

AUCE ANCHOR

association of university and college employees
local 2
May 1980 Vol.6 #2
simon fraser university



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Management Balks in Contract Talks . . .	1
The Birth of a Union	1
Write In	2
'Stay AUCE' Recommended	3
CLC Solidarity	3
SFU 18 Trials Over	3
Labour Focus	4
AUCE 2 Grievances	5
Opinion Piece	6
Know Your Contract	6
Moratorium No Solution	7

Management balks in contract talks

SFU STILL TALKING

Negotiation meetings with the other side are taking place twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Their side is Bill Yule, Tom King, Dr. Jack Blaney and Debbie Palliser.

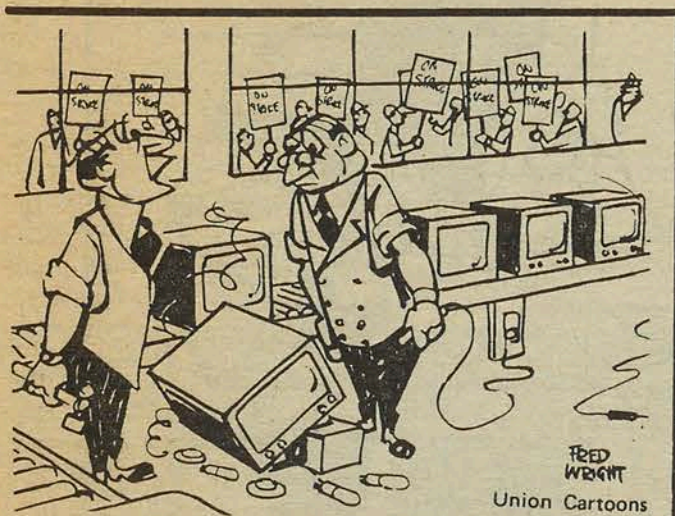
The general tone of the meetings is good.

We have reached tentative agreement (initialed subject to union ratification) on several articles: 25.03 a minor change clarifying the minimum overtime paid when continuous with workday; 25.12 clarification of compensating late next-day-starts when employee works six or more overtime hours the previous day; 34.09 allowing an employee their full vacation in any year of early retirement rather than just at age 65; 51.03 giving employees the benefit of WCB Wage Loss Compensation or Sick Leave Benefits whichever is greater.

Our money proposal, which as you know is 16%, a COLA of 1% for each 1% increase in the cost of living, a one year term and reduction of present wage step scale maximum from four to two years, has just been given them for study. They have had no time to respond as of yet. We expect their counter proposal soon.

There are several more non-monetary clauses to argue yet in this first round.

Daniel Say
for the AUCE Contract Committee



"Go tell them we'll negotiate!"

UBC ON STRIKE

AUCE 1's contract committee and the UBC administration met Saturday morning, May 17, in an attempt to resolve the two-week-old strike on campus. However, the university remained adamant in its refusal to meet the union's contract demands of a 15% wage increase over one year, and a number of non-monetary items including unpaid adoption leave, tuition waivers, and shift differentials of 5% and 10%.

The union pulled out workers in the university's administration building and computing centre at 3.30 p.m. on Friday, May 2nd after contract talks finally broke down. When, after almost a week of round-the-clock picket-

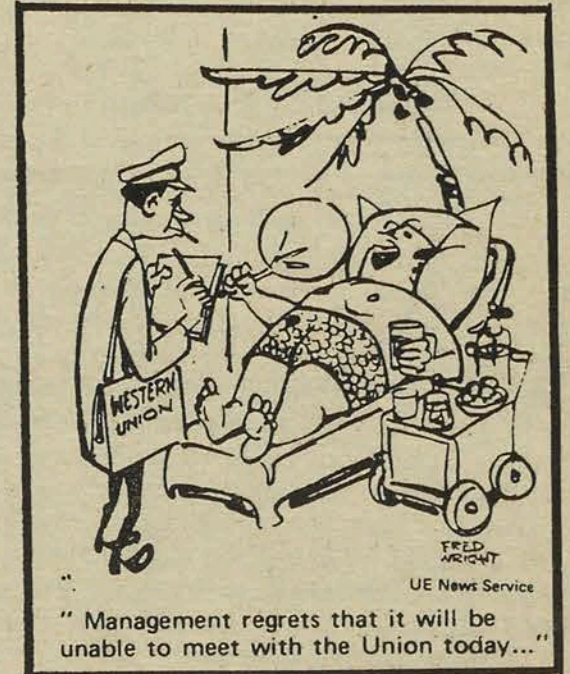
TSSU AT MEDIATION

The TSSU contract negotiating team and the SFU Administration are spending the entire week, May 12 to 16, trying to reach agreement in the presence of Provincial Mediator, R.J. Phillips. The mediation which is being conducted at the Union's request is a determined effort to conclude a first contract. The Union's attitude is that a first contract which must specify the entire range of relations with the employer is always difficult to conclude and they therefore understand that even when both parties are bargaining in good faith problems will arise between them because of the lack of history they share. However, given the presence of a skilled mediator, it should be possible to close the distance between the Union and the Administration. Failure of the Administration to use this process to do so would be a clear indication that they believe "God is on the side of the big battalions" and would push the membership towards other means of resolving the situation, including job action. Once again the future of SFU's academic environment and labour relations is in the hands of the Administration and the serious drop in enrolment and in university morale that followed their confrontation with Local 2 last year is evidence of what is at stake in these negotiations.

Among the outstanding issues that remain to be settled, one of the most important is that of a limitation on tutorial size which, up to this point, the Administration has refused even to discuss. Any movement by the Administration on this matter would be an unmistakable sign that they had chosen the path of negotiation rather than attempting to force a showdown or drag out talks in the hope the Union's support would be undermined.

ing, the university still refused to budge, staff in the Walter Gage residence, the campus' convention centre, joined the picketers, bringing the number of striking workers to approximately 200. The strikers are being maintained on full pay with monies obtained from the union's strike fund, supplemented with funds from a \$50,000 loan and levies on the remainder of AUCE 1's membership.

AUCE spokesperson Neil Boucher said last Thursday that if Saturday's meeting failed to bring the two sides close to a resolution of their differences, strike action would escalate immediately.



BIRTH OF A UNION

On Sunday, April 6, 1980 an historic event took place at the Carpenter's Hall in New Westminster. The Founding Convention of the first Canadian national union of workers employed in the agricultural and food industry declared itself the Canadian Farmworker's Union (CFU). The convention, conducted in Punjabi and English, unanimously ratified the CFU constitution and elected the national officers.

The CFU is the culmination of the efforts of the Farmworker's Organizing Committee (FWOC). The FWOC has been working for the past year to familiarize farmworkers with their need to join together to fight against oppressive employers and the lack of adequate legislation.

The aims of the FWOC are summarized in its brief presented to the Social Credit Minister of Labour, Jack Heinrich on February 28, 1980 concerning legislative recommendations on matters that affect farmworkers. This brief maintains that "the workers who provide B.C. with necessary food are often not able to buy adequate food for their own families." According to a May 2 article in the Vancouver Sun, Agriculture Minister Jim Hewitt said, "farm wages in B.C. are the highest in Canada, although he said that he is not sure whether they are high enough."

The brief also outlines the areas which must be addressed to alleviate the injustices faced by the 11,000 farmworkers of B.C. It describes the specific areas of concern as: wages, hours of work, the contracting system, child employment, workers compensation, health and safety, housing, termination of employment, maternity protection, and unemployment insurance.

The FWOC's brief anticipated two possible objections in its attempt to address 50 years of legislative neglect. Opponents to improving farm wages and working conditions maintain that these would have an inflationary effect on food prices and/or harm small farmers. To the first, the FWOC suggests that

Continued on page 6.



write in

This is your newspaper and we'd like to hear your responses to letters and articles published in THE ANCHOR. Letters, which must be signed, may be edited for brevity, never for content.

PLEASE WRITE IN!

WCB IGNORES HAZARDS

Below we reprint letters from AUCE 2 and the Provincial to the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C. Both refer to recently proposed changes to Schedule B of the WCB Act which, among other things, would exclude non-ionizing radiation from compensable sicknesses. This is the kind of radiation emitted by VDT's. Currently Schedule B says all radiation sickness is compensable. Both Local 2 and the Provincial received a brief reply from the WCB saying our presentations will be considered along with all others and that we will hear more later.

It is interesting to note a related issue here. The VDT machines at the legislature Press Gallery in Victoria were tested for radiation by the Ministry of Health in March after reporters expressed concern about the issue. According to Jan O'Brien of the Newspaper Guild, the Ministry tested for the wrong thing--ionizing instead of non-ionizing radiation. Management to date has refused to have the test redone properly.

effectively allow for input from interested parties. We look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

(Signed Star Rosenthal for the AUCE Provincial Executive, April 23, 1980)

Signed Star Rosenthal for
AUCE Provincial
April 23, 1980.

"On behalf of the 634 members of the Association of University and College Employees, Local 2 at Simon Fraser University, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the problems posed in the letter to you from the AUCE Provincial Executive (April 23, 1980/Star Rosenthal) and the redresses urgently requested by them.

Video display terminals present some very real hazards for their users which include "eyestrain, visual deterioration, headaches, fatigue, and back-aches. Stress is also a factor." (See enclosed reprint article from the AUCE ANCHOR, March 1980, page 11). We

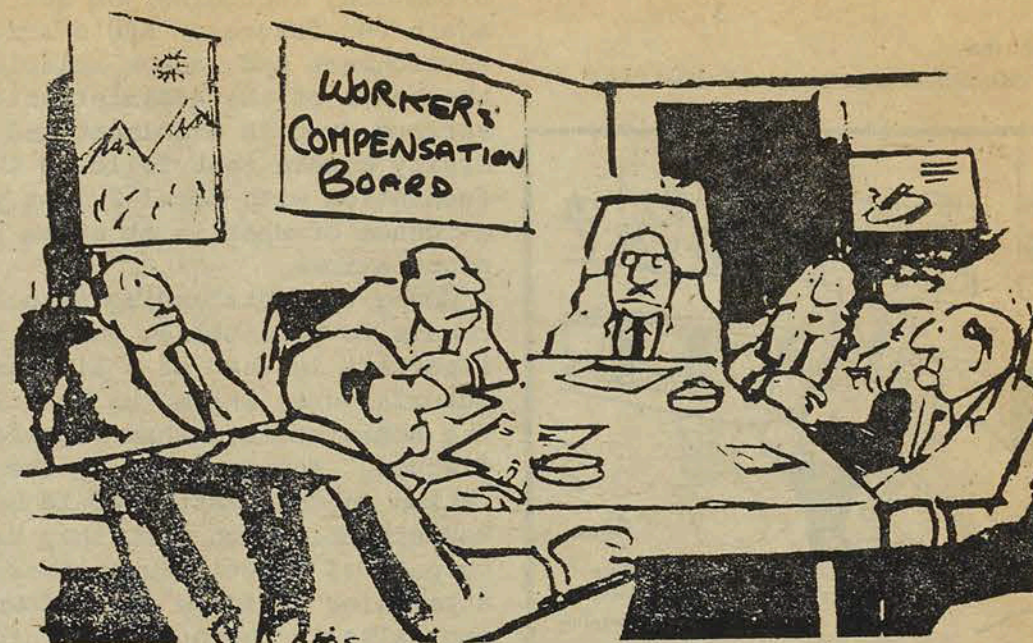
believe that the compensable conditions under your proposed changes to Schedule B of the Workers' Compensation Board Act should be reviewed.

The workers of AUCE 2 are extremely concerned about these problems and extremely concerned about your decision on such an early deadline of April 15th for written submissions. That you have decided not to hold public hearings on a matter that is of such grave importance to so many clerical and technical workers must have been an oversight on your part and one that I am sure you will correct.

Please inform me of your decision to address these problems and/or oversights as soon as possible. The health and well-being of many of our members are in the balance."

(Signed Kathryn Wellington, President, AUCE 2, April 30, 1980)

Signed Kathryn Wellington,
President, AUCE 2
April 30, 1980.



'First we have to convince the people that good health isn't everything.'

PLEASE VOTE

Brothers and Sisters,

The victory of the '79 strike (SFU) is now evident by the selective (Rotating) strike action now in progress at UBC. "Close the place down" in September could only lead to essential services legislation under education.

I would like to suggest some educational programs in AUCE. Whether we

affiliate (even only local 2) and take advantage of the B.C. Fed educational programs available.

The end of an era is now second wave or have we only become a staff association buddy-system? In closing I would also suggest that our union reps spend more time (paid-leave) being trained in labour-management and please vote. Thanks,

R. G. Anderman

R.G. Anderman
Duplicating, M2

'Stay AUCE' recommended — But delegates disagree

AUCE's special provincial convention on affiliation in April recommended that AUCE remain intact and lobby to affiliate to the CLC as AUCE. The recommendations will accompany the referendum ballot(s) and read in full:

"Be it resolved that AUCE Convention's recommendation to the AUCE membership which will be sent out with a referendum ballot which will include a variety of options, be that AUCE remain constitutionally intact with its current decision-making structure." (Passed 31-8-1)

"Be it resolved that this convention of AUCE shall recommend to our membership that we shall work towards affiliation with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) intact as AUCE, and that this recommendation shall be sent out with the previously passed resolution #1." (Passed 27-10-0)

Minority positions, favouring a number of alternatives, have been published and distributed in a Provincial convention bulletin. These address: affiliating to a CLC union (general argumentation); affiliating intact as AUCE to the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU); merging with CUPE and thereby joining the CLC; and arguing that lobbying to join the CLC intact as AUCE is "futile".

The bulk of convention time was spent debating the form of the referendum ballot. The four-part ballot initially proposed by the Provincial Executive passed in a vote of 22-14-0.

Several different ballots were proposed. A one-part ballot, otherwise little different from the Provincial Executive's, initially passed but was ruled out of order due to a technicality (it lacked a space for abstentions). After much procedural confusion this ballot was defeated in a subsequent vote. Then all proposed ballots were ruled out of order because of the same technicality. The ballots were later

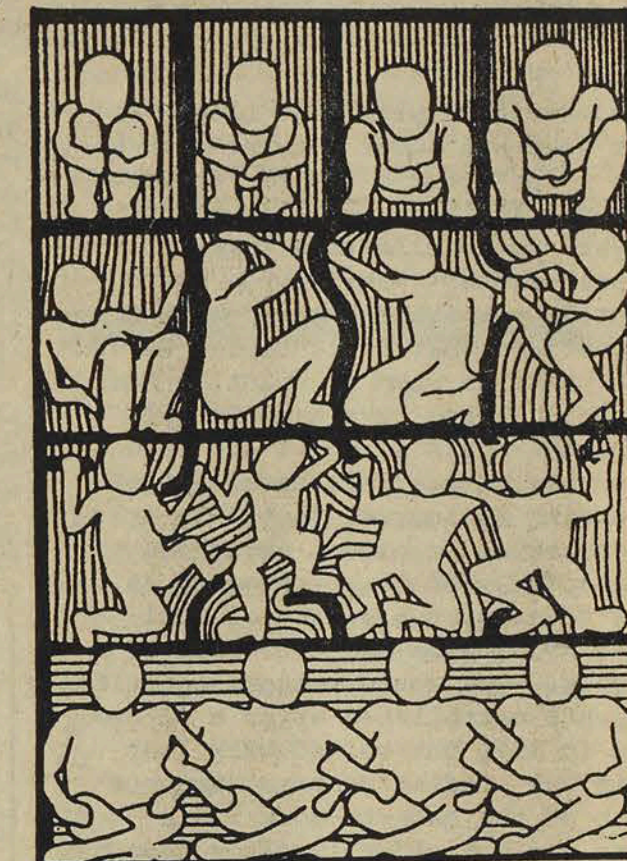
reintroduced, with the Provincial Executive's discussed first and passed. One result was that two of the four proposed ballots, including Local 2's, were not directly debated. Procedures to avoid this problem were earlier proposed but required a unanimous vote to suspend regular rules of order. The motion was defeated by one vote against and two abstentions.

The main differences among delegates on the form of the ballot focussed on whether to have one or several ballots and the nature of the first question.

Proponents of the four-part ballot argued "that having up to four questions on one ballot could be confusing and, besides, since questions appearing later on the ballot depended on how earlier questions were resolved, the whole thing becomes more of an opinion poll than a referendum." (Provincial Bulletin, p. 4). Opponents to this were concerned about needless expense and the possibility that members would lose interest before the fourth ballot was reached.

A number of delegates, mainly some from Locals 2 and 6, argued that since the last AUCE convention mandated an affiliation committee to investigate ways of joining the CLC, the first question on a ballot should be whether to join that body. Other delegates held the first question should be generally whether any kind of affiliation to any labour body should occur. Proponents of the latter position argued that despite the last convention's mandate, affiliation investigation covered more than just the CLC--in particular the CCU and SORWUC.

Ballots, which were sent out the week of May 5, will be counted local by local as well as Provincially, with both results announced. Results of the first ballot should be known by May 21.



SFU 18 Trials Over

Each of the SFU 18 was charged with both obstructing a highway and obstructing a police officer. The police obstruction charges were all dropped, stayed, or the defendants acquitted. On the highway charge, three defendants were convicted and fined \$250, six were given conditional discharges and the other nine were acquitted or had their charges dropped or stayed. The picketers beat 27 of the original 36 charges.

In a letter requesting financial support from all BC Federation of Labour affiliates, Dave MacIntyre, BC Fed Secretary-Treasurer, said that the trials represented a "direct threat to the right of working people to establish and maintain effective picket lines." The defence campaign has raised approximately \$20,000 and more than \$5,000 is still outstanding.

a call on government for publicly funded and accessible daycare; and, denouncing RCMP involvement in labour and opposition to any collaboration with the RCMP by the labour movement.

The general impression of the convention by several delegates was the success with which growing opposition forces worked together to present a show of strength in criticizing McDermott and the CLC bureaucracy. This was a distinct improvement over the lack of criticism at the 1978 convention.

CLC Solidarity

Major issues at the recent 1980 CLC Convention in Winnipeg were: union democracy, defending the right to strike, unconditional support for CUPE, and a growing, united opposition to McDermott and the CLC bureaucracy.

The struggle to maintain union democracy was waged over a resolution on proportional voting. The CLC leaders argued that all unions, regardless of size, should have one delegate only, citing the need to cut convention attendance and costs. This resolution needed a 2/3 majority but barely received 50%. At the 1978 convention, virtually the same proposal lost by only 50 votes.

The strength of the opposition to McDermott and the CLC executive was impressive in two areas. Unconditional, no-strings-attached support was given

CUPE by McDermott who was forced to backtrack on his position on CUPE. The convention also supported a resolution on the right to strike, whether or not it is labelled "legal" by the courts or initiated from inside or outside the labour movement.

A tripartism proposal linking unions to unhealthy alliances with employers and government passed but a resolution addressing the questions of layoffs by nationalization of industry received heated debate before passing. Given the examples of the layoffs in Air Canada and the CNR, some delegates saw no benefit in supporting it.

Other resolutions from this convention included: affirmation and clarification of support for Quebec's right to self-determination; a firm position against sexual harassment;

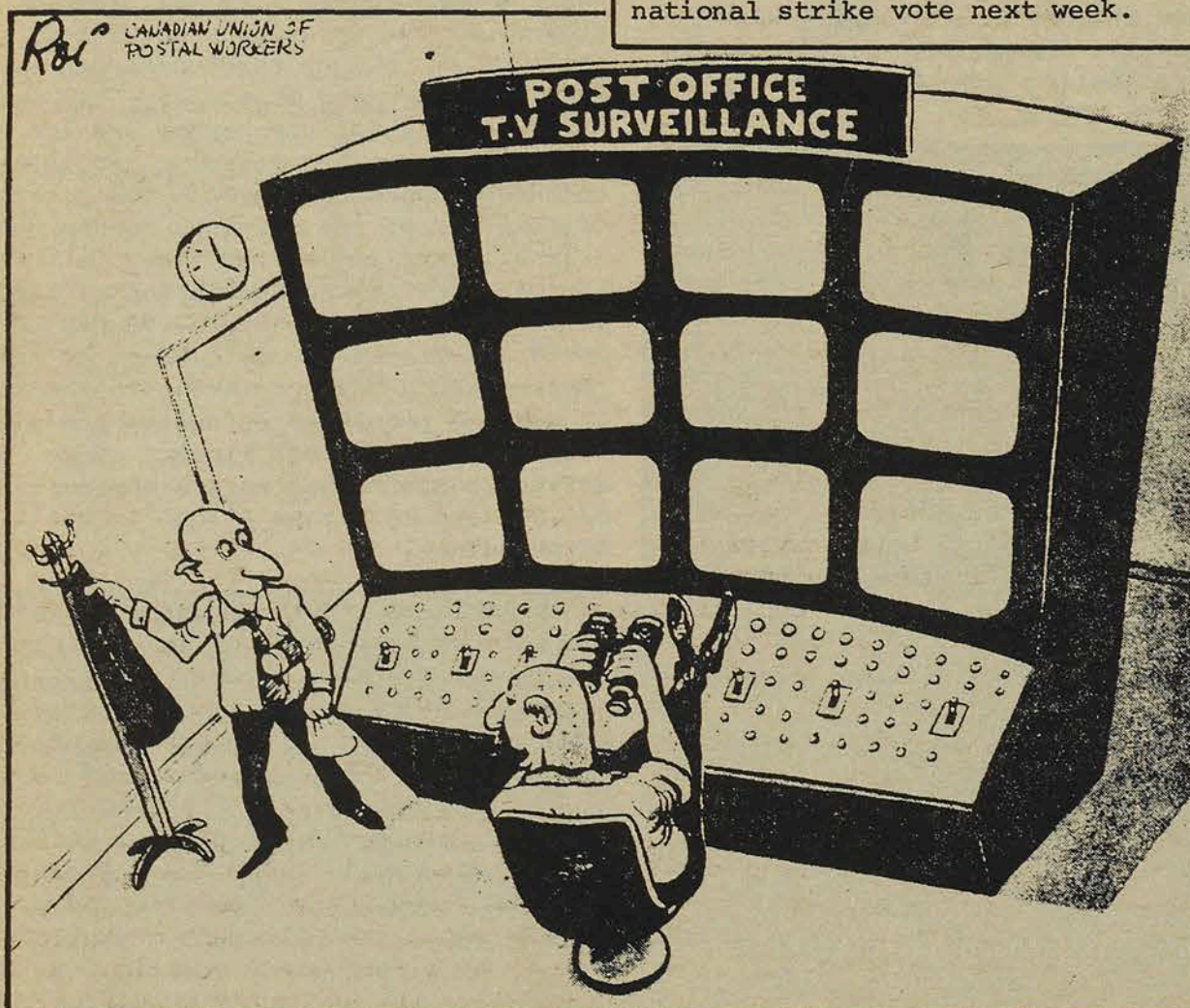
Labour Focus

POSTAL WORKERS PREPARE FOR STRIKE

Vancouver CUPW president Lloyd Ingram says his local "has no choice but to prepare for a strike 'in view of the intransigent position of the employer' in conciliation talks". The three-member conciliation board, appointed when talks broke down after four meetings last fall, called an end to the hearings when no solution could be found. Ingram says members will vote on the board's report and take a strike vote before initiating action. According to Ingram, "not only are they saying no to almost every one of our demands...but they are going as far as to suggest a series of roll-backs". The union has two types of proposals. One would restore benefits and rights established after a 42-day strike in 1975 but rolled back last year in the binding contract imposed as part of the back-to-work legislation, and the other involves demands that have been denied by the government employer in past negotiations, the main one being greater protection of workers from the impact of automating plants. The union seeks a wage increase, a shorter work week, improved working conditions, stronger job security and an end to work measurement of individuals. It wants a dental-optical-hearing plan, increased premiums on overtime, evening, night and weekend shifts, a bigger boot and glove allowance, a higher relocation bonus and faster payment of severance wages. Jean-Claude Parrot, national president, does not expect public sympathy for a strike by the postal workers but believes they're fed up and "public vengeance is turning away from postal workers and toward post office management".

He says his jail sentence for not complying with back-to-work government legislation ending a legal strike by postal workers in October 1978 "delayed justice for the postal workers but has not given justice to the public or improved postal service or stopped management from spending millions of dollars for nothing in their efforts to try to break the union". Parrot has said that "not one postal worker in this country will go back to work" if so ordered by the government in the impending postal strike. And the 2,700 delegates to the recent CLC convention voted unanimous support for CUPW. The CLC's president, Dennis McDermott, and his executive have been criticized for their lack of support of the striking postal workers in 1978.

The conciliation board has filed its report that 'favours' the union for the first time in its history, recommending increased financial benefits. A Vancouver Sun (May 16) report says "Jean-Claude Parrot described the chairman's report as 'an important victory' for the union because it recognizes postal workers' problems...He said the majority report is a 'minimum position' that could be included in the proposed one-year agreement..." The union appointee to the board has five reservations: electronic surveillance, health and welfare, maternity leave, vacations and shift differentials. The government conciliator filed a dissenting report, rejecting the recommendations and describing the main report as "an attempt to buy a temporary truce between the parties". In Vancouver, CUPW's regional spokesman Frank Walden said "it would be a great coup if we could settle without a strike and we are certainly trying to do so." CUPW is still going ahead with plans to conduct a national strike vote next week.



"THE CELL BLOCKS ARE EMPTY, THE WARDEN'S GIVING ONE OF HIS 'SAVE THE PRISON' LECTURES!"

NURSES MOVE TO CATCH UP

Alberta's 6,600 nurses, on strike for nine days, have returned to work after signing a tentative agreement that gives them an average increase of 37.8 percent over two years. Seeking a 27 percent increase in a one-year contract the nurses, like CUPW and the Ferryworkers, defied a government back-to-work order. AUCE 2 sent the striking nurses a night letter supporting their defiance of the legislation.

Meanwhile in B.C., Registered Nurses in general hospitals have approved a new contract with an average wage increase of 44 percent over 27 months. The 12,500 RN's had earlier voted 98 percent in favour of strike action.

Delegates to the recent CLC convention in Winnipeg criticized BCGEU general secretary John Fryer for his public complaints that he was "disturbed at the magnitude of the nurses' settlement" which would "spark industrial relations chaos and probably lead to the reimposition of wage controls".

Similarly, Employers Council of B.C. president Bill Hamilton has criticized the settlement as "totally out of line" and that it "will raise the expectations of other workers".

(cont'd. p. 5)

WORKERS LOSE JOBS

Besides suffering real salary drops (3.2% between late 1977 and mid 1979) workers are facing spreading layoffs. Job security is of increasing importance in this period of rising unemployment. The CLC at its recent convention passed a number of resolutions (see CLC article, p. 3) attempting to deal with this problem. But meanwhile, unions, whose members suffer the consequences of job cuts, have difficulty convincing the public their wage and other demands are credible. A look at the facts shows wage demands not only have to cover workers while they have jobs, they have to allow enough to provide financial security against layoffs.

- the unemployment rate in B.C.'s logging camps, sawmills and plywood plants could reach 20% before the housing market picks up—more than 10,000 workers could be off the job in the next few months
- in Windsor, Ontario, Chrysler has laid off 3,700 employees indefinitely and placed another 4,500 employees on temporary layoff, Ford has laid off 2,700 and has told another 900 they will lose their jobs at the end of the year, and 7,000-8,000 suppliers and service workers have lost their jobs—the jobless total is close to 20,000
- 410 workers are to be laid off by June 1 as the Ocean Falls Corp. pulp mill closes
- 135 employees were thrown out of work, at least temporarily, as the Abbotsford poultry plant closed
- B.C. Telephone plans to replace hundreds of telephone operators with computers in Vernon, Williams Lake, Cranbrook, Nelson, Dawson Creek and Terrace, and staff in Kamloops and Nanaimo may be reduced by as much as a half

Changes

(NURSES cont'd. from p. 4)

And 2,700 B.C. government nurses have rejected by 90 percent an Industrial Inquiry Commissioner's non-binding compromise recommendation for a 25.5 percent wage increase over two years. The raise is based on an hourly wage parity principle between government and hospital workers. The government nurses claim that subtracting the extra three months of the hospital pact, then subtracting the additional 2 1/2 hours a week worked by the hospital nurses would result in government nurses being done out of seven percent in hourly wages.

Before requesting the IIC the nurses staged brief limited strikes for a 39 percent increase over 27 months to maintain comparability with hospital nurses.

AUCE 2 Grievances

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SEEKS LAST RESORT

After months of fruitless talks at the Labour/Management level, the Grievance Committee is considering arbitration proceedings to resolve three grievances concerning temporary seniority, harassment, and hiring procedures. Pending legal advice from AUCE 2's lawyer and membership approval, the Grievance Committee will take these issues to arbitration in an attempt to overcome the University's unyielding attitudes. In addition to protecting the individuals concerned, the move is necessary to preserve the integrity of the contract.

The first is a policy grievance regarding the accrual of seniority for temporary employees (Article 12.03(b) (ii)). The Union maintains that once qualified for the temporary seniority list, all time worked from the first day of employment before the qualifying period should be credited unless there has been a break between employment of more than six months. The University maintains that the first day of employment means the first day of the qualifying period and therefore any time worked before that would not be credited.

The second is a grievance alleging supervisory harassment regarding illness and job performance. The Union maintains that Articles 7.04(a) and (b), 35.03, and 35.07(a) have been violated. The University denies that harassment occurred.

The third is a grievance alleging violations of Articles 13.01(a) and 13.03. The Union maintains that of two internal applicants who had equal qualifications and ability, the University promoted the applicant who had less seniority. The University maintains that the successful applicant lacked one of the qualifications for the job.

RANK AND FILE SUPPORT QUEBECERS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE

AUCE Provincial joined more than 300 mainly rank and file members, the majority from public service unions at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, teachers and independent Canadian unions in placing a May Day ad in Quebec's newspapers. The ad defends Quebec's right to self-determination and reads:

"We use this International Workers' Day to send greetings of solidarity to the working people of Quebec. The undersigned are just a few of the many working people in English Canada who have taken the position that it is the right of the people of Quebec to determine their own political future. Other Canadians must recognize that right and accept the decisions flowing from the exercise of that right. Whether you decide to separate or whether you decide to stay in Confederation, we consider it is your right to choose."

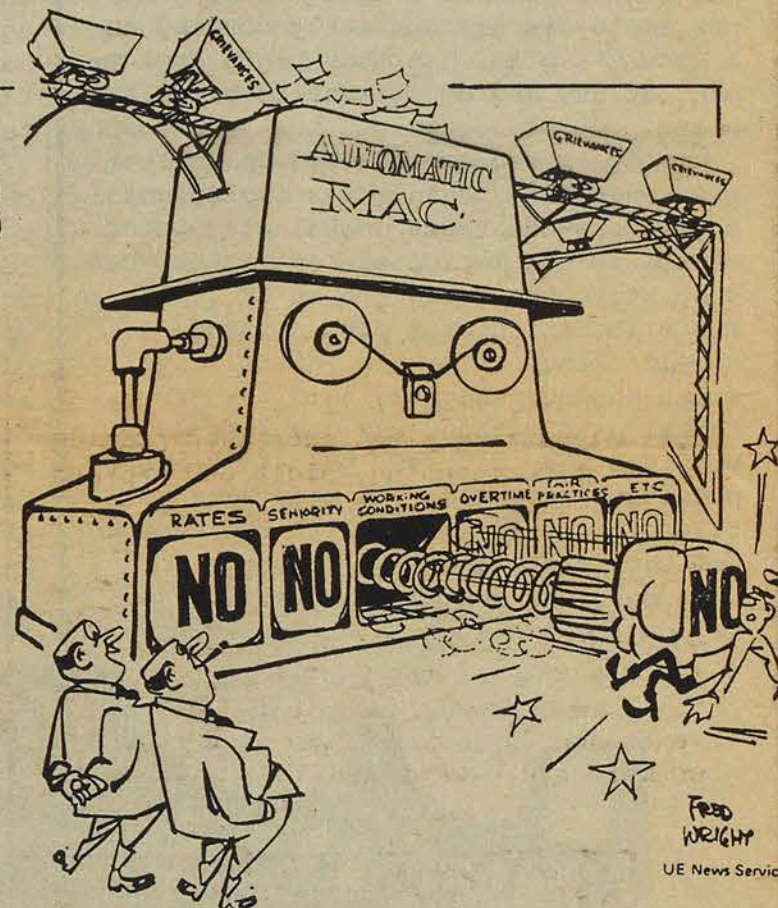
"As concerned Canadians we are aware of the need for change in our society

and we have different views on what should or could be done in this regard. However, we all share the belief that, if the people of Quebec remain with us in the federation of Canada to help bring about the necessary changes, that choice must be made by the Quebecois, democratically and without any threats or coercion from anyone else."

"Our recognition of Quebec as a nation, our respect for its culture and our belief in the rights of workers of all lands are entwined in this May Day message of solidarity and goodwill."

ADAMS WORKERS SIGN

Under a provincial mediator, Local 580 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union reached an agreement with Adams Laboratories in Surrey, ending a bitter 13 month strike. Twelve employees went out for a first contract on February 21, 1979.



"See how well our automatic grievance machinery works!"

PROPOSED LETTER OF AGREEMENT

The Labour Management Committee has drafted a proposed Letter of Agreement regarding the posting of a continuing position held by [redacted] who is unable to return to work for an indefinite period of time due to an injury.

The contract does not address the problem of how to fill the position of an injured or ill employee who cannot state when, if ever, they may be able to return to work. However, because Article 35.01 states that "No employee shall be terminated, laid off or lose seniority because of illness or injury", the employment status of the sick or injured worker is maintained.

Therefore, the proposed Letter of Agreement will allow the University to post [redacted]'s position but will guarantee the placement of [redacted] in the first vacant position for which she has the necessary qualifications and ability, should she be able to return to work.

GRANDFATHERS' CASE STILL UNRESOLVED

On March 28, the grandfathers' hearing was adjourned indefinitely following revealing testimony by one of the grandfathers that the University had colluded with them in initiating the Section 7 complaint against AUCE 2.

This complaint, filed with the LRB last spring, charged AUCE 2 with unfairly representing the grandfathers and demanded the \$11,638.77 assessed from them during the rotating strikes. Since December, the grandfathers have attempted to make their case through the testimony of management and summonsed union members. Until the afternoon of March 27, not one grandfather had appeared as a witness. Therefore, the Union's lawyer called, as his first witness, the spokesperson for the grandfathers.

C. Davis testified that George Stuart, Vice President Administration, and Bill Yule, Director of Personnel, had called a meeting of the grandfathers sometime after the 100% levy motion had passed and gave them a list of lawyers' names and offered to pay the levy should the grandfathers lose their case at the Board.

The next morning, both lawyers requested an indefinite adjournment to consider the fact that the 100% levy motion had been rescinded and to consider the complications of the University's involvement in this case.

SUMMONSED WITNESSES

One victory arising from the grandfathers' case is that the Grievance Committee, after three months of discussions at Labour/Management, convinced the University to maintain the salaries of those employees who have been or might be summonsed by the LRB to testify in this case.

Know your contract

This is a new section of the ANCHOR which will be devoted to explaining different clauses of our collective agreement. It will deal particularly with clauses on which there have been requests for clarification. If you feel there are other clauses which need clarification, please let us know. This issue will deal with Article 51.02 - Dental Plan, section c) iii.

The clause reads as follows: "Full and part-time continuing employees may only apply for coverage after three (3) months continuous employment, and such application must be received before the end of the fifth month of continuous employment."

The area of concern relates to whether or not an employee may join the dental plan at a later time. Many new employees are currently covered on a spouse's plan when they begin employment at SFU and don't want to be on two plans.

Employees who are covered on another plan when they begin their employment should provide their dental plan information to the Personnel Department when they start their new job at SFU. If their (other) dental plan coverage should change after the initial five month period, they can join the SFU dental plan without any problems provided they can show that they were previously covered. If they have not filed this information with the Personnel Department and wish to apply for coverage, the dental plan carrier may reject the application or insist on a

dental examination before they will consider giving coverage. They ask for such examinations in order to avoid abuse of the plan.

If you have any further questions, contact Marion McAdam in Personnel at 4379.

Opinion

I wish to express my concern over the "tying of delegates hands" as was done by a motion passed at a General Membership meeting on April 10, 1980. That motion: 'Moved that AUCE 2 direct its delegates to the Convention to vote in block against the two Provincial Executive Resolutions so that discussion on affiliation can continue'. I feel that this was a very bad precedent and one we should guard against in the future.

I have two main objections to such a procedure. First of all it seems ridiculous to elect delegates on platforms or statements of position and then require them to vote in block against what may have been the very basis of their position. This certainly puts the delegates in an untenable position.

Second and even more serious an objection is the fact that they are sent as thinking, intelligent individuals who are to make decisions and vote on matters as they are brought up, discussed, amended and then voted on in a convention. Delegates are sent to conventions to participate in debate, exchange of ideas, and working out solutions to problems. If delegates are to be sent as block votes, all the debate at convention is pointless, because delegates have already been told not to pay any attention to it.

I saw the great danger of a motion such as the one passed on April 10th when I saw its effect on some of the delegates from local 2 to the Special Affiliation Convention. The second Resolution referred to in that motion was (1) moved from being the second resolution to be discussed to being the fourth, (2) amended to divide it into two separate parts for discussion and voting, (3) tabled till a 5th resolution had been discussed, (4) declared unconstitutional and dropped from the Agenda, (5) introduced as a new emergency resolution with changes (primarily changes to make it constitutional, and (6) brought back for discussion and then voted on 1 1/2 hours before the end of a two-day convention. The mover of the motion on April 10th had stated that, of course, delegates would not be held by the motion to vote in block if the resolutions were amended, yet even after all six things I list above had happened to that resolution, many delegates felt compelled by the motion to vote against this resolution. This shows to me the grave danger of any motion which prevents delegates from performing their duties to debate, consider and vote intelligently.

I can understand the membership having a concern such as the one expressed in this particular motion for a complete discussion of all sides of the affiliation issue. But that concern and other such concerns can be shown to the delegates in many other ways other than by a membership turning their delegates into robots.

Linda Millard

Linda Millard
Library



EAST INDIAN FARM WORKERS . . . slogan-chanting demonstrators march through fields in support of new union

Vancouver Sun photo

Birth

Continued from page 1

"labour costs amount to only 5-7% of the total retail cost of food" and that "the doubling of tomato pickers' wages would add only 2/3¢ per pound to the retail cost of tomatoes."

The FWOC brief quotes the US National Farmers Organization in its presentation to the US Congress in response to the second objection: "If cheap labour was not available to the corporate type farming operations, we believe the family type farmers could

compete on a more favourable basis with the corporate operators."

Bill Smalley represented the CLC and Don Garcia represented the BC Federation of Labour at the Founding Convention. Speaking to the 150 delegates and visitors, Garcia, 2nd Vice President of the BC Fed, reminded the audience of the struggles of farmworkers in Hawaii and California; emphasized the necessity to deal with the dangers of pesticides, especially for pregnant women and children; warned the new union of the "strange

events" which will ensue during the collective bargaining process; and encouraged the union members to vote for the NDP in order to bring about necessary and effective legislative changes. Garcia also officiated at the election of the National Executive and their swearing-in ceremony.

Raj Chouhan, the newly-elected National President, concluded the meeting on a positive note. He pledged that the CFU will "organize throughout Canada and become one of the largest unions in Canada".

Uranium mining: Moratorium no solution

The Provincial Government's seven-year moratorium on uranium mining in B.C., announced in February, put a halt to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Uranium Mining (the Bates Commission). While groups opposed to uranium mining welcomed the moratorium, many also questioned the motives behind it. The moratorium left incomplete the commission's planned public hearings on: environmental impact, public and worker health, social impact, ethical questions, jurisdiction, regulation and enforcement. Bates Commission members were permitted to receive submissions until April 15 and their final report is due at the end of October. But, as the Canadian Union News (March 1980) reported:

"It has been pointed out that by imposing the moratorium before the Bates commission completed its work, the Social Credit government has weakened whatever recommendations the commission might make--and also made it easier to reverse the moratorium in the future."

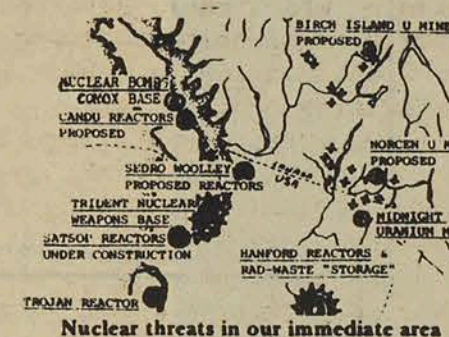
"It has also been speculated that uranium companies were worried about the effects of a progressive report from the Bates commission: even if the report didn't ban uranium mining, it was likely that stringent controls would have been mandated, which could have affected the companies' other operations."

Social Credit's moratorium on uranium mining, however, has not ended

concern regarding the issue. The Bates Commission provided a forum which united anti-nuclear groups including native Indians, environmentalists, churches, trade unions, medical associations, and so on. Most of these same groups and more marched together on April 26, International Day of Anti-Nuclear Protest. Close to 4,000 people marched in Vancouver to protest issues such as the nuclear arms race, the Trident base in Washington, plans to develop in Atlin, B.C., a molybdenum mine which would produce radioactive tailings, and so on. AUCE, as well as the B.C. Federation of Labour and the CCU, were among those endorsing the protest.

As pointed out at the rally, B.C.'s moratorium doesn't mean we can stop worrying about nuclear waste, war, etc. There remain in our own backyard nuclear projects already developed and posing threats to us all (see map.)

Below, we reprint excerpts from an article in the March issue of The Energy File, a local magazine on environmental issues. The article reports a number of submissions made to the Bates Commission by unions and medical experts. The comments below provide good reasons to continue opposing nuclear development:



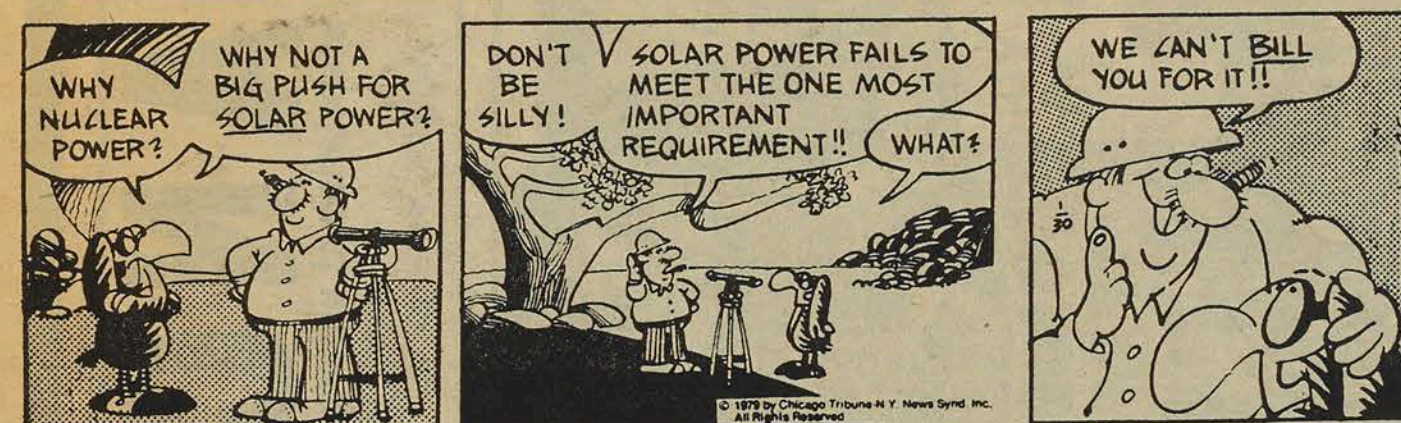
*** **

The Pulp and Paper Workers

*** **

The B.C. Medical Association

*** **



The B.C. Federation of Labour

*** **
Bruce Kanary and Camile Lemire

adapted from original cartoon by FRED WRIGHT, UE NEWS SERVICE

