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November 14, 1985

To: Members of the Executive Council,
Ranking Officers, Representatives and
Local Unions of Affiliated Organizations,
Federations of Labour and Labour Councils,
Directly Chartered Local Unions

for exec.

Greetings:

Our campaign to win an historic first agreement for members of the Union of Bank Employees continues as some 250 employees at the Bank of Commerce Visa Centre in Toronto maintain their solidarity on the picket lines.

Initially approximately 200 workers employed in the credit authorization and billing section of the Visa operation commenced strike action in the absence of a reasonable contract offer from the Commerce in mid June.

They were joined on the picket line in late September by some 50 employees in the mailing room.

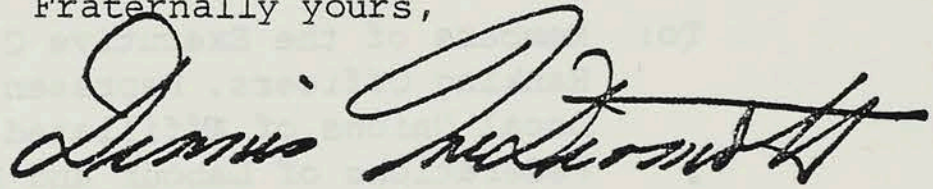
In earlier correspondence to you I indicated that we view the success of this campaign to be absolutely crucial to future organizing in the Canadian banking industry. That perspective remains unchanged and as the strike endures it is imperative that we undertake new initiatives to advance the cause of these strikers.

I have already urged you to undertake two campaigns, the first being a telephone campaign outlined in my letter of July 9th, the second being a withdrawal of funds from the Commerce as outlined in my letter of July 15th. I urge you to review the proposals contained in those two letters, and if you have not already done so, initiate action to comply with my requests.

On behalf of the Congress I am now requesting that you undertake a third program of action in support of the Visa strikers. As of this date we are initiating a Commerce Visa card cutting campaign. We are urging that all persons in possession of a Commerce Visa card indicate their support for the bank workers by cutting their card and forwarding it to this office. Further, please ensure that a letter indicating support for the bank workers and card cutting action taken is forwarded to R. Donald Fullerton, President, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Commerce Court, Toronto, Ontario M5L 1A2.

I urge you to give this request the widest possible circulation throughout your organization and that you act on the request as promptly as possible. Trusting we can count on your continued solidarity with these bank workers, I remain,

Fraternally yours,



Dennis McDermott
President

DMcD:cm

cc: CLC Headquarters and Field Staff