

February 9, 1977

To The Membership of AUCE Local #1:

(To be read at the General Membership Meeting
of February 10, 1977.)

On February 6, a letter written by President Elizabeth Winterford was sent to all Local #1 members. In this letter I will not deal with the circumstances surrounding the President's letter but rather, with a small portion of its contents. I trust that the questions of legality, ethics and propriety raised by the letter will be dealt with by other concerned AUCE members.

The final paragraph of Mrs. Winterford's letter makes a reference to "inflammatory statements in the Ubyyssey." Since the last references to AUCE in the Ubyyssey that can be interpreted in any ^{way as "inflammatory"} way as "inflammatory" occurred in articles dated January 18 and February 4, 1977 I can only assume she is referring to these.

The articles of January 18 and February 4 concerned, in large part the current sorry state of relations between the University Labour Committee and the AUCE Grievance Committee. The quotations in the articles of January 18 and February 4 dealing with the subject of the Grievance committee were attributed to me, Kevin Grace, Chairperson of the Grievance Committee. I should like to point out to Mrs. Winterford and to the membership that the quotations in the articles were taken either directly or indirectly from a press release authorized by the membership on January 13, 1977. This press release was approved by the membership one vote short of unanimously.

For Mrs. Winterford to claim that the press release of January 13 constitutes an action that is lacking in seriousness is an affront to the Grievance Committee and especially, to the membership, of Local #1. Her further statement castigating statements made to the Ubyyssey as "frivolous nonsense (sic)" indicates a grave lack of concern for the serious problems facing the Grievance Committee and our membership as a whole.

Furthermore, Mrs. Winterford has shown a distressing lack of courage and candor in these statements. Rather than dealing forthrightly with what she considers to be errors in the Unions dealings with the University she has instead substituted a campaign of innuendo and defamatory suggestion against the Grievance Committee and myself in particular. Aside from the other consequences of her actions she has broken with the tradition of unanimity within the ranks of the Union. The Employee Relations Department is, I am sure, delighted by an obviously thinly-veiled attack on a committee of the Union and on its Chairperson.

Shortly after her election as President, Mrs. Winterford commenced a policy of slandering the Grievance Committee and myself in particular. These defamatory statements have been made to many members, in particular most of the Contract Committee. At her first Grievance Committee meeting Mrs. Winterford embarrassed the people present by inferring that Grievance Committee members amused themselves by initiating specious grievances against the University. In a telephone conversation shortly after this meeting Mrs. Winterford requested twice that I resign as Chairperson. When I refused, she threatened by inference ~~st~~ that she would initiate disciplinary action against me, a threat she dropped the next day.

As Mrs. Winterford has grave doubts concerning the actions of the Grievance Committee and in particular my competence as Chairperson one would assume she would make her objections known to the Grievance Committee, the Executive or to the membership. Mrs. Winterford has refrained from any of these courses. Instead, she has resorted to the tactics I have described above. I find the current situation between the Grievance Committee and Mrs. Winterford, especially in light of her letter of February 6, to be intolerable. I would sincerely request that Mrs. Winterford adopt one of the following courses of action: 1) make her objections to the Grievance Committee and to me, known to the Grievance Committee and the membership.

I am perfectly willing to defend myself and the actions of the committee at any time 2) issue a formal apology to me and to the Grievance Committee or 3) resign from the office of President. I feel that one who aspires to the high office of AUCE President should have the sufficient integrity to deal ~~in~~ in a forthright manner with the membership.

I sincerely hope that this letter will make the facts apparent in this matter.

Your Truly,

Kevin Groce