

RALLY IN SUPPORT OF A.U.C.E.

Where? VANCOUVER COURTHOUSE

When? Saturday April 7th 12:00 noon

The Association of University and College Employees is currently on strike at Simon Fraser University for its third contract. We have been in negotiations since June 1978. The only item in dispute at this time is 3% in the last 4 months of a two year contract. The university is offering 6% over two years. We are asking for a 9% increase. 3% of our salaries over 4 months is \$76,000. The university saves \$30,000 in unpaid salaries every day of our strike.

Government policy relating to wages in the public sector has had a detrimental effect on our negotiations. The S.F.U. administration is using quotes from Premier Bennett and his minister of finance to justify its low wage offer. For example: 'Governments should not establish pay levels that the private sector cannot afford.' This is a direct attack on our bargaining rights. It is also a direct and immediate threat to all public sector workers.

Last week S.F.U. president Dr. Pederson and Vice-Presidents Drs. Birch and Brown requested that the university Board of Governors (B.O.G.) reconsider its stance by accepting unconditional binding arbitration as a means of settling the A.U.C.E. dispute. The B.O.G. refused. The Board has chosen to disregard the combined sentiments of visible widespread discontent evidenced by the members of the academic community, both remaining on campus and those still respecting the picket line.

This should come as no surprise. Three members of the B.O.G. are:

Bill Hamilton: president of the Employer's Council of B.C. (the major organization of corporate interests in the B.C. private sector - also known as the 'B.C. Bosses Club').
C.B. MacDonald: vice-chair of the Employer's Council of B.C.

Ian McGregor: current S.F.U. Strike Coordinator, working with a budget of \$200,000.

A.U.C.E. feels concern over the position taken by members of the B.O.G. in refusing contract settlement, a refusal contrary to the wishes of the university community itself. What stake, we wonder, does Bill Hamilton and the Employer's Council of B.C. have in the dispute at Simon Fraser University?

On Thursday, March 29 the Supreme Court of British Columbia issued an injunction limiting our picket line to ten people. Such a decision severely curtails our union's right to an effective picket line and a just and speedy settlement. Ten people to picket an institution the size of S.F.U. is simply ridiculous. Our employer refuses to bargain in good faith. When confronted with a legal picket line, the university's only response is intimidation through the courts.

When A.U.C.E. was certified, the lowest paid workers in the unit earned less than 5/8 of the monthly salary of the lowest paid workers in the polyparty trade unions on campus, despite the fact that these jobs in the polyparty are unskilled while the workers in our union have to have office skills. We argued very hard that the skill, effort and responsibility involved in clerical and library work be recognized. By the end of our first contract we had succeeded in bringing salaries of our lowest paid full-time workers to the level enjoyed by the predominately male workers in the other campus unions in 1974 - parity two years late.

The A.I.B. limited gains made in our next contract. We are now involved in the desparate struggle for our third contract.

The university administration is telling us - we are overpaid. The governments, federal and provincial, have introduced policies of establishing public service salaries by job comparability. This means that salaries for government workers are to be directly related to salaries for the same jobs in the private sector. This sounds fair at first hearing, but in the private sector - banks, insurance, industry - office workers are still mostly unorganized and have no access to collective bargaining. These policies mean that the wages of unionized office workers are to be determined by the salaries of non-unionized workers.

We are a union of workers who are traditionally underpaid in our society - it is our right to improve our standard of living. We demand free collective bargaining!

SUPPORT A.U.C.E.!
COME TO THE RALLY!