

Quebec students to demonstrate

RIVIERE-DU-LOUP, P.Q. (CUP) — Twenty-four of thirty Quebec student unions voted in favour of a demonstration protesting budget cutbacks in post-secondary education outside the province's national assembly Dec. 3, at a conference of Quebec students here in late November.

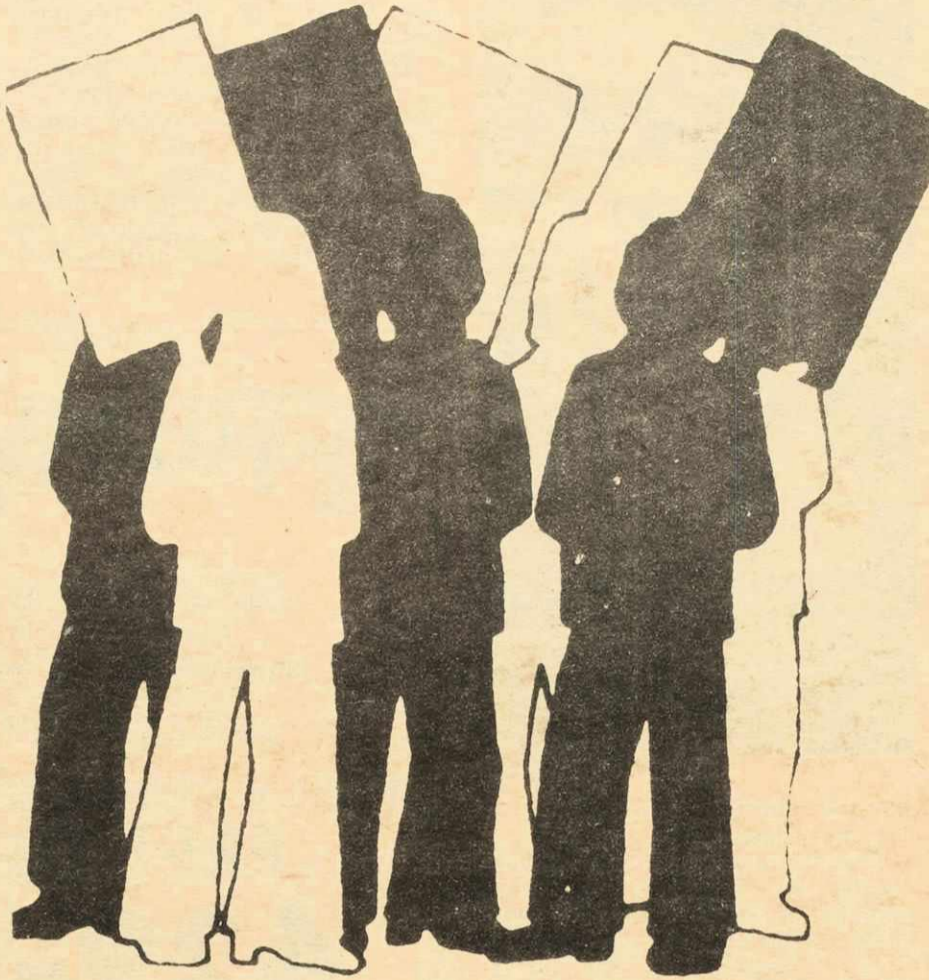
Student leaders at the second half of the fifth congress of l'Association Nationale des Etudiants du Quebec (ANEQ) also voted to conduct a campus-by-campus inquiry into deteriorating conditions at their institutions and use the results to formulate a common program of action.

ANEQ executive members agreed with NUS representative, Pierre Thibault, that representatives of the organizations will meet sometime in the next few weeks. Relations between ANEQ and the National Union of Students (NUS/UNE) have been shaky in the past.

The congress in Riviere-du-Loup concluded the fifth ANEQ congress begun in Hull, Oct. 8-10, which failed to set any plans of action. The Hull conference involved attempts to restructure and reorganize the organization, largely by removing the old executive. Delegates forced their five-person executive from office amidst accusations that the executive had been members of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

According to ANEQ staff member, Daniel Pauquet, the new executive was mandated to prepare a "program of consolidation" on government cutbacks, student financial aid and the Nadeau Report but this was not presented to the Riviere-du-Loup congress.

Paquet said some of the ANEQ leadership want to wait until the



newly elected Parti Quebecois government announces its education policies before deciding on a course of action. Delegates reaffirmed their opposition to education cutbacks and inadequate students loans, which have been

standing policies of the organization since it was formed after a massive strike and demonstrations by CEGEP students two years ago.

It is over these issues — and two government reports, one advocating less government funding for

post-secondary education and the other urging the removal of faculty decision-making in Quebec's publically-funded universities — that the Dec. 3 demonstration at the National Assembly will be held, said Pauquet.

In launching its inquiry into budget cutbacks and the quality of education, delegates agreed to research: space allocation, course content and workloads, drop-out rates and professional examinations at their campuses. The organization will also attempt to review all budgets submitted by institutions at the departmental level and the sums awarded by the Quebec education minister.

Delegates also voted in favour of organizing CEGEP students at the concentration level, a rough equivalent of university departments.

The fifth congress also voted "moral support" to the faculty strike at Laval University in Quebec City, now in its thirteenth week, and the seven-week old strike by faculty at the Universite de Quebec a Montreal. Some delegates said the strikes reflected opposition to attempts by the Quebec education ministry to make post-secondary education less dependent on government funding, according to Concordia University delegate Jean Robertson.

Delegates also reviewed National Student Day and student involvement in labour's National Day of Protest Oct. 14, according to NUS staff member Pierre Thibault who attended the congress at the invitation of the ANEQ executive.

ANEQ was not involved in NSD activities.

With the addition of the Thetford Mines CEGEP, the ANEQ membership now totals 34 student unions.

Environment critic visits Dal

by John W. MacEwen and Nigel Allen

'Canada should have a separate fisheries department', says Bill Jarvis, Conservative environment critic.

Jarvis, MP for the Ontario riding of Perth-Wilmot, told *The Dalhousie Gazette* Nov. 25 that Environment Canada was formed as a response to the pollution protesters of the late 1960's. These organizations, such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation, have matured, but Environment Canada, despite several reorganizations, has not.

'We should give Environment Canada the status it needs,' he said. The department has had four ministers in the past 23 months.

The cost of surveillance of the new 200-mile fishing limit is uncertain, Jarvis said. He cautioned against robbing the research budget to pay for surveillance. He noted a number of priority areas for research: the B.C. coast and interior, the Great Lakes, especially Superior, the Atlantic region, especially Labrador, and the Arctic.

Pollution

Jarvis thinks that a "reasonable consultative process" in the field of pollution control is best. What industry wants, he said, is a fair lead time, and an assurance that the ground rules won't change in the meantime. Hamilton's Dofasco foundry, Jarvis pointed out has done "a hell of a good job," not because of any threat of prosecution, but because of Dofasco's "real



sensitivity to the community."

Pollution penalties should fit the criminal as well as the crime, Jarvis said. Some pollution penalties may be too high. A given fine might wipe out a small operator, while a large corporation might consider the same fine a "license to pollute."

Jarvis, a lawyer, considers the courts, not administrative tribunals -- "a law unto themselves" -- the place to judge polluters. The Federal justice department is sometimes reluctant to prosecute because of the relatively low fines or the fear that the polluter will win. Jarvis thinks that if some sections of anti-pollution law won't hold up in

court, we should find out now. He is a long way, he emphasized, from having Environment Canada impose fines itself.

In one Ontario city, Jarvis said, enforcement of anti-pollution law was a problem, as there were several inspectors for the various levels of government. After the three levels of government agreed on one pollution inspector, levels of suspended particulates and sulfur dioxide dropped dramatically without any prosecutions.

Municipalities also pollute, pointed out Jarvis. But, he asked, can the inhabitants of a town of 5000 pay the \$1500 pollution controls

would cost each of them?

Energy

"We should be looking at all sources". The conservatives don't think we should export nuclear reactors, but they won't go as far as to advocate a halt on nuclear research in Canada. Jarvis said that according to some scientists nuclear energy could be the "best and cheapest" energy source once the problems of the risk of catastrophe and waste disposal were solved. He declined comment on the MacKenzie Valley and tidal power, except to say that the Bedford Institute of Oceanography wants to continue its study of tidal power.

Canada should only adopt a special tax on high-energy products if education efforts fail. "It's hard to change Canadians to change their habits," Jarvis said.

Minimum wage threatened

by david gutnick

Chris Gower, President of The Innkeepers Guild of Nova Scotia has urged that the province of Nova Scotia adopt a "two tiered" wage system.

At the two day annual meeting of the guild, held in Halifax Monday and Tuesday, Gowers pushed for the adaptation of a "no minimums policy" for those employees who collect gratuities in their line of work.

Reasoning that "some waitresses earn up to \$30 or \$40 a day" on tips alone, Gowers has asked the Provincial Labour Minister to consider the proposal. This does not, of course, take into consideration those employees who are not able to live on tips alone. The minimum

wage stands at \$2.75 an hour, at the subsistence level established by the Federal Government for a single person.

Without tips many waiters and waitresses would not be able to survive. The Innkeepers Guild, in effect, is attempting to employ "wage free" labour. It will be the public who will be responsible for paying employee wages in a time when prices are already rising faster and higher than the 8 per cent controls imposed by the government.

Executive members of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union were unavailable for comment. Reaction to the proposal is expected to be militant opposition.