

Dene

continued from p. 6

decision-making is not contentious. That means that consensus can be a powerful weapon to resist the efforts of the government and the oil companies to split people and create a new bureaucracy."

In building the new Nation on the grass roots up, these band councils would form the basis of local "government." They would have to be federated into a larger assembly to carry on the familiar legislative work of provinces within the context of Canadian confederation.

Canadian provinces enjoy more powers than do American states, especially in the field of resource control and management. A dene-oriented provincial government would have a large say over how the vast public lands of the North are developed.

This means ensuring that a larger measure of the profits go back into the communities and not down to southern Canada or the U.S. And it means ensuring that large projects are planned in harmony with Dene needs, to prevent, for instance, disruption of traditional migratory routes and feeding habits.

"The Dene tradition of the land is strongly communal, but that doesn't mean the Dene will be anti-development," says the Brotherhood staff member. "The Dene have the same problems as other Third World peoples. They are going to need outside, foreign investment to overcome the terrible deprivation that has been imposed on them."

Or, as one Dene put it in testimony before the pipeline commission: "We are saying that when developments do take place, and many already have, Indian people are entitled as owners of the land to receive revenues, or royalties. These

royalties would then be put to work to create community enterprises. That way we would create a long-term economic base under Indian control and native people would be free of dependence on the government and the developers to create jobs."

A considerable body of legal opinion is developing that the Dene province is a constitutional possibility, even if there are tetchy legal problems to be worked out—such as the status and citizenship of non-natives.

Ottawa is clearly playing for time. It's pushing white emigration to the North in hopes of making the Dene a minority, and it's giving northern Mountie units special training in the handling of "extremism" in case Wounded Knee style militancy began to take hold. (Threats of sabotage of the pipeline were made several times during the hearings.)

The main problem for the Dene now is whether they can capitalize on their undoubted moral and historical claim to the Mackenzie



Dene nation claims 10 percent of Canada.

Valley before the North is lost forever as a unique human habitat.

For more information on

the Dene struggle, contact the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, Box 2338, Yellowknife.

N.W.T. or the Canadian Association in Support of the Native Peoples, 251 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa, Ont.

October 14

continued from p. 14

bringing about joint social and economic planning by a council of business, government and labour, where, according to CLC statements, organized labour would act as an equal partner with business and government in decision-making on a national basis.

In essence, the manifesto was a protest against "unfair" wage controls, suggesting that the CLC bureaucrats would agree to a program of such controls if they were involved in making major economic decisions. Rigid, centralized state control of all important areas of economic and social planning was called for by the CLC. The CLC "tripartism" was actually approval for a new kind of economic system—"social corporatism"—which would allow capitalism to operate more efficiently, with the fullest co-operation between the representatives of labour and capital.

On forming this "partnership" with government and capital, the CLC brass intended to use October 14 to strengthen their executive control within the CLC, and to convince the government that they had the strong support of their members.

The response of the Canadian government to October 14 was hypocritical. Labour Minister John Munro spelled this out before the strike at first by suggesting that the protest would create economic instability by undermining the sanctity of collective agreements, and that the powers the CLC sought would undermine legislative authority.

A few days before the strike, Munro jumped the fence to side with the CLC executive and said he didn't want to see the Day of Protest flop because, if it was successful, "it would have a centralizing influence on the labour movement" and would help in discussions with the government.

The actual protest against wage controls was not the top priority with the CLC leadership. In fact, neither before nor after October 14 did the CLC ever provide any material support for unions fighting the ABE.

Since the protest, wage control guidelines have become more stringent, reduced to 0.6 per cent, with no active opposition from the CLC.

Many Canadian leftists had mixed feelings toward October 14, and participated with misgivings, realizing the sellout by the CLC leadership and critical of the economic demands. The strike, but conscious, too, of grievances of Canadian workers.

In an interview with the Open Road, Jim McFarlan, past president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, and an

active trade union militant agreed that the CLC leadership wanted to use October 14 to give them bargaining power to bring about tripartism.



"Accept no substitutes." Even the vanguard showed up on Oct. 14.

Anti-nuke

continued from p. 5

the ground in December, and trucks have been damaged to prevent work at the site. A list of 100 contractors for the plant is also being circulated as a target list for sabotage actions.

And at least several European countries, the anti-nuclear movement appears to be moving toward clandestine armed resistance. In France, a group calling itself "Commandos Resistant with Explosives the Self-Destruction of the Universe" did over \$5 million in damage with several simultaneous explosions at a uranium mine in Limoges on November 14th. And in Sweden, police found and defused a 50-pound dynamite bomb outside a nuclear reactor in Vargberg on November 28th. A communique claiming the action threatened to place the next device inside the facility unless the plant were shut down.

In the United States, the mass anti-nuclear resistance is just starting to heat up, with the most advanced and struggle taking place at Seabrook, N.H., the site of a

proposed twin-reactor generating station.

Opponents of the Seabrook plant had delayed the project for six years through legal and licensing challenges. But after the government juggernaut ignored a non-binding referendum in Seabrook last year that went against the project (768-to-332), it became clear that less polite measures were called for.

Regrouping as the Clamshell Alliance, the opposition staged a mass demonstration last August during which 18 people were arrested after they entered the site and attempted to plant trees and set up camp on the bulldozed

site. Three weeks later, during a rally of 1,000 people, another 179 entered the site and were arrested. A later rally was attended by 2,000 people, and further actions are planned around Mayday.

The government has had to backtrack somewhat on the project, and a few of the minor contractors have now pulled out, but the Clamshell Alliance still has its work cut out for it. The alliance is a New England wide coalition of about 30 groups, with a strong, Quaker-influenced inclination toward non-violence.

The member groups in the alliance have a great deal of autonomy, but all major

decisions must be okayed by the 15-member coordinating committee. The committee was criticized at a recent regional congress for its top-down leadership tendency, so it's possible there may be some changes to make the apparatus more directly democratic.

On the West Coast, the battle against a proposed reactor at Sedro Woolley, Washington, in Skagit County, near Seattle, promises to intensify in short order. Skagitians Concerned About Nuclear Power (SCANP) are at the court suit petition-demonstration level, but are considering more direct action tactics.

The Sedro Woolley site has international implications, as well, because it's located near an earthquake fault, and prevailing winds would carry air-borne debris over the Canadian border into the Vancouver, B.C. metropolitan area, less than 100 miles away.

A favoured tactic in many parts of the U.S. has been to place anti-nuclear initiatives on state ballots. The referendums generally call for stricter safety measures for power plants, safe storage of wastes and full liability by the nuclear industry for personal and property damage from nuclear accidents.

An initiative in California was defeated 2-to-1. Summer, and other lost in more states in the Fall. "New nuclear industry has been thrown on the defensive, however, and had to spend millions of dollars to combat the initiatives. Activists feel the effort has been worthwhile because of its educational about, and are now pushing referendums in several other states.

More information is available from the Clamshell Alliance, Box 162, Seabrook, N.H. 03874. Skagitians Concerned About Nuclear Power (SCANP), Box 137, Burlington, Washington 98233.

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