

War Measures Act decried

VANCOUVER—Suspension of civil liberties under the War Measures Act was a "totally unnecessary" attempt by Pierre Trudeau to discredit and squash the Quebec independence movement.

So says Pauline Jewett, who resigned her seat as a Liberal backbencher during the crisis because of her opposition to the act.

"I genuinely believe it was possible the prime minister did have it in mind to link separatists with the FLQ," Jewett recently said in an interview. "It looked as if (the federal government) seized an opportunity to get after the separatists as well."

Many Quebecers have insisted since the invocation of the act that it was intended to

discredit the legitimate separatist movement instead of aiding in the finding of the Front de Liberation du Quebec kidnappers.

Jewett paints a hectic picture of a Liberal caucus who had Pierre Trudeau's decision unceremoniously forced upon them. While the cabinet's solidarity was prominently mentioned in the media, she says the actual situation was somewhat different.

Jewett said she questioned cabinet ministers about the act and was surprised by the number of reactions like that of then postmaster general Eric Kierans.

"He, like the others, was not entirely happy," she says of Kierans, "but Trudeau was

being very insistent that his word be followed."

Jewett harshly criticized Trudeau's use of the act within days of its invocation. As a Carleton University political science professor, she openly condemned the prime minister's actions during a public forum at the university.

The other side of the coin within the caucus was represented by the likes of then regional economic affairs minister Jean Marchand, who told Jewett he was "absolutely convinced" of the act's necessity.

"He thought it was a crisis of enormous dimension", she says now. "He thought that Quebec would fall apart and that separatists were almost as bad as the FLQ."

"In retrospect I think he was proved wrong."

At the time, Marchand told the House of Commons "the FLQ will only be satisfied with one solution—and that is when this country is destroyed."

The Trudeau government promised it would introduce new legislation less sweeping than the War Measures Act for future emergencies, but the prime minister never mentioned it again, says Jewett.

Jewett claims that Trudeau had enough legal instruments within the Criminal Code to penalize seditious behaviour without invoking the act, which has been in the book since 1914. Nothing more was

needed than to keep the army on alert to protect against violence, she adds.

The War Measures Act invocation in peace time, is a "real blot" for those who feel strongly about Canadian civil rights, says Jewett. Although about 85 per cent of Canadians supported Trudeau's use of the act in an emotional wave 10 years ago, "nowhere near that" would support him now, she says.

Use of the act in 1970 is the one glaring exception in which protection of Canadian rights were abrogated, says Jewett. Today, a freedom of information act is needed to make the government accountable for its actions, she adds.

NUS plans to join with provincial organizations

by Paul Creelman

Plans to combine the National Student Union (NUS) with provincial student organizations were proposed at the NUS conference held in Winnipeg last week.

Jeff Champion, the vice-president of Dal's student union, explained the reasons for the proposals:

"There are two basic reasons behind the proposals for restructuring the Student Union", said Champion.

"First of all, we want to make the union more representative, and also more stable. I think that the two things go hand in hand."

"Over the past few years, NUS has been depending on inflation. However, these last few years, this revenue hasn't been enough to account for NUS's losses."

Champion states that several alternative solutions were provided, but that the present proposals call for the combination of NUS, the provincial student unions, and AOSC. (AOSC is a student services organization that provides student travel discounts and the international student identification card.)

"The proposal would raise the present membership fee to three dollars annually, plus an additional dollar for a com-

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bined international and NUS identification card."

Also discussed at the conference, which took place from November 15-19 in

Winnipeg, were plans for this year's publicity campaign for NUS.

"NUS is primarily a political organization," says Cham-

pion.

"It lobbies the governments in Canada for affirmative action on student unemployment and student loans. This year I think that whatever publicity campaigns or similar action NUS will take will be done in conjunction with the provincial organizations."

One of the main concerns of NUS this year is the report by the federal-provincial Task Force on Higher Education, which should be coming out later in the year. According to Champion, this may be the last chance to implement changes in the government funding system for five or ten years.

NUS proposes fee hike

TORONTO (CUP)—The National Union of Students (NUS) is proposing a \$4 fee to its membership.

NUS is asking for a \$3 increase in membership fees. Kirk Falconer, NUS treasurer and the author of a report on financial planning, says the associations ability to maintain current levels of resources is being seriously threatened.

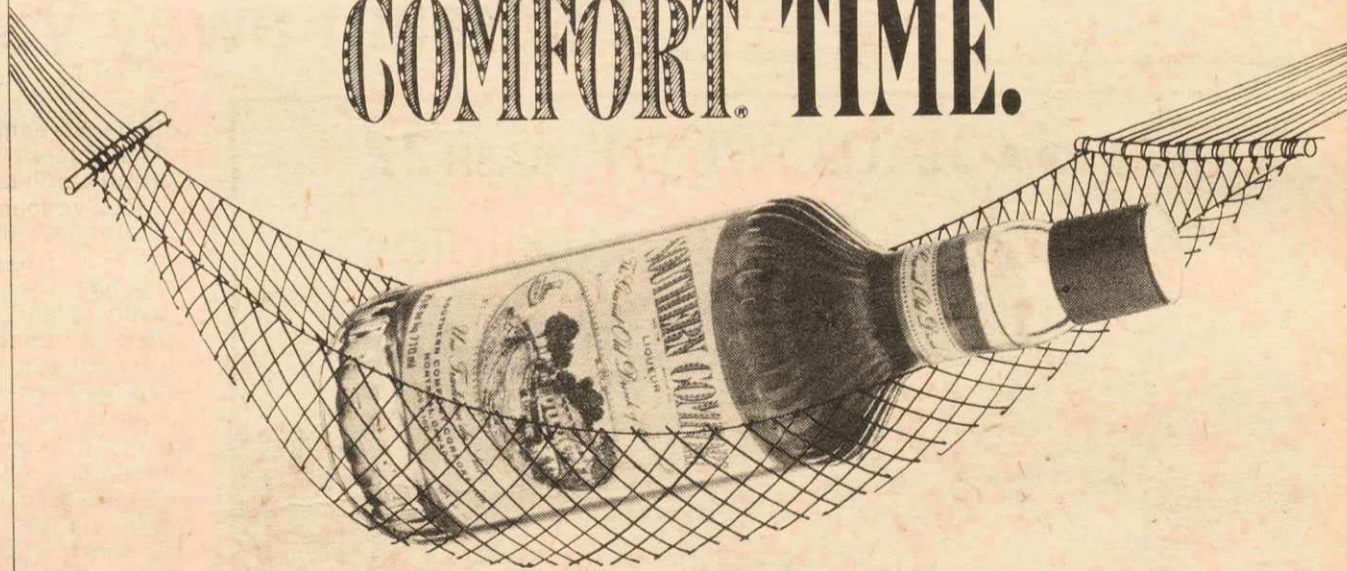
"We now find ourselves in a position where we are grappling to preserve the status quo," states the report.

"After five years of no fee increase, NUS must now raise its fee or risk a loss of more staff and a further decline in resources by 1981-82", states the report.

Falconer does not think a small increase would be better because it would only "modify" the existing revenue base and not benefit long term goals.

The report further suggests increasing the prospective membership fee to 50 cents from 25 cents.

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