

# Political contributions not wanted by unions

**MONTREAL (CUP)** — The Parti Quebecois has \$50 to donate to the cause of working people, but they can't find anyone to accept it.

A Montreal support committee for the Solidarity trade union in Poland recently decided to refuse a cheque from the PQ, sent in December, because they claim the party is anti-labour.

Yves Legault, a member of the Solidarity support committee, said his group first debated refusing the money after the Quebec National Assembly passed a bill in January which forced striking transit commission workers back to their jobs.

"But we waited until the PQ congress to see if party members would denounce the bill. When they did not, we decided to refuse the money," said Legault.

"The governments who attack workers' rights should be

denounced here and elsewhere," he said.

The committee sent the cheque to the three transit workers unions, along with a letter denouncing the PQ government's labour policies. They suggested the unions use the money in their fight for a better contract with the transit commission.

But the maintenance workers' union decided in a general assembly March 7 to refuse the cheque, while the office workers and drivers still have to vote on the matter.

"They will be holding general assemblies very soon, and they probably will refuse the money as well," said Legault.

"The Confederation des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN) does not accept money from a government that condemns the workers," said

Jacques Beaudoin, who works for the CSN and the transit workers' unions.

But the PQ said their support for Solidarity in Poland has nothing to do with their record on workers' rights.

"The party supports the Polish people because they, like the Quebecois, have been badly treated for hundreds of years," said Louise Sexton, of the party's Montreal public relations office.

"It has nothing to do with being a bourgeois or a proletarian," she said. "It has to do with being a person. It is a humanitarian position."

Suzanne Loignon at labour minister Robert Dean's office in Quebec City said, "I have no comment (about the cheque) except to say that the money was sent by the Parti Quebecois and not the government."

Sexton also noted this dis-

tinction and called the Solidarity committee and maintenance workers' actions "selective segregation."

"The transit unions represent only themselves and do not do a good service to the people they are supposed to represent,"

she said.

Sexton said the bill which forced the transit workers back on the job "was a temporary measure to protect the population, many of who have worse working conditions than these unionized workers."

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## Michigan wants to pull money

**(RNR/CUP)** — Michigan may become the first state to require all its public colleges and universities to sell their stocks in companies that do business in South Africa.

Under a bill currently before the Michigan legislature, the divestiture would include even those firms that have pledged to promote human rights among their South African employees.

So far, the proposal has drawn a mixed reaction. Michigan State University has already complied, and in 1980, it became one of the first institutions in the United States to completely divest itself of all South African holdings. Eastern Michigan University has sold off some of its

South African stocks, but the University of Michigan, with about \$100 million invested in South Africa-related firms, is fighting back.

A University of Michigan spokesperson said, "Our legal counsel considers the bill unconstitutional," since it conflicts with laws requiring endowment

managers to invest only according to the school's financial interests.

But, according to Josh Nessen of the American Committee on Africa, Michigan State came out a million dollars ahead by divesting, and he predicts the Michigan measure will spark similar moves in Kansas and Wisconsin.

## Failure finally pays off

**(RNR/CUP)** — Law students in Ontario may soon be able to turn their bad grades into cash.

Under the terms of a bequest left to the Law Society of Canada, \$500 a year is to go to the student who graduates from the bar admissions course with the poorest marks.

In his will, lawyer Samuel Weir recommended that the prize winner use the money to "take his wife, husband, fiancé or serious female friend out for a gay evening."

The late Mr. Weir explained the odd bequest by saying, "many with very low standards at examinations have become illustrious members of the bar by keeping dark their lack of legal knowledge."

The Law Society admits it's a bit perplexed. "Why should we be rewarding someone at the bottom of the class?" asked the financial secretary. "You might get a lot of competition."



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**STUDENTS' UNION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS SPECIAL MEETING**

The Students' Council will be considering the adoption of a restructured Constitution and Bylaws at its March 30 th, 1982 meeting (7:00 p.m., 2 nd floor, University Hall).

There will be a special meeting to discuss the new document on Monday, 29 th March, 1982, in room 270-A Students' Union Building.

All students are welcome.

For further information, contact: President, Phil Soper or Executive Assistant, Jocelyn Martin; 259 SUB 432-4236