



BULLETIN EXPRESS

SPECIAL ON PEACE

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In its special issue on Peace, La Dépêche, bulletin of the Fédération Nationale des Communications (CSN), Vol. 5, No. 4, reported that Jean Doré candidate for mayor of Montreal, said, "the media has the capacity of "inspiring a desire for peace... I believe that the media has the responsibility of ensuring that public opinion does not become indifferent to the nature of war and its consequences for human beings."

It is a similar reflection but with special reference to our role as educators, that prompted last June's Federal Council to set up a peace and Education Committee with "the general mandate of promoting peace education among teachers and students in collaboration with the CSN."

While world annual military expenditures are now more than 900 billion dollars, and while Canada this year spent more than 10 billion on defense (30% of the federal discretionary budget is for the military) we are continually being told that one must cut costs in the social services and education.

These facts give rise to fundamental questions.

- Are we in a "war economy?"
- Can we really consider ourselves living in "peace" time?
- As there exist war studies why not peace studies?

These are some of the reflections that are motivating the work of the Peace and Education Committee.

The specific mandate of the committee is the writing of a special brochure on peace and disarmament as well as the convocation of an information session on peace education, the latter being part of the committee's activities which will oversee the use of the brochure.

PEACE EDUCATION BROCHURE

According to the wishes of the "Council", this is the major work of the committee. Publication is slated for January 1987.

The first draft will be presented for debate and discussion at the information session on peace and education (November 7 and 8, 1986). It will then be rewritten.

Briefly the brochure hopes to deal with the following issues: Why peace education? - What is peace education? - Where is peace research in relation to military research? - What are some concrete examples of peace education? - What about the questions of brainwashing, objectivity, values? How do we integrate peace education into our daily teaching in such areas as peace and applied science, technologies, social science, arts and letters?

OCTOBER 24th AND 25th

Efforts are being made by FNEEQ(CSN) along with the Federation des Enseignantes et enseignants de CEGEP (CEQ) to try and have October 24th officially recognized as a Day devoted to the theme of peace throughout the Quebec education system.

We are now working on a mini-brochure destined for use in class during this day.

Our objectives are:

- To help demystify the pseudo-peaceful nature of our epoch and of Canada's economy
- To widen the debate in class on current topics dealing with Canada's defense policy
- To help disseminate information on the ideas of peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts among students and employees
- To help us become aware of the conditions in which youth are being forced to study particularly with regard to government budget priorities.

Special information sheets are being prepared dealing with the above themes. They will give the principal facts, the major differing points of view, and questions to the students which can get them concerned, involved and active.

Some of the issues to be discussed are: Are we really living in peace time? - It's better to negotiate than fight! The pseudo debate over the F-18 maintenance contract. The Attikamek and Montagnais versus a proposed NATO base. Student youth compared to other youth. Canada's role on the international scene.

These information sheets should arrive at your local union during the first weeks of October. This "contribution" to peace education is also seen as a stimulus to participate in the activities and marches which are scheduled for October 25th - all under the theme "One F-18 for Peace"!

The information session (November 7th and 8th) will be held at the Centre St-Pierre Apôtre, 1212 Panet, Montréal. Some of the themes to be discussed are: a sum-up of our October 24 and 25 activities; what to put in the peace and education brochure; the role of the media with regard to war and peace; the issue of economic conversion as a factor in the development of our economy. There will be speakers from the Steelworkers and Communication federation and also an opportunity to exchange experiences on how to integrate peace studies into our courses, programmes, and institutions.

A detailed outline on the information session and how to register will soon be arriving at your local union.

An urgent objective is to try and set up a peace and education network. To help us, it would be useful if each union could establish a local committee and/or designate one person responsible. Contact your local executive if you are interested.

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