

An Open Letter to the Student Union Executive.



Fellow Islanders:-
Fellow Nictims:-

When Trudeau introduced to the country his new-infamous Bill C-73 (the so-called Ante - Inflation Bill) on October 14th, 1975 the workers of Canada were just beginning to catch up with inflated prices. The catch up with inflated prices. The capitalists were gravely concerned lest they lose great profits. They had nothing to fear because their political representative - Trudeau and his Liberals-were "Johnny on-the-spot to protect their profits. Hence, the purpose of Bill C-73.

The right to collective bargaining was won by the canadian working class after many many years of long and difficult struggle. By the stroke of a pen that right faded into the blice - Trudeau said to the workers: "Go ahead, bargain for as much as you like, it will do you no good." True! How many workers had their wag wages slashed by Pepin and his cohorts - hundreds of thousands! Labour could not possibly progress under this repressive legislation;



therefore it was necessary to act. And the C.L.C. proposed militant and decisive action-it proclaimed a National Day of Protest set for Oct. 14, 1976.

The capitalist press did everything it could to undermine labour support: it laughed at it, heckled it; cursed it. then came Oct.14. 1,054,744 workers withheld their labour that day. Auto workers were shut down across the land; breweries were all

closed; all of B.C. was closed tight as a drum. Every premise experienced disruptions of one sort or another. Labour, united as never before in our history, had spoken. It told Trudeau and his pro-business government ot either withdraw Bill-C-73 or leave the canadian political scene. His popularity is extremely low according to recent pollings. Only 29% of the people support him, and they are mostly business people and those who support business.

On the very day of the Protest the capitalist papers were reporting on the text of the speech from the Throne. It was anti-labour through and through. Among the proposals was: U.I.C. funds may be used to retain workers whose jobs have become obsolete due to automation, etc...and, U.I.C. funds may be used to pay the wages of workers who would otherwise be laid off.

Some solution to automation: make workers pay for retraining of workers whose skill benefits the boss! Some solution to unemployment: make the workers pay for lay-off victims! Why do we pay into U.I.C.? To insure us in case of unemployment. But if the capitalist can use workers premiums to pay for his hired help he stands to pay for his hired help he stands to benefit twice: once from the surplus value created

by the worker-who never receives it, and agian by using our premium payments rather than out of his profits! It would be one hell of a rip-off!

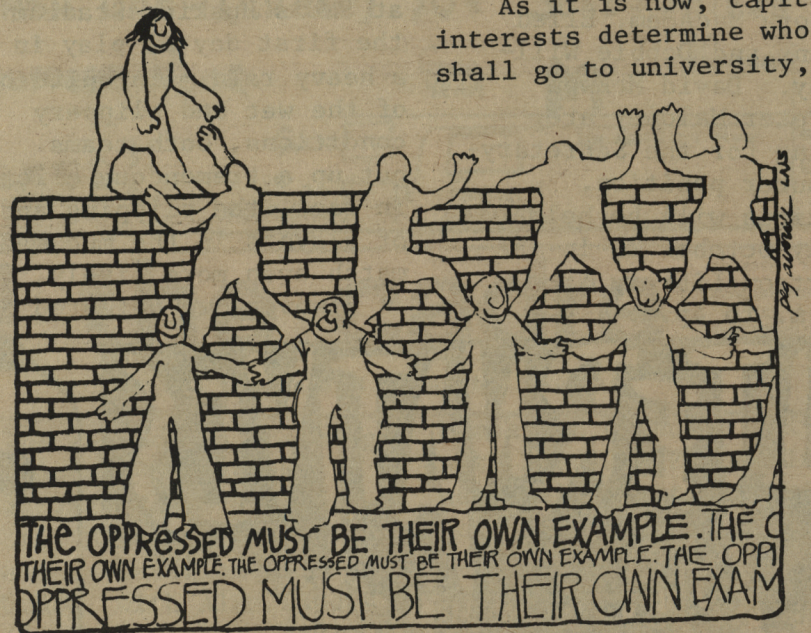
How does this concern you, the student? First: with the limited funds you have you must still pay the inflated costs for goods. You recieve no compensation for inflation. This includes rents. Second: if you are lucky, you will enter the labor force upon graduation. It is in your vital interest to be concerned with wages. This is interally related to the fist point. Third: the cost of education, of health, municipal services (hydro, telephone, loans, etc.) and the growing rate of unemployment, all conspire against the unprotected student to render him a welfare recipient. In other words, your future looks bleak. These are considerations all students must acknowledge if they have an eye to the future. That's why it is so important for students to act NOW to preserve some future in a time when the prospects are poor. It is far from likely that conditions will change for the good without

The Student Union must, if it is to protect the immediate and long-term intrests of the UPEI students, ally itself with: the PEI Federation of Labour; National Farmers Union; Tenants groups; the New Democratic Party; and all progressive groups in the interest of changing PEI to refect the peoples needs as opposed to those of capital.

Students are people, and do not cease being people while they're students. They, too, suffer from cut-backs, and rollbacks in wages. in wages. If the Student Union cannot see beyond the perimeter of the univer-sity itself, it cannot possibly offer responsible leadership to these people who must soon enter the "outside" too, compete nationally!!!

Contray to what the Baker's say, the university is the proper property of the people as a whole, who should have a say in its administration, besides the voice of students. Workers, farmers, fishermen, as well as students, should have the decisive say on what education shall consist of, who should benefit, and what direction the economy should take-and, therefore, what direction education should take.

As it is now, capital interests determine who shall go to university,



conscious, determined, action on the part of those who stand to lose the most-student, and youth generally.

The political atmosphere at UPEI is such as to discourage concrete action: "students cannot even change their conditons at the university, let alone the rest of society" is what the Ronald Baker's and Dennis Clough's will tell you. These two-and thelikes of them- cannot even see far enough to encourage majority student representation on Senate or Board of Governors despite the fact students consitute a majority at UPEI.

what shall be taught, who should pay, and who should benefit (regarding the latter, capital benefits while the people-including students-pay!)

UPEI needs political representation! Urge your student Union executive to establish formal ties with the N.D.P. your student union needs a labour voice and a voice in labour-urge your executive to establish formal contact with the PEI Federation of Labour. The same holds for farming -the N.F.U. Sincerely,
Stan Dalton