

## CUPE leader speaks at York

# Government trapped by its own deceit: Hartman

By ALICE KLEIN

"Working people in Canada are prepared to make sacrifices but no to be sacrificed to fight inflation. Workers are the only ones making sacrifices right now. The managers, the bosses, the corporations are not making sacrifices."

This was the theme of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Hartman's speech at a York meeting last Thursday. The meeting, sponsored by CYSF and YUSA was attended by about 75 people.

In his introduction to Grace Hartman, CYSF President Barry Edson explained that "because of the CLC day of protest decision to call the October 14 day of protest, the wage and price control issue has become the most decisive and political issue in Canada today...thus the CYSF has decided to sponsor a special meeting to hear labour's side."

He explained that Hartman herself got her start in the trade union movement in North York where she still lives.

Hartman said she was happy to have the opportunity to speak to campus audiences, and to explain the motivation behind the day of protest. "There's a nation wide rumour these days that our universities have died — that students have become the silent majority — and that they're majoring in the status quo."

According to Hartman the real issue behind the day of protest is that "the anti-inflation program has eroded, if not almost destroyed the right of collective bargaining in this country. "There's a group of uninformed, misguided, unconcerned bureaucrat who can turn around agreements reached by labour and management. The AIB is worse than a kangaroo court — more like the inquisition. When you try to appeal a decision, they figure they'll really give you something to complain about and roll wages back even further."

"Trade unionists fought like hell and many of them died for the right to unionize. The struggle wasn't always a legal one but it was always a just one," she said.

On the question of price controls, Hartman told the audience that "Trudeau said he couldn't control prices or profits. All that he could control was wages and that's what he's doing. Today, a year after he introduced legislation which he said would be unfair and unworkable, he has proven himself right."

Hartman felt that the government was "trapped by their own political deceit and lacked the courage to do anything about it."

To make her case, Hartman cited examples of female clerical workers in Essex County who struck for seven weeks to get their first contract. To reach a wage level equivalent to other workers in the same field, they required a 30 per cent increase. The AIB rolled back their settlement to 12 per cent in addition to forcing them to pay back an average of \$200.

Hospital workers are another sector cited by Hartman as hit hard by the AIB. "These workers are really the working poor, yet they've been rolled back to eight per cent and six per cent increases."

In addition, Hartman noted that the wage control program is hurting women more than men because it is women who are at the bottom of the wage scale. Since the Anti-Inflation programme stipulates percentage increases, the current wage settlements widen the gap between male and female wages rather than closing them.

To Hartman, the day of protest represents honest political action. "It's people telling politicians that they won't accept a unilateral program imposed by Trudeau."

Newspapers, which have been consistently saying that October 14 is illegal and immoral deserves contempt in Hartman's opinion. "What other freedom is more fundamental than the



CUPE president, Grace Hartman, told a small but enthusiastic student audience that students, according to nation wide rumour, have become the silent majority.

right to dissent."

Questioned about what would happen after the 14, Hartman said "the media will say its a failure no matter how many people come out. I don't expect to wake up on October 15 and find out that the Prime Minister has made some great pronouncements. But the CLC is united against the wage controls like its never been before."

Asked about the prospect of a long general strike, Hartman concluded that "Canadian

workers aren't ready for that".

During the question period, there was only one opponent of the day of protest. "I grant you that there have been mistakes in the way in which the controls have been applied, but I haven't heard any alternatives," he said.

A number of questions focused on the question of tripartism raised in the CLC Manifesto and passed at their last convention. This was part of a number of alternatives to controls posed by the CLC leadership. "Its a big

topic," commented Hartman. "There have been a number of meetings with the government and as a result the whole document is being revised. From the two of these meetings which I've attended, I've concluded that tripartism can't work, it won't work in the present situation. What we were really trying to do was open up a dialogue to get our views across. It hasn't worked. You get tied in with that corporate structure and we, as workers, can't afford to do that."

## Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

# 'direction:' editor clarifies York literary content, ask for more publicity and contributions for publication

On behalf of all involved in the publication of 'direction: literary and graphic arts journal', I would like to extend our appreciation for the article appearing in last week's Excalibur. The column was fair, informative and for the most part factual.

Although it is true that we do not "book known artists" (that is, soliciting works from them), we do not have any clear cut policy of rejecting them entirely. To be sure, we have already printed a few "known" new poets from Toronto and Montreal. On the other hand, should ever the cause arise involving a priority decision between the works of a known artist and the works of a York artist, the latter would hold preference.

The second point of misunderstanding is a little more serious. As was correctly reported, the first issue of 'direction:' was entirely York artist in content; but it is not correct that the following issues were dominated by off-campus artists. As a matter of fact, of the 39 artists published thus far, 31 of

these have been York artists. The misconception may have occurred when I mentioned to your reporter that we have been having difficulty in finding York contributors for the next issue slated for release on November 19 (submissions close on October 22). Of the material presently accepted for this issue, just under half originates from the York community. With the assistance of good publicity, such as your article, we hope this will change.

Once again I offer our thanks.

G. Gilbert-Gray  
Managing Editor,  
direction:

## Jungle vegetation

Swamp-shit, the ooze and guck that builds up over the years and strangles most of the local plant life by smothering the roots, is what we have here at York.

The ooze and guck have been

building up here over the years and, pretty soon, it'll start smothering you. Some of you may have already experienced some of the symptoms as you wander the hallowed halls of Central Square — you may have ventured into the bookstore, looked closely at the little coloured price tags pasted over the smaller, much cheaper price tags underneath, and felt your knees shake. Or you may have gone into any of the restaurants on campus and realized that you don't make out as well here as you do at "Square meal-Square deal" Ponderosa (or for that matter, any number of fast food chains located throughout Metro) and felt queasiness in your stomach.

Refer to this year's first edition of Excalibur (September 15-page 5) and an interview with Mr. Norman Crandles regarding the break-up of the Versa Food monopoly last year. Mr. Crandles said "I don't think that the boycott or anything else that the students did affected Commercial Caterers..." Later, in the same article, Mr.

Crandles stated, "I created this multi-caterer, modular food system and I think that it's the best anywhere". And that too, is sad. Because, undeniably, it's not the best system anywhere.

I'm not directing this letter necessarily to Mr. Crandles he just happens to be the one administrator who is exhibiting the most advanced symptoms of the 'swamp-shit' fits. There is still some bark left and some green leaves still cling to the top, but the roots have lost their anchor and the heart is gone.

And that's sad.

Mark Biddle

## Radio York

For the past six years there has been a certain negative feeling between Excalibur and Radio

York, CKRY-FM. This is unfortunate since these two powerful and viable forms of media (print and waves) are quite different and could benefit from each other.

Since September of this year I have noticed a growing link of communication between CKRY and Excalibur. CKRY is now "getting it's stuff together."

There are so many new developments at Radio York that I feel it is important for Excalibur and CKRY to establish a co-operative working relationship. I would like to invite Excalibur to do a short weekly radio program on CKRY-FM, perhaps in the form of print for the air.

Radio York and CKRY are grateful for the CKRY-FM column and Excalibur's general responsiveness. Once again Thank-You.

Richard Gould,  
Station Manager,  
CKRY-FM, Radio York.