

# Canadian justice is indifferent to the welfare of the accused

Toronto(CUP) -- Canadian justice and it's day to day bureaucratic machinery from the cop on the beat to the judge in the courtroom is permeated with "a corrosive indifference" for the welfare of accused persons.

This was the conclusion of a study conducted by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and financed by the counter-insurgency oriented Ford Foundation.

Teams of researchers in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver followed the cases of more than 500 people from the time of arrest to final disposition of the cases through magistrates or provincial courts.

Their statistical findings convey what the report calls a "picture of the daily grinding down of accused human beings, not through the brutal violation of their bodies, but through the piece meal diminution of their dignity."

"Our system can be characterized by its plethora of cursory trials, defenceless interrogations, needless detentions and inadequate facilities."

Researchers point out that 43 per cent of the accused went through trial without a lawyer, with only nine percent of those unrepresented winning acquittal compared to 20 per cent acquittal for those with a lawyer.

According to a CCLA spokesman the study shows that there is a substantial departure from the Bill Of Rights guarantee of the right to counsel without delay.

The study also states that 62 percent of the accused interviewed said they were not advised of their right to remain

silent. Fifty five per cent of those studied made statements to the police and of these, 17 per cent were given involuntarily.

Two hundred and ninety-three of the 500 arrested persons answered questions about police brutality and of these 25 per cent claimed injury at the hands of police before reaching the courts for trial. The report cited beatings by jail guards and arresting officers.

Few beating victims had any

intention of taking legal action against the police because they were well aware that such action either before the courts or the police commission are seldom successful.

In general, the authors of the report found that people awaiting trial spend too much time in jail, the bail system is unfair, provincial courts are inefficient and police regularly trample on the rights of those who run afoul of the law.

## Trots lead Winnipeg high school strike

Winnipeg (CUP) -- The strike of 350 high school students at West Kildonan Collegiate here is over for the moment while students and the school's administration wait for the Winnipeg School Board to make the next move.

Over 60 per cent of the school walked out last week to protest the administration's failure to deal with their demand for non-compulsory attendance.

An interim compromise was worked out by a student-faculty negotiation committee which instituted non-compulsory attendance of classes with the proviso that students do not leave the school. This decision has still to be ratified by the Winnipeg School Board. If it not approved, students say they will resume the strike.

The strike will also be resumed if amnesty is not granted to

strike leaders by the administration.

One of the leaders, Student Council President Michael Tregebeev was suspended from school briefly Thursday (Oct. 28) after a heated argument with school principal Peter Isaak following Isaak's confiscation of copies of a Trotskyite newspaper that had been brought into the school.

Tregebeev was reinstated after students threatened to renew their strike.

Also on Thursday, Isaak introduced new school regulations aimed at preventing students from bringing visitors into the school, from holding mass meetings or putting up unauthorized posters. Students must also have teacher-advisors if they wish to hold meetings and may use only school equipment at such meetings.



Now that the cold winter is just around the corner, "the poordestitute art students", who this fall peddled their wares in front of the Centennial Library, have moved indoors. Every Friday they can be seen in front of SUB Art Gallery selling their paintings, candles, belts and leatherwork at very reasonable prices. People of all ages are intrigued by the display. One of the happy customers is this young miss, proudly showing off her stuffed animal.

Photo Tom Turner

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