



# protest falters

A demonstration, generated by the recent suicides in the local jail (four deaths in two months), was organized by students from UPEI and some concerned citizens of Charlottetown.

At 8:00 p. m. Friday, in a pouring rain, approximately 30 people gathered in front of the City Jail to protest the conditions of the City and County Jails.

The demonstrators (who increased their number by about 70 as the evening went on) handed out leaflets and marched in front of the jail.

In the leaflet, entitled A DECLARATION TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, the demonstrators demanded:

1. Immediate closing of City Police cell block.
2. That anyone picked up under the influence of alcohol (and where the offence is a recurring one) that this person be committed to a hospital or alcoholic treatment centre.
3. That immediate changes take place in Queen's County Jail to:
  - (a) Upgrade living conditions and sanitary facilities.
  - (b) Provide recreation and entertainment for prisoners.
  - (c) Hire only qualified and educated personnel.
  - (d) Better health and medical facilities.

4 Immediate commitment from City Council and Provincial Governments that a new penal system and institution be constructed complete with all nec-

essary facilities to meet health standards with qualified personnel and to be completed within one year.

5. That the practice of revealing names, through the news media, of people charged with petty crimes, and revealing the names of people who are charged with any crime, before they are convicted of that charge - be discontinued.

.....Individuals against the Crime of Silence.....

One of the organizers said, "while there were a few hecklers, the great majority of people we have reached have stated support for our demands, and agree that immediate action must be taken to im-

prove the situation in the jails."

He pointed out that policemen have also talked to the demonstrators and have shown support for the aims of the demonstrators,

The protestors were on the street again Saturday morning. This time a group of approximately 20 continued the activities of the previous evening. They remained until 8:00 Saturday night.

The protest was discontinued after what appeared to be a failure of the local populace to show strong support.

Attempts are presently being made to attract more people to the cause. If these attempts are successful more demonstrations will be staged.