

DAY OF PROTEST:

OTTAWA (CUP) — More than one million workers stayed from their jobs, key sectors of the economy were shut down coast-to-coast, and tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets October 14 as part of the national day of protest called by the Canadian Labor Congress.

The protest action, the largest manifestation of public opposition to government policies ever seen in Canada, was varied in its success between regions and different sectors of the economy. But no community was unaffected.

In Ontario, the industrial heartland of the country, an estimated 440 thousand workers joined the one-day work stoppage to protest federal wage controls, despite a ruling by the Ontario Labor Relations Board the day before the protest that their action could lead to employer reprisals.

Ontario's basic steel industry in Hamilton, the auto industry in Oshawa, Windsor, Oakville and London most manufacturing and virtually all construction works were closed, as were mining and forest industries in the northern parts of the province.

As for protest rallies, an estimated 10 thousand marched on the provincial legislature in Toronto, 15 thousand hit the pavement in Hamilton, and major demonstrations took place in Oshawa, Sudbury and Ottawa, with smaller demonstrations in other communities.

In Quebec a total of 230 thousand workers gave up a day's pay to tell the government what they thought of wage controls, and large demonstrations in Montreal, Quebec City and other population centres underlined labor's opposition.

The three Quebec labor centrals — the

Quebec Federation of Labor, the Confederation of National Trade Unions, and the Quebec Teacher's Union — united in supporting and organizing the protest, and participation among industrial and public sector unions was as high as expected, officials said.

In Vancouver, as in Ontario and other provinces, the strength of the protest came from members of industrial unions, with the service and provincial sectors playing a less active role.

Only a quarter of B.C.'s provincial employees stayed off the job, despite support for the protest among union leaders. A smaller number of Ontario's provincial employees joined the protest, having voted down a motion of support earlier.

In British Columbia 189 thousand stayed



Photos by Susan Johnson

Workers

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Fifteen hundred trade unionists marched through the affluent part of the city to the federal offices here Oct. 14. There were also major demonstrations in Labrador City, Grand Falls and in communities outside St. John's.

Effigies of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Newfoundland Premier Frank Moores were burned at the St. John's stadium.

The Newfoundland Association of Public Employees, inside and outside postal workers, laborers, firefighters, brewery workers and members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) were among those represented at the St. John's demonstration.

Tom Mayo, President of the Newfoundland Federation of Labor and NDP candidate in the Oct. 18 by-election, addressed the protestors. The anti-inflation program "will injure Newfoundland more than any other province in Canada," Mayo said. "Many of those who do not have anybody to speak for them are most affected." Pensioners and the unorganized are virtually defenceless against the anti-inflation program, he continued.

Mayo said Newfoundland is \$3,100 behind the national average income. Controls will widen the gap, instead of helping, he said.

The post office was closed, and work halted on the new health sciences complex at the St. John's medical school. There were no threats of reprisal by employers against any workers taking part in the protest activities or walking off the job.

Delegations from the Newfoundland Status of Women's Council and the Mimmers theatrical group participated in the demonstration. There was no organized student protest.

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