

# Incipient student organization's first words

by Michael McCarthy

The recent CFS (Canadian Federation of Students) founding conference was attended by the Dalhousie delegation of Peter Rans, Kathy Hagen, and John Logan. Rans delivered a written report to council on his return, and at the last council meeting asked for questions about the conference from councillors. Rans felt attention should be paid to CFS, since about \$30,000 will be paid to it by Dal students if they join it.

When, to his disappointment, no questions or comments were forthcoming, Rans outlined some of the motions accepted by the conference. These included a motion to contribute to the defence fund of three female Carleton students being sued for complaining about sexual harassment at the University, and a request for students to write the Prime Minister deploring federal security interference with organizations (especially student ones). Rans was particularly concerned about a resolution urging Canada's withdrawal from NORAD and NATO, which was the only motion the Dalhousie delegation voted against at the conference.

Hagen questioned Rans' claim that they had voted for a motion condemning the arrest

of 60 gays in a bathhouse, it being an invasion of human rights (which goes beyond the question of gay rights). The other delegation member, John Logan, confirmed that they did indeed support the motion.

There was a question whether or not it was two-faced for council to disapprove of

strippers (in the SUB) but approve of activities in a bathhouse. Rans and Logan took the view that it was not a question of actions (strippers or bathhouses) but of civil rights (i.e., not to be arrested for non-harmful practices).

There were other human rights motions at the confer-

ence, political ones dealing with specific student issues, and basic "motherhood" tenets as well.

There was discussion about what some of the broader motions had to do with students. Rans said that any civil rights violation is a thin edge of a wedge, which may lead to

student rights being violated next. Therefore students should condemn such violations, he said.

Council voted to accept Rans' report, as opposed to the entire package of CFS motions. Objections to specific motions are to be voiced at a later meeting.

# Canada's largest demonstration

by Thomas Vradenburg

OTTAWA — Never before has Canada seen 100,000 protesting on Parliament Hill.

Working Canadians chartered about 1000 buses and other transport means to voice their dissatisfaction with the Liberal government's economic policies.

A sea of people covered the Parliament Hill lawn and adjacent Wellington St., for a quarter-mile in each direction. Police had cordoned off the area two blocks south of the Hill to accommodate the marchers.

In a sense the crowd was too big; organized by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), it formed at three separate staging points before marching onto the

Hill.

The organizers' schedule had to be put back. While thousands stood in a freezing chill, thousands more were still arriving.

Most of the crowd, from all parts of the country, marched under the banners of organized labour, but there were guest speakers from every downtrodden group in Canadian society: senior citizens, consumers, students, farmers, women and natives.

Between the damp cold, constant delays and the plethora of speakers, the protestors became restless.

After an hour and a half, co-emcees Dennis McDermott of the CLC and Louis Laberge of the Quebec Federation of Labour decided to cut the rally a

bit short. Some built bonfires of picket signs to stay warm despite requests from the podium not to.

Other than the bonfires, the demonstrators were well-behaved. Police - RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police and city police - arrived early in busloads, and most picked up some easy overtime pay.

McDermott and Laberge each had a few minutes on the soap box. The CLC president called the Liberal powers that be "turkeys". Laberge was more outspoken, hinting at the possibility of a short general strike over Liberal economic policies.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Federation of Students was one of half of the dozen speakers who were not given

their turn because of delays.

McDermott stressed that all had gathered to protest high interest rates. It was apparent some were there for less specific reasons; perhaps to protest in public about their frustration with Canada's economic malaise.

Of course, the usual fringe groups were present; the Marxist-Leninists, the Communist party, and John Trumel, a local curiosity who wants to legalize gambling.

The noteworthy thing about most of the crowd of predominantly unionized protestors was that they were terribly ordinary, and that they came; 100,000 people from a nation of habitual apathetes, on a frigid Grey Cup Weekend.

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