

Those who participated in the recent job action — there were between 150 and 200 AUCE picketers — had two different sets of expectations. They were (not necessarily in this order): the defeat of anti-union legislation, and the defeat of the legislation effecting human rights, social services, and education. The settlement that was reached was much more satisfactory as regards the first issue than the second, but even there it fell considerably short of the expectations of most trade union members. Those who were at the Operation Solidarity meeting on Monday, Nov. 14 will witness to the combination of silence and indignation that greeted that settlement. Nevertheless, the gains on the trade union side of the issue are undeniable: total defeat of Bill 2, which would have deprived three enormous groups of government employees of almost all their bargaining rights and, if not defeated, would have set a grim pattern for the future; emasculation of Bill 3, in that model agreements on exemption from the bill were won by the BCGEU and by the teachers — this will aid other government employees in winning exemptions, which may have been very difficult for us without these precedents; and the promise of a consultative committee of government, labour and employers on any future changes to the Labour Code. The proposed changes to the Labour Code, by the way, were leaked some months ago. The form we have them in is 'Draft 34'. These changes would make certification more difficult, decertification easier, and would change the structure of the Labour Relations Board so that there could be no representation from labour, board members being appointed by the government.

As for settlement of the non-union issues, essentially there was none. Most of us felt let down, uninspired by vague promises of consultation. The Socreds had always claimed that they were open to consultation. On that same Monday night, the leaders of Operation Solidarity, Art Kube and Mike Kramer, were subjected to a scathing public grilling at a meeting of the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition. The press had a hay-day: the break-up of the Solidarity. But, in fact, at both the Operation Solidarity meeting, and at the Coalition meeting, there was a strong commitment made by both parties to continue to work together to fight for human rights, renters rights, maintenance of social services and quality of education. At the Coalition meeting there was passed a series of resolutions that included: that any consultation held as a result of the 'Kelowna settlement' be conducted by the Coalition if it concerned other than trade-union issues; that there be an education campaign through Operation Solidarity networks on the issues of human rights, tenant's rights, social services, health and education (a special concern of ours, and one that has not been properly addressed as regards post-secondary institutions); that there be stronger lines of accountability between Operation Solidarity and the Solidarity Coalition (a major criticism of the settlement was that the Coalition had never been consulted); that the participation of union locals in the Coalition be encouraged; that there be a one-day special conference of the Coalition; that the Coalition lobby the BC Fed convention; and that there be a demonstration during the week of that convention. In addition to this, the meeting approved a statement which expressed displeasure with the settlement, the lack of consultation with the Coalition, and called for greater solidarity in any future actions, or in any possible consultations with the government.

After that cathartic meeting (there were about 700 people there), the energy level in the Coalition dropped considerably as people recovered from their exhaustion, disappointment, etc. Both Operation Solidarity and the Coalition are now undergoing a process of rebuilding. A lot of energy was lost turning of the tap just when the water was starting to get hot. But the battle is far from over. Anyone who has been reading the papers this past week can see that. The leadership of Operation Solidarity has taken a lot of criticism at the BC Fed Convention. An action proposal put forward by them was defeated for being too soft, and they were sent back to the drawing board.

Meanwhile, the Coalition workshop last weekend was a small success. The proposals resulting will be brought to the next full meeting of the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition. That meeting will be on Monday, the 5th of December — unfortunately after the publication of this bulletin. A demonstration was held on Tuesday of this week in conjunction with the BC Fed convention. On DEC. 9 there will be a BENEFIT for the Coalition, put on by the Cultural Coalition, at the UKRAINIAN HALL on PENDER STREET. Phone the Ukrainian Hall to get the time.

ON DEC. 10, SATURDAY, THERE WILL BE A RALLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ORGANIZED BY THE IMSC AND THE BC HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION, FOLLOWED BY EVENTS AND DISPLAYS AT THE ROBSON SQUARE MEDIA CENTRE. ASSEMBLE AT NOON, BEHIND THE OLD COURTHOUSE. DEC. 10 IS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.







TO SHIRLEY AND CAROLE.....MY THOUGHTS ON THE MESS IN THE OFFICE

I have talked to a few people and found out that an AES word processor is probably our best bet as they are in most wide spread use on campus. The Alpha + model is recommended and costs about \$8000.00. If we had one the TAs would probably be interested in working out some arrangement with us to use it .....the same as using our xerox. Mike is investigating getting a tie in to the University's computer system because they use it like a word processor....two problems with their present arrangement.....he has to go to the computing centre to do the work and some times of the year it is hard to get through all the students to a terminal. It would probably cost about \$10,000 to get a line put in to be hooked up. However a phone hook up wouldn't cost much and a terminal would cost around \$2500.....then there is the question of security and access in case of a strike. If we had a word processor we could eliminate the scriptomatic (costs us about 150 dollars/month). The word processor would be a god send during negotiations for amending proposals, etc. Also would give us much better control over mailing lists, membership lists. However, we'd still have the problems of mountains of appointment notices. The only improvement on all of that paperwork that I see now would be to tie into the University's system when they have everything automated.

w We could propose hiring a Rosemary position either full or part time but without a dues increase we couldn't have another body and a Word processor. This is assuming we will no longer have as much money going to Provincial. Another body may not be necessary if we get out of the stone age and stop doing so much paperwork manually....that is at this point I'm leaning toward buying a word processor as the most efficient use of the money. If we want to be more humanist and do our bit to reduce unemployment then I guess creating another position is the answer.

The other thing I have investigated is having the monthly financial statements prepared by the auditor. Their quote for doing that is \$200/month. If I spent five hours a week doing the financial statements it would cost more than \$200. Lymer estimates it took her roughly 14 hours/month to balance the books and do the statement. I have never been able to do it that quickly, I might if I ever got a chance to get going on it. When Cobie was Treasurer (1978?) she tried to get the Executive to let her do send the books out but they wouldn't even let her investigate the costs. Figuring it took me 15 hrs/month it would cost \$160.35 as compared to \$200 for the auditors. The other thing to consider is that our year end audit would be much simpler as essentially they would be doing the audit month by month. Wendy handed over the books in very good shape and the audit cost \$1180.

It seems to me we should be trying to reduce some of the shit work so we can get on with the more important servicing of the membership. Easily said but how on earth to do it.

- +contract out the financial statements (perhaps there is someone in the membership who would do it for less than \$200/mon. but then we'd still have the huge auditors bill at year end)
- +get a word processor which would cut down on typing of form letters, revising contract proposals, by-laws, membership list info. and probably a lot of other paperwork as we got into it.