

93.6% vote in favor

CUPE agrees on contract

by Jeff Round

After five months of on-again off-again bargaining the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1392 have finally come to an agreement on contract negotiations with the Dalhousie administration. Members of CUPE, representing Dalhousie cleaning and maintenance workers, voted 93.6% in favour of accepting the university's offer.

The new contract has not been signed, however. CUPE representatives will meet to go over the wording of the final draft, possibly within the week, according to Bill Kelly, president of Local 1392.

The new contract, retroactive to September 1, 1977, grants a 5.5% increase plus an additional 2.5% increase beginning April 1. The contract also allows for double-time overtime on Saturday (previously time-and-a-half), and four days paid leave of absence. The contract

expires August 31, 1978.

Al Cunningham, representative of Local 1392, admitted to having mixed thoughts about the settlement. Cunningham told the *Gazette* he was dissatisfied with restrictions on wage increases as set by the Anti-Inflation Board (AIB) and the restrictive funding of the university resulting from a restraint programme started by the Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP).

"The whole matter of limited funding and wage controls effectively stymies the collective bargaining process as agreed to under the law. It takes it out of the realm of true collective bargaining by imposing outside limitations. This is my greatest dissatisfaction," Cunningham said.

Louis Vagianos, vice-president of university services, is "delighted" with the settlement. "We hope they are as pleased as we are," he said. Both Cunningham and Vagianos

no threat to a student so there is no effective way of guaranteeing discipline," Vagianos said. Kelly disagreed with this, saying that a student who is willing to work in maintenance to put him or herself through college is as responsible to the union as any regular worker.

As a postscript to the whole affair CUPE has agreed to drop their suit against Dalhousie. The union had charged the university with interference in contract negotiations under section 51 of the Labour

Relations Act. The charge was laid as the result of a letter sent to workers which, according to Cunningham, encouraged members to vote a certain way and encouraged individual bargaining with the administration. Cunningham said CUPE has come to an agreement with the management over the allegations and both sides are satisfied.

agree next year's negotiations should begin earlier to avoid having to bargain under pressure. Cunningham said as well he hoped by next year negotiations would no longer be restricted by AIB guidelines.

One major issue in the new contract was student employment. The administration argued that contract increases should not extend to students. Kelly, however, said the union would not discriminate against student workers. "They're working alongside the other people. If they're paying dues as part of our body then they're entitled to the same benefits we get," Kelly said.

Vagianos said the administration felt students were not as responsible to the union as regular

workers and therefore a differential in wages was necessary. "Students can come into work late and quit without giving notice. Firing poses

Social conditions prompt bomber's actions

by Marc Allain

A 31 year old unemployed labourer was arrested early Monday in connection with the fire bombing of a northern New Brunswick Manpower Office. Conrad Theriault, a resident of St. Quentin, N.B. pleaded not guilty to a charge of arson when he appeared before a magistrate on Tuesday morning.

The Canada Manpower offices of the village of St. Quentin were completely gutted by a molotov cocktail during the early morning hours of February 2. A small Acadian community, St. Quentin is situated in New Brunswick's chronically depressed northern sector and, like all other communities in that area, faces unemployment levels estimated at over 40%.

Shortly after the attack, a note left for a Moncton N.B. radio station claimed the bombing on behalf of the unnamed Acadian independence group. The note said the attack was meant to bring attention to the "provincial and

federal government's continued exploitation of the Acadian people". Entitled "message No. 1" the note said the attack was but the first in the Acadian people's struggle for liberation. The communique, signed

by the "Beaubassin cell" claimed that the bombing was carried out by a sister cell in the northern part of the province.

Sources within the Acadian movement are skeptical of the com-

muniqué's authenticity. "I'm inclined to think it was more an individual act of personal frustration with the government's refusal to address the deplorable social conditions in the area, than anything organized," a well informed source said. She was quick to point out however that the more radical elements within the Acadian movement may already have decided to adopt such aggressive tactics.

Over 30% of New Brunswick's population is Acadian, the majority of which is concentrated in rural and fishing communities in the province's poverty stricken northern half.

RCMP spokespeople would not comment on whether the arrest was connected to the communique.

Theriault, who elected to be tried by magistrate, was remanded to custody until Friday when he will reappear for a bail hearing. The maximum penalty for arson under the criminal code is 14 years imprisonment.



Acadians claim right to be different

MONCTON (CUP)—Acadians are tired of a bilingualism that means assimilation, and a federalism that denies them recognition as a founding people, the Task Force on Canadian Unity was told here Jan. 31.

Students, women and national groups told commissioners that francophones comprise more than a cultural entity—they are socio-economically different from the rest of New Brunswick. Northern New Brunswick faces the worst unemployment and lowest wages in the province.

They have been oppressed because of their language, and perhaps the only solution is a separate political entity, Jean-Pierre Lanteigne of the Parti Acadien told the task force.

"It is intolerable that, in our land, we cannot be sick in French, die in French, receive French police services, telephone in French, or even eat in French in the six major cities of the province."

Universite de Moncton rector Jean Cadieux said that Quebec independence, if it were to happen,

would only mark the beginning of the efforts of francophones in Canada to re-establish their identity.

"To be equal doesn't have to mean being the same. We claim the right to be different . . . for Acadians, the most important question in any Canadian referendum should be: Do you agree that the French culture must survive and develop, and that measures must be taken to achieve this?"

About 150 students from the Universite de Moncton participated in one of the meetings, waving Acadian flags and demanding equal rights for Acadians, after plainclothes police harassed them as they tried to enter.

"In this so-called bilingual province where all people are considered equal, we've learned that some people are more equal than others," one student said.

All the groups addressing the task force—with the exception of two finance representatives—agreed that the Acadians have "the inalienable right to self-determination."

Tuition up 18%

WINNIPEG (CUP)—If the University of Manitoba administration's darkest predictions are realized, tuition fees will increase 18 per cent next year and 65 faculty, 100 support staff and 26.6 per cent of teaching assistants will be eliminated.

That will happen, according to a paper prepared late last month by administration president Ralph Campbell, if Manitoba's new Progressive Conservative government gives the university two per cent more funding than last year and if salaries and benefits to staff increase by eight per cent.

If funding is increased by more than six per cent and salaries and benefits increase by only four per cent there will be a tuition fee increase of 13 per cent and no staff cutbacks, says Campbell's paper.

Speculation on government funding has put it anywhere from two per cent less to eight per cent more than last year.

Caroline Dabrus, acting president of the University of Manitoba Student Union, says they will oppose an 18 per cent tuition fee increase. She said students already face increased costs in books, supplies and rent since the new

government is phasing out rent controls.

Campbell said an increase of 25 per cent might seem appropriate in light of tuition fees at other universities. But he set 18 per cent as a limit for this year, saying that anything higher would "have serious social costs in discouraging enrolment of students, especially those from less wealthy families."

