

Students vote unanimously to strike for union

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) - A spokesman for the students at Memorial University of Newfoundland says 3500 students voted unanimously for a two day strike which began yesterday to back up their bargaining position for a free student union.

Other sources at the university say 3000 students attended the meeting concerning the strike but agrees that the gathering voted unanimously.

The strike will include picketing of all buildings on campus by students while the sit-in at the Arts and Administration Building continues.

MUN President Lord Stephen Taylor and the Board of Regents were to meet yesterday with a member of the Faculty Association to discuss the situation.

The conflict began when Lord Taylor announced last week, the university would no longer collect student union fees, refusing to negotiate directly with the students and rejected compromises offered to by administration representatives.

The occupation began Nov. 15 after a general meeting of 3,000 Memorial students, which strongly opposed administrative interference in the student union. About 1,500 students occupied Taylor's office along with those of other key administrators. About 600 remained in the building that night and about 300 by the night of Nov. 16. A general meeting Nov. 16 afternoon in the occupied area drew 1,500 supporting students. The occupying students were prepared to stay as long as necessary.

Student negotiators agreed Nov. 16 to evacuate the building if the administration would agree to allow a student referendum to decide whether student union fees would be compulsory or voluntary. The two administration negotiators agreed, but when they referred the proposal to Taylor, the president rejected it.

The Nov. 17 referendum asked all students to back the occupier's position. Students were asked to agree that "the president and the board of regents had no right to unilaterally alter or interfere with the structure of the student body, that the board should rescind its decision of Thursday, Nov. 9, and that the decision should be made by the student body itself."

The referendum was designed to gain a mandate from the students for their negotiators, and to prove that the position is supported "by more than just a small group of trouble-makers", one student spokesman said.

Some support was forthcoming from faculty members. Many cancelled classes so students could attend Nov. 16's general meeting. Others allowed students to address classes and explain the issues behind the occupation.

About 25 faculty members,

drinking in the Faculty Club on Nov. 16, when they saw Taylor enter, left as a gesture of contempt.

Students printed and distributed about 10,000 flyers explaining the issues and appealing for support.

The executives of the education and engineering students councils opposed the occupation, but the full councils have yet to meet. Both executives appeared to sup-

port the demand for a free student union, but rejected the occupation as a tactic.

Taylor and the board of regents claimed that they acted to suspend next year's fee collection because too large a portion of the union budget was going toward administrative costs and salaries.

The largest cost of any university operating budget consists of salaries and administrative expenditures.

ORDER
YOUR
'72-'73 YEAR BOOK
NOW
AT THE SRC
OFFICE.

"Flowers for All Occasions"



Thorne's Flowers
LTD.
361 QUEEN ST. SHOPPING MALL
FREDERICTON, N. B.

Need a corsage for the Christmas formals coming up?

We have them beginning at \$2.00 and up.

Open Monday - Saturday
8:00 am - 10:00 pm

FOR FREE DELIVERY PHONE: 475-9969
240 KING ST. FREDERICTON

AUCTION

SALE OF ALL UNCLAIMED LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

NOV. 28 7-9 pm ROOM 7 SUB
(extension cafeteria)

WATCHES SWEATERS BICYCLES
COATS BELTS

and all sorts of bargains

AUCTIONEER PROCEEDS
DAVE KENT TO THE DAY CARE CENTRE.



Slip Into Something
Comfortable For Christmas

How Would You Like To
Get Into Our Pants?

The Red Hanger
75 YORK ST