



photo by Matthew Moralis

Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) joined the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in a protest against high interest rates.

Students join labor in protest

by Anne Stephen

Over 500 people rallied against high interest rates in a demonstration on Saturday at the Federal Building.

The purpose of this protest and others across the country was to send the federal government the message that people object to high interest rates.

To end the rally, a notice was taped to the door of the Federal Building. This notice was addressed to Prime Minister, Trudeau and asked, that you direct the Governor of the Bank of Canada to take immediate action and set interest rates at a reasonable level."

The rally was organized by the Canadian Labour Congress, (CLC), but there was representation from many different groups. The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) and the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) were among the collection of farmers, teachers, political party members, union members and the unemployed.

Starting at 1:00 p.m., down-

town shoppers were treated to a march of a two-block line of people, chanting for lower interest rates. Many cars honked in agreement.

After reaching the parking lot of the Federal Building, there were speakers from a few of the concerned groups.

"Farm bankruptcies are up 20%," said the representative for the National Farmer's Union.

Ray Martin, President of the NDP, said "they used to hang people for charging too much on their interest rates. We're tired of politicians and bankers saying it's good for the economy. Who the hell is the economy for?" He suggested that the money from the Heritage Trust Fund be used to make loans available at 10%.

FAS president Lorraine Mitchell said that interest rates affect students because "one third of the students do receive loans." She said the rally was "the first step toward working together in the future."

Nadine Thomas of the

Alberta Teacher's Association said that up to now, we have been teaching our children that "the women should raise the kids at home and quit her job. But now, both parents must work and must either give up the babies or give up the home. The government says to give up the babies. "No, dammit! Give up the government - we want the babies!"

John Booth of the Alberta Union of Public Employees, gave thanks to the participants, the rally marshalls, the five police escort cars, and then told everyone that AFL President Harry Kostiuk would be putting up the notice to Trudeau.

One and a half hours after it started, the peaceful rally ended,

and the demonstrators went home with the knowledge that over 75,000 people had joined together in a similar rally in Ottawa. They

also knew that Trudeau would receive a telegram ending with the statement, "a made in Canada interest rate policy deserves as much attention as a made in Canada constitution."

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