

AUCE PROVINCIAL

18th May 1979

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers
950A Richards St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

RE: Rally Today at the Vancouver Courthouse

I am very sorry today to not be able to join you in the rally. However, Bill Burgess, a member of AUCE #6, the Teaching Support Staff Union at Simon Fraser University will speak on my behalf.

The Provincial Executive of the Association of University and College Employees extends their support of the struggle of CUPW. We have sent a telegramme to Prime Minister Trudeau demanding that all charges against Locals and individual members of CUPW be dropped. We deplore the way in which the Federal Government has handled the CUPW struggle and feel that this is only one exemple of repressive legislation that attempts to weaken public sector unions by abolishing the right to strike and by destroying the collective bargaining process.

We demanded of Mr. Trudeau that the attacks cease. His reply defended the government's tactic. He stated that the "...government shares the concerns of Canadians in general about the halting of mail delivery...", and as he continued, "...we are well aware of the serious consequences such a strike can impose on the nation's economic and social well-being". In response to the Prime Minister we can only say that as citizens of Canada, we are concerned that Public SEctor workers get a fair deal and that our rights as citizens are not further eroded by a government interested only in winning elections.

The recent strike at Simon Fraser University has made us even more determined to join CUPW in the re-affirmation of the right to free collective bargaining. The eighteen supporters and members of AUCE who were arrested on the picket line during a peaceful demonstration against the SFU administration, are being used, as is your Jean-Claude Parrot,

- 2 -

as scapegoats in the fight for better wages and working conditions. Well, the 18 and Jean-Claude are not alone, for we intend to remain right up front with all of you in this protest against unjust laws. At our upcoming Annual Convention this June, the delegates will be considering resolutions to further our support of your struggle. In short, we defend the right of all public sector workers' in job action, we demand an end to anti-labour legislation and we support the call for a repeal to Bill C-8.

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers who rallied with us at SFU; without your help we would never have made it this far.

From AUCE to CUPW: The Struggle Continues and Unity is Strength.

In Solidarity,

Sheila N.L. Perret
Secretary-Treasurer AUCE Provincial
On behalf of the Provincial Executive.