

THE OTTAWA Citizen

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1990

HAULED OFF THE HILL



—Ron Poling, CP

Under arrest: Reporters crowd around as RCMP officers arrest Parliament Hill protester Glen Kealey

Angry MPs fail to halt arrest of protesters

By Iain Hunter
Citizen national staff

The Mounties hauled off the two most prominent protesters on Parliament Hill Monday, ignoring two opposition MPs who tried to defend them.

The police were enforcing a new Public Works regulation made public last week that forces demonstrators to remain 50 metres away from entrances to the Parliament Buildings.

The arrests of Jesuit priest Tony Van Hee and Hull entrepreneur Glen Kealey attracted a mob of reporters, MPs and Parliament Hill employees.

Inside the Commons angry Liberal and New Democrat MPs accused the government of using police state tactics.

Kealey told police he wouldn't pay the proscribed fine of up to \$400 and intended to return to his regular place outside the Centre Block's west door today. Consequently, he was still in RCMP custody late Monday.

The arrest of Van Hee appears to violate

the Public Works policy, which states that the rules will only be enforced "in situations of undue noise or disturbance."

The Jesuit priest has been conducting a silent vigil on the Hill for 140 days to protest the proposed abortion laws.

Kealey, however, has been protesting what he calls government corruption for the past 15 months in a voice that can sometimes be heard off the Hill.

B.C. New Democrat Dave Barrett and Carleton-Gloucester Liberal MP Eugène Bellemare charged out of the Commons after hearing the RCMP were removing Van Hee.

They flanked Kealey and confronted the Mounties as they moved in on their second quarry.

"Leave him alone," Barrett shouted. "He (Kealey) is talking to us MPs and he's our guest."

"You're harassing us," Bellemare told the police. "Don't stand so near me: I'm a member of Parliament."

Finally, the Mounties placed Kealey in an

unmarked car. As he was taken away, Kealey shouted: "Ceausescu, Noriega, Mulroney. Two down, one to go."

Later, Liberal MP Don Boudria said he will test the regulation today by parading in front of Parliament wearing a sandwich-board.

"It'll say, 'Defeat the government' because that's what my job is," he said.

Government House Leader Harvie Andre said the Commons Board of Internal Economy, which includes opposition MPs, asked for the new regulations.

But NDP House Leader Nelson Riis argued the board only asked for specific demonstration areas to be set aside on the Hill.

On the board's instruction, Speaker John Fraser wrote to Public Works Minister Elmer McKay Dec. 1 suggesting the regulations be changed to prohibit demonstrations "except in areas specifically designated."

The 50-metre boundary first emerged in the regulations made public last week.

(With files from Canadian Press.)