

Trudeau hopes for acquiescence

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

Trudeau was in Halifax last week speaking to a large group of Haligonians on price and wage controls. At a dinner hosted by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council on Thursday night Trudeau discussed the obedience to rules necessary in any society and expressed his belief that Canadians would follow the new rules regulating prices and wages the same way they observe other rules.

Premier Regan introduced Mr. Trudeau and pointed out that the audience consisted of a true cross section of Nova Scotian society. Though the dinner cost \$15.00 per ticket numerous free tickets were distributed at least in the metro area to social planning and action groups. In other words the dinner was not necessarily the "rich man's feast" it was reported to be.

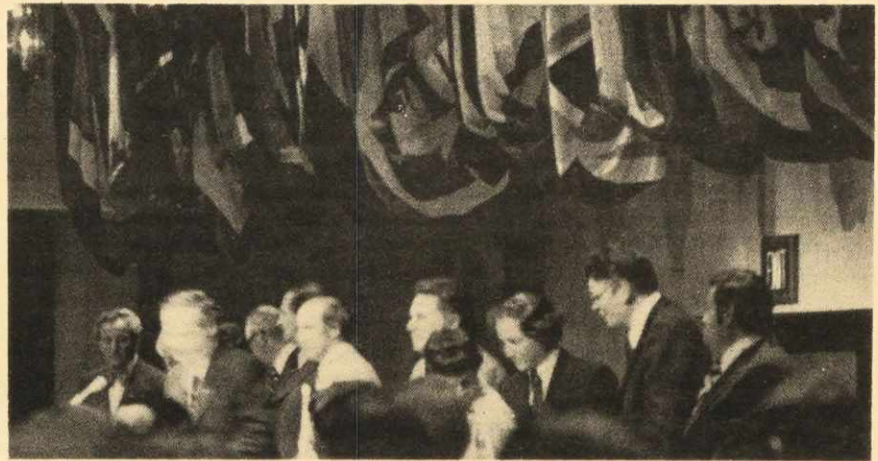
Though it is only a little over a month since the government announced its economic program the Prime Minister stated that he feels there is a willingness among Canadians to obey the new regulations. With "double digit" inflation in Canada it is no longer possible for Canadians to expect that the decision making process and the economic process alone can make the system work.

Inflation is a serious but not

insoluble problem which requires tough medicine. Canadians knew inflation was way out of control and expected the government to step in and provide the leadership necessary to destroy it. The government has done this and now it is up to the Canadian people to assimilate and obey the economic regulations the same way they obey traffic regulations.

Mr. Trudeau pointed out that inflation allows the big, powerful groups in our society to get more out of the system than they should. The government stepped in to assure the smaller, less powerful groups that they would continue to be provided for.

The Prime Minister made it clear that one of the major contributory factors to run-away inflation was not cost of living wage increases but wage increases far in excess of the cost of living increase. Mr. Trudeau said there has been a marked tendency towards hysteria in wage increase bargaining - groups were not demanding increases to keep up with what was happening but to get ahead should their worst expectations come to pass. The new rules allow for keeping up, and even catching up, with the increases in cost of living but they are meant to curtail groups from demanding



The head table at the APEC dinner for the Prime Minister. Tom Mooney / Dal Photo

salary increases beyond what is actually happening in the economy. In other words groups can no longer protect themselves against the worst cost of living increase they can imagine - they will now be forced to deal with reality.

There is no reason for Canadians to place blind trust in the new system of controls according to Trudeau. One must trust they will be applied fairly but if they are not that will soon become apparent to the Canadian public and action would be taken to right the

inequities.

This is not a crusade, the Prime Minister said, but an exercise in self government. Leadership cannot provide solutions to problems without "followship". Canadians must be willing to trust each other and the government if the new regulations are to have good results. The Prime Minister stressed his belief in the Canadian public's ability to both trust and assimilate the new rules so inflation can and will be beaten.



Prime Minister Trudeau follows Premier Regan into the Commonwealth Room at the Hotel Nova Scotian. Tom Mooney / Dal Photo

CUSO - an adventure of a lifetime

"Involvement that lasts a lifetime" is the CUSO motto that's been appearing lately on posters and in the mass media. Three Dalhousie graduate students have together spent nine years being "involved" as CUSO volunteers, and found the experience at times frustrating, challenging and rewarding.

Melody Hainsworth and Sue McLean, graduates of Simon Fraser University and the University of New Brunswick respectively, are students in the school of Library Science. Melody and her husband, Bob, spent five years with CUSO in Tanzania and Zambia; Sue taught for two years in Malawi.

"I went partly because the job was interesting and I wanted to do something different," Sue said recently in an interview.

Sue was posted to a small rural secondary school at Ncheu in Malawi, where she taught and ran the library. She found the people warm and friendly--"they were the most generous people I ever met"--and gradually adapted to living in a foreign culture.

"You learn to slow down, to take things as they come," she said. "You learn to relax."

Going to market, for example, might be a day-long trip, what with stopping to talk to everyone who greets you. As Sue recalled: "Your job is important, but you have to have time for the people. Sometimes that comes before what you were hired to do on paper."

Sue learned basic Chichewa, and used the language for greetings, buying in the market, and asking directions. At school, instruction was in English.

Melody and Bob used Swahili every day, improving on the basics learned at a three-week training course at Loyola before they left Canada. Their son, who was born in Tanzania, has a Swahili name, Kaleeg.

Melody taught English, civics, typing, and "whatever needed to be taught" at Mbeya in Tanzania, a town of about 20,000 people in a tea and coffee plantation area. She

misses the close contact with her students and the friendly social life of the town. Next year, she and Bob plan to work overseas again, perhaps in Papua New Guinea or Mauritius.

"We came back to get our degrees to go out again," she said. "Our two years in Halifax are an interlude."

Both women travelled extensively during their years overseas. Melody and Bob visited Mauritius and Madagascar, and travelled north through Ethiopia, the Sudan, and Egypt. Sue, at the end of her two-year assignment, left Ncheu and travelled through Zambia and Zaire by train and boat to Kinshasa and by plane to Togo. She eventually found her way to Timbuktu in Mali, then travelled down the Niger River and joined a group heading across the Sahara in a Volkswagon bus. Five months after she'd left Ncheu she was in Paris.

Another CUSO volunteer, Barbara Owen, is a graduate student in the Outpost Nursing program at Dalhousie. A graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, Barbara went to Ghana in 1973 to work with the Ministry of Health in Gushiegu, a village of about 3,000 people in the northern part of the country. The nearest large town, Yendi, was 40 miles away on a dirt road, the market at Gushiegu was held only every six days, and Barbara was the only "expatriate" in town. She spent a lot of time with Ghanaian friends, frequenting the pito bar for the local drink, made from guinea corn.

"The people were shy to begin with, but friendly after they got used to me," she said. "I felt at home there."

Barbara was on the staff of a small clinic where she and her colleagues ran child welfare and ante-natal programs, and organized a mobile clinic. She found she "had to start from scratch to learn things" at the clinic, where there was little equipment and drugs were often in short supply.

Cont'd on page 12

DALHOUSIE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PRESENTS

the CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY production of PUCCINI'S

LA BOHÈME

in English with the Canadian Opera Orchestra

Fri./Sat. Nov. 28/29

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre.

Box Office 422-2298

