

P.E.I. coalition counters Litton bid

By John Gushue

Science and Technology writer CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) — A loose coalition of Prince Edward Island farmers, peace activists, women's groups and academics is resisting a bid by Litton Industries, which has an operating budget many times greater than the provincial government, to build an armaments plant here.

The coalition, dubbed the Island Way, was formed in January after Premier Jim Lee invited Litton to build an air defence anti-tank system plant if it won a federal contract. Other companies competing for the contract say they will build in other areas. A decision is expected in April.

The Island Way is hoping to convince Litton by then that their presence isn't wanted. According to Roy Johnstone, co-ordinator

of the Island Peace Committee, which is part of the coalition, opponents are fighting Litton on several grounds.

"Many of us were quite concerned with the social implications of the arms race. As well Litton is well-known for attacking the popular movement in Central America, and has a long history of anti-union activities," he said.

"All these things told us there was a great deal of misinformation being presented and that the people living here should know about it," he said. A Litton plant in Toronto produces guidance systems for the U.S. cruise missile.

Johnstone said locating the plant in P.E.I. or another economically depressed area amounts to "economic blackmail." It's either these projects and militarism, or high unemploy-

ment," he said.

While the provincial government won't disclose how much money it's giving Litton as an incentive to located on the Island, Johnstone says the money could be put to better use in traditional industries such as agriculture or the fishery. The government has said about 350 direct jobs and as many as 500 indirect jobs will be created if the plant is built here.

According to University of P.E.I. education professor Claudia Mitchell, who organised a group of students and academics to debate the issue, a Litton plant would destroy the pastoral lifestyle on the Island.

"It's really difficult to fathom what it's like having a company that large coming to a province this small. Litton's budget of

expenditures is 15 times as great as P.E.I.'s," she said.

Although the government has said the company will not have much influence in Island politics, Mitchell said "how much say they would have in running things is

very much in dispute."

Johnstone said the protest won't die if Litton wins the contract. "This issue has had more debate on this Island than had any other in decades," he said.

Wanted: Poets

University students have been bashed about submitting their poems for possible publication in a national poetry contest. Fame Canada Enterprises president Al Forrest said today.

"Quite frankly I had anticipated that more than half our finalists would be university students because I know they are producing a great deal of quality poetry," he said.

"But so far there have been only a handful of entries from the campus."

Fame Canada Enterprises will publish the 45 best poems received and will award a total of \$4,300 in cash prizes, including \$1,000 for the best entry. There is a \$10 entry fee for each poem submitted.

The event is called Poetry 86 and is open to amateur poets only.

The judge will be noted Canadian poet Susan Musgrave.

Forrest said the aim of the competition is to discover and promote new Canadian poets.

Biographic details of the 45 finalists will be included in the book, along with a discussion of some of the other major runner-up poems. Everyone who enters the contest will be acknowledged in the book, which will be published before Christmas.

"We are determined to make this poetry book into a national best-seller, which would be a major achievement and a boost for the newly-discovered writers," said Forrest, who is the author of the futuristic novel, Pill 2000.

Entries are to be typewritten on one page and sent to: Poetry 86, 611 Superior St., Victoria, B.C., V8Y 1V1. Two copies of each entry should be sent with name, address, and phone number in upper right corner of the page.

For further information phone Denise at 604-385-1811.

Hungry to save Katimavik

By Donnar Mayer

of Canadian University Press

OTTAWA (CUP) — Only four days after Senator Jacques Hebert began a hunger strike to protest the federal government's indifference to youth, 27 young people in Ottawa staged their own day-long hunger strike in support of the Katimavik founder.

"Youth have to start carrying the ball or else nothing is going to happen," said University of Ottawa student Ingrid Liepa, 19.

The young people at the 24 hour fast have taken "Building Youth's Future" as their slogan painted on a huge banner at their Carleton University booth and plan numerous tactics to bring the government's attention to the "plight of youth."

"Katimavik is the issue but not the cause," said Liepa.

The \$20 million youth volunteer programme was cut by the federal government in January. Reports from the Senate Committee on Youth and the New Democratic Task Force on Youth came down a week before the Feb. 26 federal budget and described a very dismal picture of Canadian youth. The budget's only specific mention of youth, however, was the elimination of Katimavik.

"People are really questioning

what the PC government is doing," Rick Farley, one of the fastest, said.

According to Farley, students and other young people are organizing similar demonstrations throughout Canada. "How fast this is spreading here and at campuses across the country is an indication of how concerned people are," he said.

Besides day-long hunger strikes and numerous petitions, plans to fill the House of Commons' gallery with young people when the Prime Minister is in attendance are underway, Farley said.

"By the time two or three weeks pass there will be so much youth support across the country the government will have to respond," he said.

The Ottawa group will present the Prime Minister with a mural size letter covered with dozens of handwritten messages from youth. Wrote one student, Perhaps you should pay less attention to corporate welfare and more to the welfare of Canada's youth."

The government has to restore youth's faith in it, Liepa stated. "Incorporating youth into policy making, without tokenism, and I stress that, is the kind of thing youth is looking for," she said.

Not all students are supportive

of Hebert however. Mount Allison University student Mark Sabada started a hunger strike last Wednesday to protest Hebert's method of protesting, which he described as "sleazy political manoeuvring." Sabada did not return CUP's phone calls.

Cunteers Sandy Debreuil, another Ottawa faster, "if it was Jacques Hebert alone it would be blackmail, if it can focus concerns of youth it is no longer blackmail."

In the meantime Hebert continues on his hunger strike and the support makes him feel wonderful, he said. "I am not doing this for nothing," he said. "The Prime Minister will not yield to me, but he will yield to the people."

The U.P.E.I. SU has become involved in supporting Hebert. The following telegram was sent to Hebert on Tuesday by the Student Union Council.

"The University of Prince Edward Island Student Union supports you in your campaign against cuts in youth programs."

"Katimavik has given direction to many members of our lost generation. Its loss is Canada's loss."

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