

Student conference in London

OFS votes to support CLC Day of Protest

By PAUL KELLOGG

The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) at its fall conference this weekend in London Ontario, added its name to the list of sponsors of the Canadian Labour Congress' (CLC) National Day of Protest on October 14.

The vote was preceded by a dramatic speech by executive chairperson Murray Miskin (a student at Osgoode), who announced he would consider a negative vote as a vote of "non confidence" in the executive which would probably mean his resignation. As it turned out, Miskin had no cause for concern. The final margin of 13 to 5 with two abstentions represented a convincing show of support both for the protest day and for the position of Miskin and the executive.

Among the dissenting votes was that of the delegation from CYSF headed by external affairs' vice-president Stan White. "The Council has already taken a position in opposition to Oct. 14", said White, "and even though we might eventually vote to support the day in principle, we'll never support student participation, and that's what this motion suggests."

Present at the conference to argue support for the CLC's position was Terry Meagher, secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour. Giving the keynote address of the conference at the Saturday evening banquet, Meagher argued the central position of the Canadian trade-union movement; that wage and price controls are really only wage controls.

He characterized the in-

terference in the collective bargaining process as "an attack on a fundamental right of all Canadians. We have a patriotic duty, if we have any belief in the democratic process, to do everything in our power to get rid of wage controls."

"Although the Day of Protest issue dominated the conference, Miskin said, "Of course, the Day of Protest is important for students and something the OFS must take a stand on however, as students, a much more important day is November 9, National Student Day. That was the theme of this conference."

On November 9, thousands of students in universities and colleges across Canada will attend films, seminars, speeches, debates even picnics in what Miskin characterizes as a day of celebration and concern.

"National Student Day" said Miskin, "is not a day of protest like October 14, it's not angry, it's more of a celebration, a festival of students. It's a day students can express concern about problems that face us and, yes, celebrate the good things we have".

The issue of student summer unemployment dominated the first part of the conference. The over-all unemployment rate has been between seven and eight per cent for months. Student summer unemployment, or "underemployment", is consistently higher than the over-all rate. Last summer the student rate was 12 per cent. "We'll never find out what it was this summer," said Miskin.

In a "restraint" measure (gross savings of \$50,000 out of a budget of



Paul Kellogg photo

OFS chairperson Murray Miskin addresses delegates at last weekend's conference in London.

over \$22 million), the federal government discontinued the collection of data on student summer employment.

Initiated by OFS, student unions across Ontario carried out surveys of various sorts to try and remedy this lack of information, including one conducted here at York.

First results are in from Carleton, and according to student union president Scott Mullin, "it wasn't much better in the job market this summer than last, and last year was the worst ever."

"Even more shocking to me" said Mullin "was the continuing inequities built into the student

employment. Nine times out of ten, it is students whose parents are well-off who get the best-paying summer jobs, and can consequently save more and have a better chance of going back to school. Conversely, students from lower-income families get the lowest paying summer jobs.

"It's even worse if you're a woman. A woman student looking for a job in the summer time is in a much worse position than a man of the same skills and background," said Mullin.

To remedy this situation the OFS proposes the student summer employment survey be reinstated

by the government, so the dimensions of the problem are known.

Also that a massive job creation programme be launched by the federal government, and not just for students, and a job creation programme encompassing all the unemployed and under-employed sectors of Canadian society including students.

OFS call for a massive broadening and extension of community initiated and controlled socially useful programs like Opportunities for Youth and the Local Initiatives Programme.

Among the other issues discussed, the one that demands mention concerns the pending increase in tuition fees for international students.

The OFS stands opposed to this fee hike. Quite apart from either "political" or "moral" objections to the fee hike, the conference pointed to government claims the rationale for the fee hike was economics.

Less than 6 per cent of Ontario's post-secondary budget will be saved by this fee hike according to OFS. As well, "from a purely practical point of view, international students are no burden on the taxpayer or on the economy," according to the paper on the tuition increase prepared by OFS. "Each privately supported foreign student must have \$3,000 in a bank deposit when he/she comes to Canada. Multiply that by the number of international students studying in Ontario and you get \$33 million, all of which is spent in this province."

Ross wall posters banned

By DAVID SALT MARSH

A memo from Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, John Becker, has warned that any posters or notices posted on the walls of the Ross Building or Central Square will be removed by the cleaning staff.

Becker sent the notice to most organizations frequently posting notices in these areas. It said the only acceptable locations for notices are on the bulletin boards.

NOTICE CLUTTER

The decision to implement this policy came in August although the policy itself was drawn up by the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) in October 1974. The reason for the move was to clear up some of the clutter of notices and to improve the appearance of the areas, said Becker.

According to Gord Travers of the York Social Co-op the main complaint is "too many people putting notices up

for the number of bulletin boards available".

PC's SAY OK

Jeff Atkinson of the York Progressive Conservative Association agrees with the general idea of the policy but both he and Travers feel there should be special notice boards available for specific purposes, such as social events or political clubs.

Paul Kellogg of the United Left Coalition called it "a silly policy. The walls of York on the whole are quite ugly... the posters help brighten up the halls."

CYSF President Barry Edson said he

would "have to talk to Becker about it".

Later, when asked by Edson what one should do if he couldn't find room to post a notice on a notice board, Becker said, "If there's no room on the notice board, he should clean the notice board".

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