

LOCAL INQUIRY REPORT

- Submitted by the sub-committee conducting the inquiry into local 4's proposed secession.

This subcommittee of the Provincial Executive has been given the task of conducting an inquiry into the issues surrounding the proposed secession of AUCE #4. The questionnaire sent to the members of that local was to have been the first step in that inquiry. Unfortunately, this effort has yielded little information on the afore-mentioned issues. There are two reasons for this:

- 1.) The executive of AUCE #4 objected to the overall tone and thrust, as well as some specific questions, of the questionnaire, and for these reasons, among others, exerted pressure on the membership to boycott the questionnaire.
- 2.) Only seven questionnaires have been returned to date. Of these, fully six were against the proposed secession. The members of that local are either monumentally indifferent to the secession issue, totally intimidated by the pro-secession faction on the local executive, or thoroughly hostile to the Provincial association (or all of the above, or none of the above!).

The subcommittee accepts some of the responsibility for this state of affairs- in particular, the questions asking the age and sex of the respondent are improper and should not have been included. Furthermore, there was some question of the status of Alan Dutton on the subcommittee. We simply forgot that he was a member of the subcommittee. In any case, it would have been difficult for Mr. Dutton to have been a full participant on the subcommittee, given his residence in Victoria and lack of a home phone.

The subcommittee feels that continuing the inquiry will serve no useful purpose. It is unlikely that any further attempts to elicit written responses from local 4 members will succeed. Given the time of year, the attitude of the local executive, and the insurmountable organizational problems it would entail, it is fruitless to conduct an inquiry via individual or group meetings with local 4 members.

Hence, it is our recommendation that the inquiry cease, and that the secession referendum take place in May. It is further recommended that the ballot include submissions pro- and con-secession. The recommended wording of the question to be put is: I am in favor of

- AUCE #4 continue^{ing} to be a local of AUCE.
- AUCE #4 ~~secede from~~ ^{ceasing to be a} local of AUCE.