTE

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