

# Justice minister Turner heckled off stage at UBC

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Demonstrators protesting the War Measures Act and the Public Order Temporary Measures Act prevented federal Justice Minister John Turner from speaking at an open meeting of 350 people on the University of British Columbia campus March 6.

The core group of about 30 protesters drowned out Turner each time he started to speak with steady chants of "No free speech for the Quebecois. No free speech for Turner."

The Free Canada-Free Quebec Committee which sponsored the organized part of the demonstration was joined by about 70 Yippies and street people in heckling Turner with shouts and chants of "Free Quebec" and "Fuddle-Duddle-Fuddle".

Violence broke out when a pro-Turner youth hit suspended Simon Fraser University professor Mordecai Briemberg from behind

as Briemberg was asking Turner if he had the courage to appear on a platform with the Montreal five — Michel Chartrand, Robert Lemieux, Charles Gagnon, Pierre Vallieres and Jacques Larue-Langlois.

Several other members of the audience jumped into the melee and Briemberg and an unidentified Turner supporter suffered bloody mouths and noses. No one was seriously hurt.

A few minutes later, two older men threw punches at dissidents but effected little damage.

Mark Warrior, a demonstrator and former UBC classics student, is in the process of laying an assault charge against B.C. Hydro Chairman Gordon Shrum, alleging he was hit by Shrum — the head of the Crown Electricity Corporation.

Turner, whose prepared speech was on law and order, said he hoped to have some kind of dialogue with the crowd. He got a

dialogue, but probably not the kind he had in mind.

He asked the demonstrators, "Are you really Canadians?"

Someone in the crowd replied, "Are you really an American."

When Turner asked "am I going to get a hearing here?" and "are we living in a free society?", the crowd responded with a loud "no."

He continued by telling the audience: "We are seeing what happens when free speech is denied."

Turner said that unlike the dissenters, he had been elected by "the people of Canada."

The demonstrators responded that the ruling class, not the people of Canada, had elected Turner.

When the crowd began to sing "when the saints go marching in", Turner decided to end his 45-minute attempt at speaking.

After the meeting broke up, a number of people surrounded Turner to ask questions. Turner's

executive assistant Mike Hunter was overheard saying: "Leave him there for a few more minutes. We'll get some good press out of this."

Free Quebec-Free Canada committee member Dick Betts said March 8, "Turner and the federal cabinet committed a monstrous violation of free speech by imprisoning over 500 people in Quebec in October, people whose only crime was to speak out against the political and economic system in Quebec."

"It's a blatant hypocrisy for Turner to appeal to free speech when his bill (Public Order Temporary Measures Act) denies free speech on a massive basis to those who would oppose the system," Betts said.

The temporary measures act lapses April 30 unless extended or terminated sooner by Parliament. Turner says the need for its continuing implementation is being studied "on a daily basis" by the Trudeau cabinet.

# Sir George trials drag onward

MONTREAL (CUP) — The Montreal trials of students arrested following the 1969 computer centre fire at Sir George Williams University have been set for April 15. The students have accused the courts of delaying the trials for over two years to coerce them into accepting a prosecution "deal".

The "deal", which over 50 of the students have accepted, consists of pleading guilty to illegal occupation of the computer centre in return for having the other eleven charges dropped. They also received \$1,000 fines and signed a bond to keep the peace for two years. Most of the students signed their pleas with a qualifying statement that they believed they were taking part in a legal protest

against racism at the time. The arrangement remains open to about 20 students still awaiting trial.

The deal was offered by the Crown Prosecutor following the joint trial of the "Trinidad Ten" which touched off violent attacks against large Canadian corporations by students, workers, and mutinying soldiers in Trinidad last spring. Nine of the West Indian blacks were found guilty only of occupying the computer centre. One was found guilty of also occupying the faculty lounge, and two were acquitted entirely. Fines for these charges ranged from \$1,000 to \$15,000 and were paid by the Trinidad government as announced before the trial.

The remainder of the 97 students

arrested were under 18 and were quickly convicted of mischief in juvenile court, receiving fines of \$250 each. Several others had charges dropped when they proved to the court that they were not in the university at the time.

In the two year period that has elapsed since the February 1969 crisis, the original charges of racism by black students against a SGWU white biology prof have been all but forgotten. The university administration held its own closed door hearings in 1969 in which the defence lawyer presented the charges against which he was defending his client. The hearing dismissed the charges of racism.

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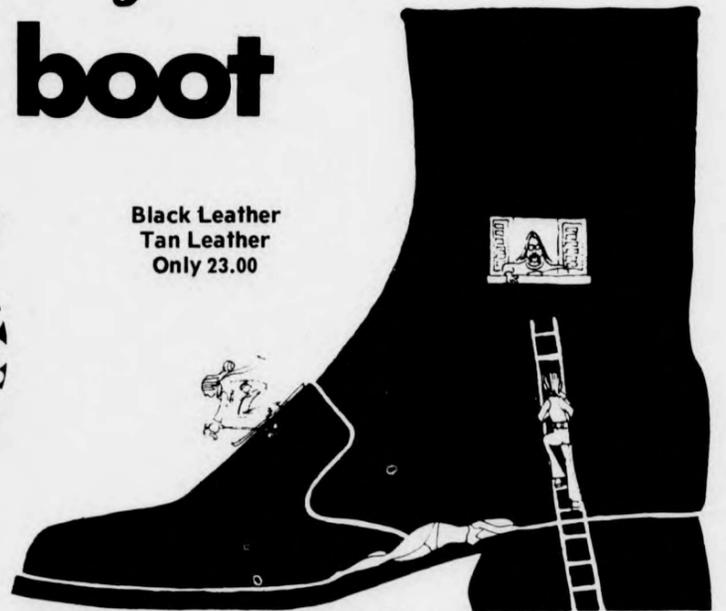
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