

14 Await trial date after demo

By NAIRNE HOLTZ

"WE MAY BE DYING FOR jobs, but we won't kill for them," stated a sign carried by a woman

protesting the visit of pentagon officials to Halifax.

She was one of 150 demonstrators rallying opposition to the meeting between U.S.

government representatives and members of the Halifax business community Dec. 3. The visit was part of a cross-Canada tour briefing businesses on how to obtain defence department contracts.

Fourteen people await a trial date of April 17 after their arrest for participation in the rally. They were arrested by Halifax police for entering the Hotel Nova Scotian where the meeting was taking place.

Two of those arrested entered pleas of guilty and not guilty, while the others have filed a claim

under the new Charter of Rights. Debrah Westburg, one of those charged, says the group will find out later this week if they have enough grounds to pursue the case under the charter.

According to the military officials visiting Halifax, \$80 billion worth of defence department contracts are up for grabs. Conservative MP for Halifax Stewart McInnis—who acted as keynote speaker for the briefing—called the offer "an unparalleled and unique

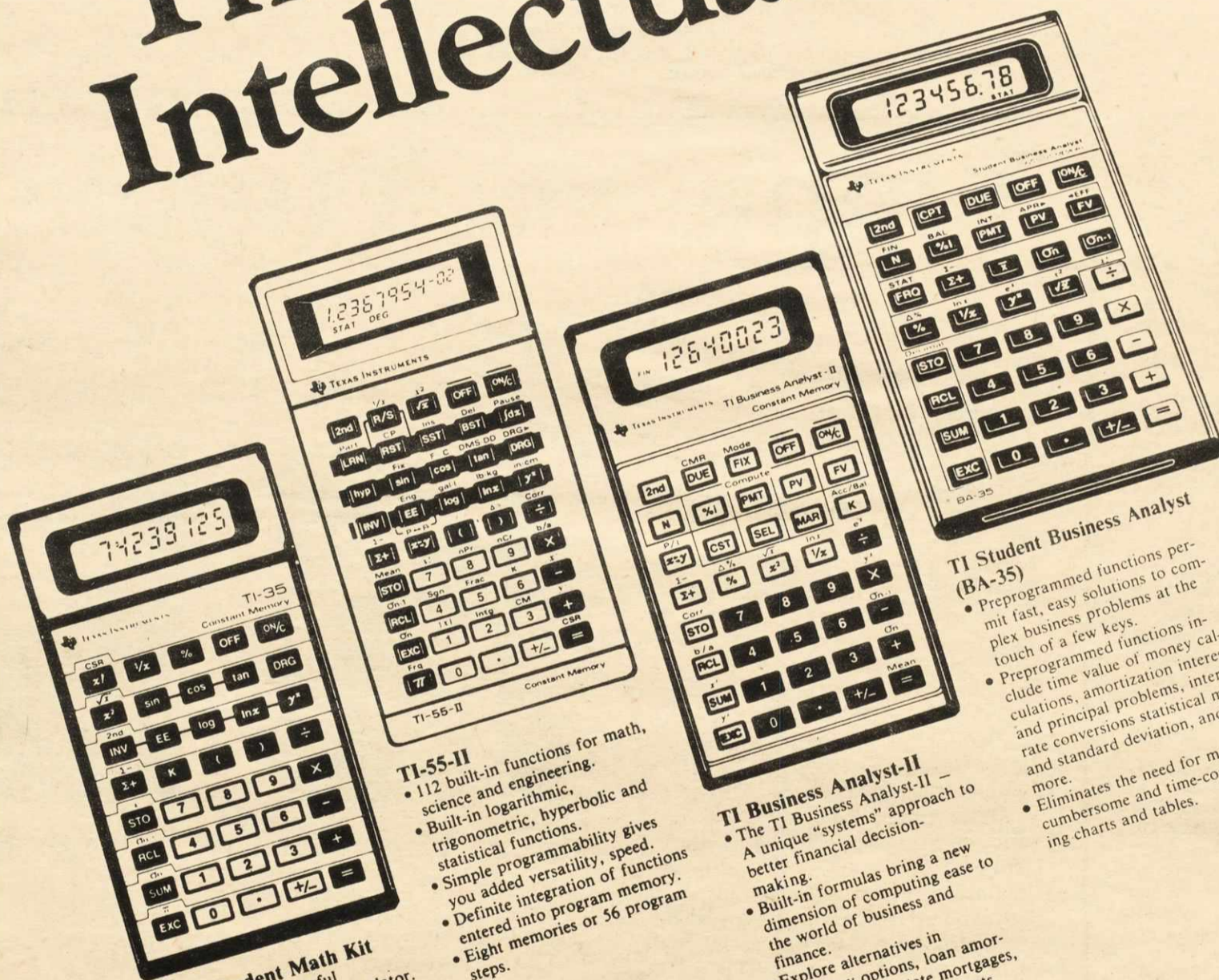
opportunity" for Canadian business.

Protestors from a loose coalition of peace groups did not agree the offer could create jobs for Nova Scotians.

"Jobs are only being made for a few highly skilled, highly paid Canadians who are already highly employable," says Giff Gifford, president of the Veterans for Multilateral Disarmament.

McInnis says he was not surprised by the protestors' concerns, saying that while he absolutely does not agree with them, they are nothing new.

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