

WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH!

A.U.C.E. Local #1 (UBC) applied for certification to the Labor Relations Board on December 14, 1973, almost 3½ months ago! As of Tuesday, March 26, the A.U.C.E. application was still not on the LRB agenda, though we have been promised it will be discussed sometime this week.

We are asking the Board to take immediate action on our application. The letter below has been sent to Premier Barrett as a telegram, and released to the press.

We urge all A.U.C.E. members at UBC to write or call their MIAs and to write letters to the editors of newspapers to inform them of the urgency of the A.U.C.E. application. We're tired of waiting and we want action now.

LETTER TO PREMIER BARRETT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF A.U.C.E. LOCAL 1

Dear Premier Barrett,

Because you have expressed sympathy for the unionization of unorganized workers, we would ask you to investigate the procedures of the Labor Relations Board which seem to us to be playing into the hands of anti-union employers and causing unnecessary difficulties for organizing workers.

The majority of clerical and library workers at UBC joined the Association of University and College Employees last fall, and we applied for certification on December 14, 1973. On Webster's program, March 6, you referred to the fact that university clerical staff are not organized. You probably were not aware of the fact that the reason UBC staff are not unionized is that the Labor Relations Board has not yet acted on our application. In fact, it is not yet on their agenda.

This is causing unnecessary hardship for many of our members. Pay increases which are normally automatic on completion of six months' probation, have been withheld since Dec. 14 when we applied for certification. The University administration refuses to discuss this and other grievances with us because we are not yet certified.

The long delays mean that A.U.C.E. must maintain a perpetual membership drive. Turnover among UBC's clerical staff is high - 53% last year - like most unorganized places where wages and working conditions are poor. It is hard to maintain enthusiasm among our members when we are still unable to negotiate improvements, or to represent members who have grievances.

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We cannot understand the reason for these delays. We are told that the bargaining unit is "large and complex". Yet the Board took less than a month to decide on an application for COMINCO, a bargaining unit of almost 4,000 spread over three towns. Either the decision on Trail was made hastily, or our application is being delayed without justification.

We were also told that the amendment we made contributed to the delay. But the amendment was simply a clarification. The UBC administration accused us of raiding other unions and the Board went along with their interpretation, although our original application said quite clearly that we were not applying for any employees who were covered by a collective agreement.

The practice of the LRB appears to be in contradiction to your government's policy of making it easier to unionize than it was under the previous government. This is a serious problem for unorganized workers. We would ask you to give it your personal attention.

The Executive, Local #1, A.U.C.E.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

A.U.C.E. is now preparing contract proposals for negotiations with the UBC administration which could begin immediately upon certification. If you would like to participate, you can still join. Send the form below to:

A.U.C.E.
Box 11, SUB
UBC

- I would like to join A.U.C.E.
 I would like more information on A.U.C.E.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ DEPARTMENT _____

JOB CLASSIFICATION _____

(all replies in strictest confidence)