

# Students lobby Queen's Park



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Gary Hershorn

(CUP) A mass lobby of Ontario MPP's by post-secondary students on Thursday culminated in the presentation to the Legislature of a petition of 12,000 signatures. NDP Education critic David Cooke presented the petition to the House on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

The lobby, organized by OFS, was a follow-up to its post-card campaign "A Prescription for Higher Education" held on Ontario campuses during September and October. The post-cards urge the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to take the following steps in dealing with the problems of accessibility and quality of education in post-secondary institutions:

- Freeze tuition fees pending a thorough study of their effects on access.
- Improve student aid so that it meets the financial needs of low-income students.
- Restore grants to graduate and professional school students.
- Increase funding of post-secondary education to meet increased costs.
- Strike a Select Committee of the Legislature to consider the problems facing post-secondary education.

● Seek a federal system of grants to replace the present Canada Student Loan Program.

Throughout the day approximately 100 students representing post-secondary institutions from across the province met with about 85 individual MPP's (about two-thirds of the House) in an effort to bring these matters to their attention and secure their support for the OFS position.

OFS chairman Chris McKillop said that because post-secondary education is a relatively minor issue in the Legislature many MPP's don't know much about the problems facing the system. Lobbyists presented the MPP's with literature outlining the effect of fiscal restraint and were instructed to try and win a commitment from the MPP's to write to both their party's House-Leader and to the Minister of Colleges and Universities Dr. Bette Stephenson advocating OFS recommendations.

At a press conference following the presentation of the petition McKillop appeared satisfied with the impact of the lobby. "At the outset we stated that if the mass lobby were to heighten the legislature's awareness of post-secondary education, it would achieve our objective. That has been accomplished," he said.

"We see this as a good time to present our case to the Legislature." McKillop continued, "because the decisions on these matters are being made now." He also acknowledged that an imminent provincial election might also encourage MPP's to respond favourably. Members whose constituencies contained post-secondary institutions were visited by students who attend those institutions.

Asked if OFS believed that in an age of restraint universities should get preferential consideration McKillop replied, "We're fighting for a share of the pie in relation to everyone else but we don't think universities can be better funded by depriving other groups." OFS is concerned, he said, with ensuring that the children of the people who pay taxes supporting the post-secondary educational system will have access to it.

## PLO is the way to go

Leora Aisenberg

Israel must take a more moderate stance, and begin to negotiate with the PLO. This is the opinion of Meir Pa-il, a member of the Israeli knesset (parliament), who gave a lecture entitled "Should Israel negotiate with the PLO?" last Friday in Curtis B.

Pa-il, a member of the Sheli party, is known as "one of the major voices in Israel for Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement." His lecture was the first of many programs scheduled for Israel Week, November 16-23.

Addressing a small but interested audience, Pa-il briefly outlined the terms of the Camp David agreement. Claiming that certain goals of the accord, such as the evacuation of the Sinai Desert and the opening of the Suez Canal, are already being accomplished, he emphasized the importance of the "Palestinian Question."

According to Pa-il, elections should be allowed to take place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during 1980. These elections should concern the establishment of an autonomous Palestinian authority to administer the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for five years.

Pa-il pointed out that finding a long-term solution to the Palestinian problem will prove to be a very complicated and difficult task, due to the different attitudes of the major political factions involved. Pa-il feels that Jordan will not be satisfied until Israel makes two concessions: the establishment of Arab sovereignty in East Jerusalem, and the elimination of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Referring to the split in the Knesset over policy, Pa-il exclaimed wryly, "The real debate between the Likud and the alignment is what kind of program should be more or less unacceptable to the Arabs."

The ex-brigade commander maintains that despite whatever factors are involved, the Israelis must regard the Palestinian issue on a realistic, pragmatic level. "For all practical purposes, the most representative institution to talk for the Palestinian cause is now the PLO, for better or for

worse," he said. Pa-il feels that the PLO made a mistake by not joining in the Camp David process. Nevertheless, he claims that the PLO leadership is beginning to make a slight change in its political attitude towards the State of Israel.

Pa-il went on to discuss the "hard-lined" attitude of the existing government in Israel. "Prime Minister Menachem Begin's party, with the support of the labor movement, is trying to do whatever it can to dissolve the Camp David agreement."

According to the speaker, Begin refuses to adopt a more pragmatic formula enabling the election of a Palestinian self-governing authority. Pa-il believes that eventually, the Americans will pressure Israel into such an agreement anyway. He noted

that the former American President Johnson once said, "Let us first reach the bridge, and then think how to doublecross it." Begin still believes that we can doublecross Carter without reaching the bridge.

Pa-il also presented his own personal assessment of what might happen in the future. "Israel could lose the Sinai without any peace with Egypt," he noted. Pa-il also mentioned the possibility of war in the Middle East. He said, "There could be another war somewhere in the 80's, initiated by the Arabs to prove the Eastern (Palestinian) question." He added that although Israel would stand a good chance of winning, the country would probably suffer a serious political setback. "This is why during the last year

we have been trying to motivate the Israeli government to take another political attitude."

Proposing that Israel take the initiative, Pa-il exclaimed, "Sadat taught Begin a lesson in statesmanship." He outlined the declaration, advocated by the Sheli party, which states that the government of Israel should be ready to help establish a Palestinian homeland, based on the following principles: first, Palestinians would be given the right of self-determination, while recognizing Israel as a nation; second, Israel must be willing to negotiate the evacuation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Pa-il insists that this policy would give Israel an excellent chance to "out-manoeuvre the other hardliners."

## "Boycott, blackmail, bribery"

Jim Carlisle

The oil policy of the OPEC nations has become "a matter of boycott, blackmail and bribery" according to Rev. (Roland) de Corneille, MP for Eglinton-Lawrence.

Speaking on Monday at the Israel Week conference, de Corneille linked Arab boycotts and the increase of oil prices to "the undermining of the monetary stability of the world."

"The rise in the price of gold and the inflation which has taken place," said de Corneille, "is certainly more than related to the increase in the cost of energy."

"The power of the diplomacy of oil" was responsible for the passing of the UN resolution which equated Zionism with racism according to the Liberal MP. In his opinion "the whole question of the independence of nations is at stake."

Citing recent events in Iran and Iraq, de Corneille claimed that the fragile price stability afforded by OPEC is disappearing. "Even OPEC which used to control prices is being unhinged by marketing oil on the spot market

which is a 'black market for oil'". The terms of the Arab boycott demand that no Canadian company dealing with an Arab nation may also deal with a Canadian company owned by Jewish interests, said de Corneille. He called this a "new, strange and rather

hideous form of interference into our human rights."

In summarizing, he said that a three point programme is necessary if Canada is to resist the Arab boycott: an anti-boycott bill must be passed by Parliament, energy must be conserved and, alterna-

tive sources of energy must be found.

Rev. de Corneille stated that the majority of MP's are against the boycott and that his own, proposed anti-boycott bill "is just one cornerstone in defence of our human civil liberties."

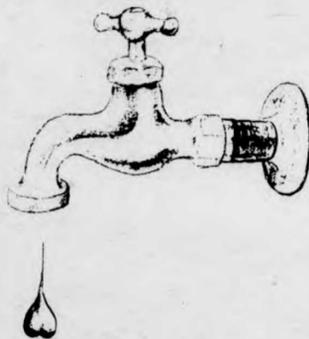
## Tap turned off

Michael Monastyrskyj

In a meeting held Tuesday evening, the Bethune College Council suspended the operation of its Tap 'n Keg Pub until January 1, and accepted the resignation of its manager Simon Schillaci.

Originally planned as a break-even venture, Tap 'n Keg soon ran into difficulty. In fact, by November 9th of this year, it had lost \$2,570, prompting treasurer Rob Tebworth to allot it \$3,000 in operating funds. However, this sum soon proved to be insufficient as the pub lost its remaining \$430.

Tap 'n Keg operations were then suspended because a new council regulation states "that any program which goes over-budget will automatically be



frozen until the matter can be taken before council."

When the pub opens in January, it will have a new structure. It will be run directly by the council's Program Committee, and its staff and inventory will be provided by Norman's.

Still unclear is whether Tap 'n Keg will continue to be used as the pub's name, or whether it will continue to exist as a pub at all. Currently under consideration is a proposal to hold monthly Tap 'n Keg dances.

The pub's new format was partly prompted by the resignation of its manager, Simon Schillaci. In a short statement, Schillaci said that his duties had interfered too much with his studies. Schillaci was the subject of severe criticism in a November 1 *Excalibur* Free Speech Article. However, Bethune Master Griff Cunningham put the pub's problem into a different light when he said, "I don't think anybody can blame Simon. The age of the thing is gone. It's a dinosaur."