

Bombs or books?

Students returning to school this fall can be forgiven if they become distracted from their studies. After all, it's not easy keeping your mind on the books if you're having to scramble to find affordable housing.

And who can concentrate in class anyway when tuition increases have left you counting coins to cover an inflated grocery bill? Living costs this year have risen twice the level that student assistance has for such expenses.

It's difficult not to notice the mounting effects of the economic crunch in the classroom as well. Provincial government cutbacks have resulted in fewer teachers, fewer books, less equipment, and an overall decline in the quality of education.

One way to solve the financial crisis facing our educational system, and other social programs for that matter, would be for the federal government to curb its extravagant arms budget and transfer these large sums of money to the provinces.

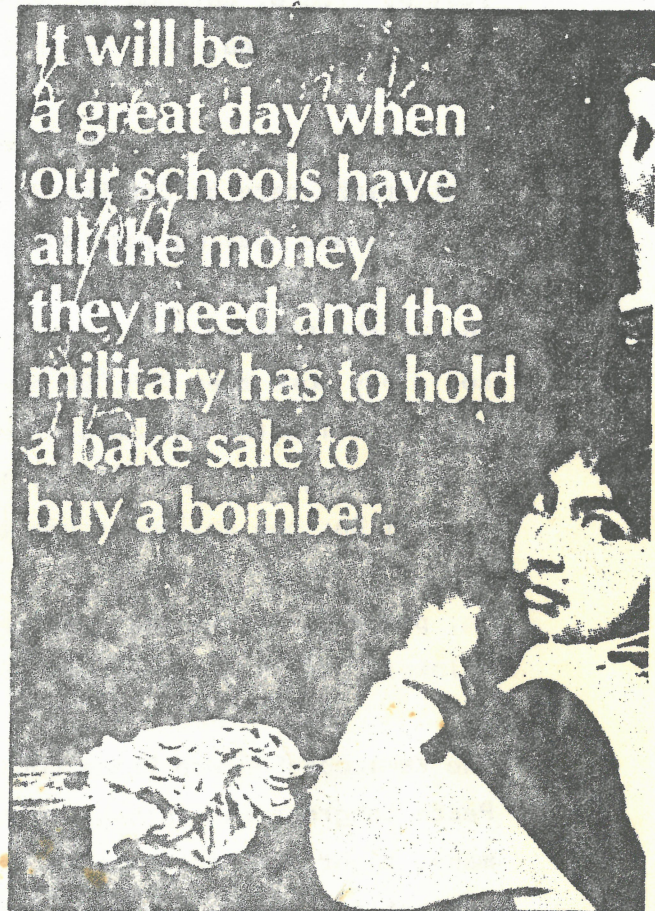
While we understand that under the British North America Act education was deemed a provincial matter; we see no violation of this constitutional arrangement if the federal government's increased role is strictly financial.

At present, Ottawa pays only 10 per cent of the total education costs. By way of contrast, for every dollar spent on arms the federal government spends a mere 25 cents on education. We find it totally unacceptable that while provincial governments are slashing budgets for schools, the military budget keeps escalating.

A transfer of funds would not only make more money available for needed services like education but it could also serve as a positive step for Canada toward disarmament and world peace. This year alone our defence spending will mean an over \$4 billion commitment to NATO and NORAD, a deal which benefits the arms manufacturers more than anyone else.

Canada's lengthy military shopping list includes such items as: 150 fighter aircraft (\$2.5 billion);

It will be
a great day when
our schools have
all the money
they need and the
military has to hold
a bake sale to
buy a bomber.



long-range patrol aircraft (\$1 billion); a major ship replacement program (\$3.5 billion); armored personnel carriers (\$350 million); and 128 tanks from West Germany (\$160 million). Money for any of these goodies could go a long way toward making the education system more accessible to students and provide them with more teachers, more books and more equipment.

Consider, for instance, the number of books that could be purchased for a school with the money it takes to equip one soldier. Similarly, just think how many teachers could be employed for the cost of one of those new-fangled tanks.

To us it's a simple choice. Which would benefit young Canadians more: bombs or books?



KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP PEACE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 973 Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1 372-8944

Students have a vital concern over preserving world peace. This is just as true at Cariboo College as it is at the big university campuses all across Canada, and for that matter, all around the World.

Just imagine what could be done with the money spent on weapons development--right here at Cariboo College. For example the cost of feeding, clothing and housing just one Canadian soldier would pay more than 80% of the annual salary for another instructor. Or, for the cost of just one of the Leopard tanks (which we'll buy from Germany) Cariboo College could buy more than 250,000 new titles for the library, in effect more than doubling the volume of the library. And one of our new fangled jets, each costing more than \$17 million, would more than cover the tuition costs for all Cariboo College students for the foreseeable future.

So, peace is not an abstract concept for philosophers and other heavy thinkers. It's a matter of life and death; dollars and cents for all of us.

The Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council is a new group, part of the Canadian Peace Congress and through them, The World Peace Council. We are not many, right now, in Kamloops, but together with our friends in more than 140 national peace organizations, we are the largest organized force in the world.

Our activities, as we hope this leaflet has demonstrated, are important to all of us, men and women, workers and students, housewives and unemployed. We want you to get involved in the fight for peace. It's your fight, no one else's. Contact the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council at P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, or by phoning 372-8944 to find out more of what we do, and more importantly, what you can do to help in the war against war.

"PEACE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!"