

If you lined up all the grains of sand in the world one after the other...

The Gateway

Tuesday October 23, 1984

...you'd be working for the government.

Frantic Times
CBC Radio

300 march for peace

by Neal Watson

Chanting "we want jobs, we want peace, we want nuclear war to cease," and singing "Give Peace a Chance," about 300 people marched from the Legislature to City Hall to kick off Disarmament Week Saturday afternoon.

After the march, the protestors assembled in Churchill Square to listen to a series of speakers and watch as the United Nations flag was raised.

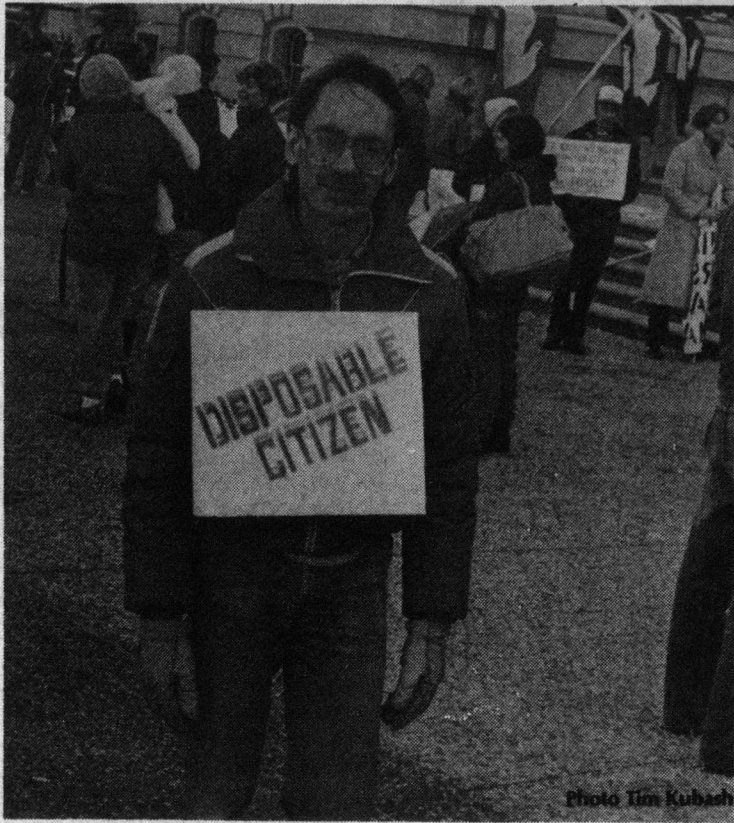
The march was organized by the Voice of Women and had representatives from many local groups, including U of A Disarmament, Christians for Peace and Nurses Against Nuclear War.

Jim Edwards, MP for Edmonton South, was greeted by a chorus of "refuse the cruise" when he spoke of Prime Minister Mulroney's commitment to peace and nuclear disarmament.

Edwards said Mulroney's appointment of former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis as UN Ambassador reflected Mulroney's concern for world peace.

"We must halt our mad race to destruction," said Bill Phipps of the United Church. "The arms race is a crime against humanity and must be

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This is one of 300 hardy souls who marched from the Legislature to City Hall to kick off Nuclear Disarmament Week Saturday.

Photo: Tim Kubash

Province completes statute audit

Rights charted

by Suzette C. Chan

Alberta Attorney General Neil Crawford surprised women at a conference last weekend by revealing a study into revising sexist legislation in Alberta is complete.

Crawford's announcement Sunday was a complete surprise to organizers of the Charting our Rights conference, who had been trying for weeks to find out how the province's statute audit had been progressing if one had been ordered.

Charting Our Rights was one of a number of country-wide conferences on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Persons Day in Canada.

On Oct. 20, 1929, Canadian women were officially recognized by the Privy Council of Britain as persons under the British North America Act.

Provisions were made when the constitution was repatriated in 1982 to give provinces three years to audit their statutes for sexism, racism and other discriminatory practices.

Section 15(1) of the Charter, reads: "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without dis-

crimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

Most of the 200 women attending the conference were concerned that 15(1) is subject to an override provision provinces can use if they wish.

The other section women lobbied to be included in the Charter was Sec. 28 which states: "Notwithstanding anything in this Charter, the rights and freedoms referred to in it are guaranteed equally to male and female persons."

The conference broke off into groups discussing how section 15 and 28 apply to women's issues and how women can use the clauses to base court cases on.

Lesbians felt Sec. 15 could be interpreted to protect their rights under the term "sex", although one woman sarcastically suggested lesbians be protected under the term "mentally disabled."

Those who attended the politics workshop urged women to get involved on the process by joining interest groups and political parties, know how to influence the process, attend constituency meetings and talk or write to elected representatives.

Other suggestions from the workshops included using hate literature laws to curb pornography and using the Charter to protect immigrant women and women who face discrimination on several fronts, such as ethnic women and disabled women.

Participants also found inadequacies in the clauses. Women concerned with gender equality in the church felt churches may use freedom of religion laws to uphold the status quo. Other women felt the Charter would not be useful in rectifying inequalities in sports or education.

Native women were concerned with definitions of "native" and felt it is important to "strike down myths regarding Indian women's rights and effects of native women returning to reserves."

Some participants were frustrated that no concrete action was taken. One woman said she was "extremely disappointed" with the discussion.

"All I have heard are just generalities. There's too much talking and not enough action," she said. "Women have specific ways of silencing each other because we are afraid of a split (in the movement)."

But most of the women felt the conference was a valuable educational experience.

"Women talk about it (inequality) in their own sphere, but are afraid to be out and counted for," said one participant. "They're afraid of criticism, especially from the media, which pick on the manner of presentation."

Another woman said the conference brought "only good news". Alluding to the Alberta women's movement past co-operation with the late Grant Notley, she said: "We have depended on one person, only one person to voice our concerns in the legislature. And now there is a danger that there will be nobody."

"If one person did that," she continued, "what if we all got together with the kind of support Grant had? We could make up for what the Charter will not do for us."

More conference on page 2.

Dept. may endow Notley scholarship

University remembers Grant Notley



Notley as leader of the U of A CCF club in 1960...

by Marie Clifford

Shock and remorse were expressed throughout the University of Alberta campus following the tragic death of New Democratic leader Grant Notley last Friday.

Along with the conviction that the Alberta NDP party will continue to function, comments included plans for a future scholarship dedicated in Notley's name in the department of Political Science.

Notley died when the plane he was travelling on crashed into the bush 40 km southeast of High Prairie last Friday evening.

"I'm deeply shocked. Grant Notley, whom I've known for 17 years, incorporated democracy in Alberta," said Dr. F. Englemann, chairman of the department of Political Science.

"He is irreplaceable," said Gordon

Wright, former NDP candidate for Edmonton South, "I think what we may see here is an Aquino effect," added Wright referring to the loss of Filipino leader Benigno Aquino.

Notley a former student at the U of A, held a life long love of politics. In 1960, speaking as the leader of the campus CCF (the NDP's predecessor), he expressed his aim to "build a society in which the supplying of human needs and the enrichment of human life is the primary purpose of all endeavor."

Robin Hunter, an old campus friend of Notley's and fellow NDP supporter, remembered his friend as a farm boy who had an instinctive flair for politics.

"Grant was a superb representative of both the left and labour. His loss is serious for our political movement, but the NDP will still be able to function. He was not only part of our movement, he was a product of our movement."

The department of Political Science is planning for a Grant Notley memorial scholarship. The department is taking tax deductible contributions in the hopes of establishing a scholarship in Notley's name, but also wishes to collect enough funds to endow a chair in Notley's honour.

"We should know by Nov. 5 as to what direction we will be taking," said Englemann. "It all depends on how great our funds are."

Jim Ray, president of the Edmonton South NDP is also taking donations to set up something similar. "Our objective is to set up a memorial at (Notley's) university."

Reaction to Notley's death was also expressed at the student level. Chahal Bhattacharyya issued a statement on behalf of the NDP Club.

"There's a greater tragedy, greater than his death, we New Democrats must prevent the death of his vision.



... and speaking to U of A students as NDP leader in 1983.

Photo: Angela Wheelock

The hope he pumped into ordinary Albertans for a home truly their's in this province gave more to the spirit of Alberta than all the boom dollars gave to the substance.

He fought for people who'd given up, and by example, inspired the

hope and will to fight life's impersonal adversities. It is this courage we must keep alive."

A memorial service will be held at two o'clock today at All Saints Anglican Cathedral. The service will be open to the public.

Tent City collapses

by Brenda Waddle

The Alberta Federation of Labour's Unemployment Action Center's (UAC) plans for a "Tent City" and soup kitchen at the Legislature were officially cancelled Friday due to poor weather.

A few die-hard unemployed did set up tents Saturday to make public their concern about the unemployment crisis Albertans face.

The cancellation leaves the fate of

the \$500 the Students' Union donated towards UAC operating expenses in October in question.

"Since their operating expenses have been decreased, I am anticipating the return of the money," said SU President Floyd Hodgins.

"I got a message from project coordinator Doreen Caldwell that the money is going to be returned, but I

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