

Herring Protests get Physical in Souris

Protests heated up on the Souris wharf on Wednesday, with police having to physically move some protesters to let traffic through to the wharf. The protests were in response to New Brunswick Minister of Fisheries David Alward, who drove to Prince Edward Island on Wednesday to deliver supplies to the crew of the herring seiners in Souris after local businesses were refusing to sell supplies to the crew. Alward did not continue to Souris, after being convinced by police that it would likely spark a clash. It was an unusually tense moment at the wharf, where things have been relatively calm this fall in comparison to the clashes between fisherman and police last fall.

From the Archives...

World University Services Committee Holds Variety Show

UPEI's World University Services Committee held its first variety show at Dunlop Amphitheatre Wed., Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.

G. H. Bobb, an active member of this committee, says "it was pomp and pageantry and was a show with a difference." "The reason for the show

was that we are trying not only to bring some much-needed life to this campus, but are trying to lift ourselves financially by our bootstraps."

The 40¢ admission fee and all other proceeds will go towards WUSC's international program which has, as its main objective, the promo-

tion of international university solidarity and mutual services within and between universities on an international scale.

AFTER VIETNAM

THE CADRE

WHERE WILL DEMOCRACY STRIKE NEXT?

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You have been deceived. They have made promises and failed to fulfill them. You want dignity; they give you money. You want a future with hope; they give you despair. You must fight for a future with dignity.

Students Suggest Dissolution of Senate Poverty Committee

The Senate Committee on Poverty should dissolve itself and put its funds into community development, according to an unanticipated brief presented to the committee Thursday, Nov. 6, by a group of students from the University of Prince Edward Island.

The one-page brief asked that the poor be given the chance to "voice opinions on their home grounds," and said those attending the

committee's hearings were not the poor but the curious.

"The real experts on poverty are not here, but on the streets and in the poor communities," it said.

The brief, loudly applauded by an overflow crowd of students and other citizens in Confederation Centre, was not on the committee's agenda.

Committee chairman David

Croll finally agreed to let the students read the brief after they interjected questions into the committee's hearings, but Croll adjourned the afternoon sessions when the questioning became heated.

Croll remarked later that the students were just trying to "get some attention." But a student said later, "We are sick of talk. Why aren't they going out and meeting the people?"

Several weeks ago, a group of citizens and senators gathered at Confederation Centre to examine briefs concerning poverty on Prince Edward Island.

It was much like other meetings of its type. On one hand were the senators — self-assured, well-paid, secure in their tenure. On the other hand submitting briefs were the poverty "experts": the representatives of the government and welfare organizations, the citizens' groups, the private welfare agencies — middle-class, sophisticated, well-educated; the business and government elite who are used to being respected and consulted.

Everyone was well represented, it seemed, except the people for

whose benefit the meeting had been called: the day-by-day experts in poverty — P.E.I.'s rural and urban poor; the "little people" who are afraid to become involved because they feel they might lose the little they have.

Some students and a few isolated individuals from P.E.I.'s poverty ghettoes asked at the Senate Committee Meeting "Where are the poor?", and were politely ignored or rebuffed.

One of these poor contacted The Cadre. As a result we are able to examine poverty as the poor see it. Let's read what one of P.E.I.'s poor have to say about:

POVERTY in Prince Edward Island

BY A MEMBER OF THE POVERTY COMMUNITY

To all my friends in the poverty field, I am requesting that you stand up and be heard. I was informed, by many people, that I was biting the hand that feeds me and, if I made any public appearances or wrote up a public letter to the people of P.E.I., I would have the pins knocked from under me. I received a number of phone calls because I was involved with the Senate Committee hearing on Thursday, Nov. 4. I was told I would suffer the consequences if I stepped out of line. Well, I am not stepping out of line — I am stepping in line and I suggest that you do the same. By doing this, you will assist me and the students of UPEI to solve the problems of poverty in Prince Edward Island — not Biafra, or China, but Prince Edward Island.

If we do not have the opportunity to be heard and voice our opinions, then this is not a democracy. To have freedom of speech means just what it says, but if we have to sneak around and weigh each word before speaking then this is a dictatorship.

At a dinner, some members of the Government told the senators of their plan, whereby they would construct houses for the people of P.E.I. for \$10,000 and the people would pay \$50.00 per month for 30 years. The Government would hold the mortgage and at the end of 30 years the deed would be given to the tenant. Was the Government trying to impress the Committee? If not, they can start building me a house under this agreement. Let us take a long look at poverty and by doing so we can come to a conclusion without spending \$100,000; the amount granted to investigate this program.

I attended the Committee hearing at the Lecture Theatre on Thursday afternoon, and Senator Croll, along with the other Senators, knows who I am, and have nothing to hide. I asked the question: "Where are the Poor? don't blame the students of UPEI."

I also asked NewStart how many poor people they invited to these briefs. Why did I ask these questions? Let me explain:

In the first place, when do the representatives of the people become poor people? I know what it is like to be poor. I know what it's like to beg, and I mean beg, the Catholic Welfare for an order of groceries. Do any of the representatives know what it is like to go hungry, or watch and listen to children cry for food or milk; or be unable to attend Church because you haven't the clothes to wear? And, if you attended Church with your old clothes, you would not be able to occupy a seat because the "Family Compact" thought you were dirt under their feet and wouldn't wipe over to let you hear the word of God through the parish priest.

Does the Committee realize the cost of feeding and clothing seven members of a family for two years, when the husband received no allowances? Take our cost of living — I pay \$85 per month rent, \$40 per month for fuel, \$10 for electricity per month, \$6 per month for phone, Groceries: \$30 to \$35 per week for groceries. Add this up, and you will find that it amounts to \$266

per month. Can anyone on an allowance of \$150 meet these costs? This amount does not include drugs, clothes, repairs to the stove, washing machine, or broken windows. (the landlord does not replace broken windows)

Does the Committee know what it is like to eat beans and soup, a little hamburger, fish and weiners? (But this is only if you can afford these necessities.) I say the Committee does not. They instead understand T-Bone, Sirloin, round steak, and pork chops, not to mention turkeys, chickens, and roasts. If the Committee had the opportunity to live in the slums and move about life like poverty-stricken people, boy! Oh Boy! would we get action fast!

It was heart warming to know that some of the senators did agree with my theory on poverty: Take a member or two from each stricken area who knows poverty better than the senators themselves, and then train him to work with the so-called skilled, qualified person with the department. This is my intention and

goal. A member of the clergy stated at the reception that this was a vicious circle, and the only cure was another Great Flood. This was an easy way out and showed that the clergy were even turning their backs because they didn't want to be involved.

I understood, by one of the briefs, that the maximum payment for welfare assistance was \$325 per month for a family whose size is similar to my own. I checked this after the meeting and found it to be true. How many get this amount?

I challenge the Fire Inspector, the Mayor, the Premier, and the clergymen who made the statement about the Great Flood to rent the Coliseum and invite the people to hear what is being done about poverty, and let our committee ask the questions. Let them bring the answers. But, I repeat, let myself and each member of the committee speak for ten minutes, maximum, to express his or her opinion and give a solution to poverty.



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