

LOCAL 3 REPORT

The take-over of Notre Dame University by the Provincial Government - an on-again-off-again possibility that has kept us all in a state of uncertainty for the past several years - finally happened on June 1, 1977. AUCE staff seem to be the only ones to have survived the change-over more or less in tact. Virtually all the faculty and administrators have had their jobs terminated. AUCE has suffered a number of lay-offs with the closure of the food services department, and probably faces more over the summer months because of the cancellation of summer session classes.

Being united in a common struggle for survival has resulted in a year of unprecedented labour/management harmony. There have been no grievances which were not solved at the committee level. The Anti-Inflation Board rolled back our 1976/77 negotiated settlement to 8%, but since we had been receiving only 8% there was nothing to pay back. When the future looked bleakest, a reasonably generous severance-pension agreement was negotiated which reflected the University's feeling of moral obligation toward the staff. Much of the internal harmony was due to the presence of Dr. Rowland Grant, as President of the University, affording us the unique (to us) opportunity of working with a president who was determined to do as much for the whole university community as possible - a great experience which we wish could happen to all AUCE locals.

The transfer to government ownership has created a number of new problems. Because it was a stand-off down to almost the last day (between the government and the Board of Governors, and between the government and the faculty union), legislation has not been passed to allow the new entity, David Thompson University Centre, to function as such. So for an interim ten months the campus is to be administered by Selkirk College, and we will likely be considered employees of Selkirk College for that period. This already has brought us into a confrontation with CUPE (who represents support staff at Selkirk) and could cause a real jurisdictional hassle. We expect to be starting contract negotiations with Selkirk within a few weeks, and will also be applying to the Labour Relations Board for an interim change in our certification.