

April 7, 1982

Nancy Wiggs, President
Auce Provincial Executive
c/o Faculty of Law
Legal Clinic
University of British Columbia
2206 East Mall
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sister Wiggs:

Please be advised that Local #4 is protesting the Provincial Inquiry Questionnaire with regard to this Local's application for secession. The protest reads as follows:

"That the Provincial Executive has, by its distribution of the Inquiry Questionnaire, gone beyond its jurisdiction and is in violation of the Provincial Constitution of this Union."

The specific violations of the Constitution are as follows:

Section 2 (D) To maintain at all times the principles of local autonomy and democracy within this Provincial Association and its Local Associations.

Section 2 (H) To act as the voice for the membership on matters of Provincial or National scope, while recognising the need to preserve the autonomy of Locals and members in matters of Local concern.

Section 2 (I) To defend and extend full trade union rights for all workers.

Grounds in Support of Local #4's Protest

1. The Provincial Executive is, without cause, deliberately by-passing the elected representatives of the Local and communicating directly with its members thereby violating our members right to have and maintain a representative democracy.

.../2

2. The nature of the questionnaire, with respect to sex, age, etc. violates, insults, and attempts to discriminate members of Local #4.
3. The questionnaire raises allegations of Local #4 acting in violation of the Constitution (question 15 et al) and of intimidation of its members when no such complaint has been raised at the Local or Provincial level.

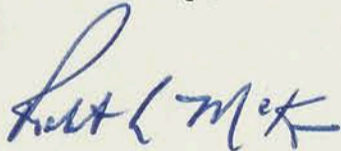
Remedies Sought

Local #4, by its application to secede, has not consented to waive its rights either under the Constitution or rights afforded to all members of society. Therefore we seek the following remedies:

1. That the President of Auce Provincial declare the Questionnaire improper and void.
2. That all communication to Local #4 members be placed through its Executive and that no members of Local #4 be contacted directly or indirectly without the express consent of the Local #4 Executive.
3. That the Provincial Executive accede the Local #4's request to secede and conduct a referendum vote as required by Section 6A by May 8th, 1982.

Notice of this protest has been distributed to our membership and Presidents of the other Auce Locals.

Yours truly,



R. McKee, President of Local #4

Enc.

cc. Executive Members
Stewards

CENTRAL STORES
COLLEGE

APR 5 4 23 PM '82

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE EMPLOYEES
INQUIRY INTO SECESSION
AUCE LOCAL 4

QUESTIONNAIRE

As you were informed in our recent letter to you, this questionnaire is being circulated as the first step of our inquiry into the petition to secede received from members of Local 4.

We are sure you will agree that the question of your Local's future is a serious one. Please give us your responses and your views on each point. Your answers will not only help us conduct our inquiry but will be an aid in evaluating AUCE and its organization.

Enclosed is a return addressed, stamped envelope. The completed questionnaires must be returned to the Provincial and:

MUST BE POST MARKED NO LATER THAN
Thursday, April 8, 1982

1. Why do you think your local wishes to secede from AUCE?

2. Are you: Male _____
Female _____

3. Please check your age group: under 20 _____
20 - 30 _____
30 - 40 _____
over 40 _____

4. How long have you been a member of AUCE? _____

5. Have you ever belonged to another union? Yes _____
No _____

If so, which ones? _____

6. What kind of work do you do at the College? _____

7. Please check the appropriate choice --

At present I am: laid off _____
on leave _____
regular full-time _____
temporary full-time _____
regular part-time _____
temporary part-time _____

I work: on campus _____
off campus _____

8. Have you ever held any office in AUCE Local 4: Yes _____
No _____

Do you plan to? Yes _____
No _____

9. Do you always get notices of membership meetings well in advance, contract proposals in time to consider them before meetings to discuss them, ballots and newsletters in timely fashion?

10. Have you attended local meetings where secession was discussed?

Yes _____

No _____

How many? _____

11. Were arguments presented on the advantages of staying in AUCE as well as on the advantages of leaving? Did you feel only one side was given fair time? Please comment.

12. Would you attend a meeting to hear other opinions?

Yes _____

No _____

13. Your elected Provincial Representatives have not attended a Provincial Executive meeting for many months.. It is our understand: that Local 4's Provincial Representatives have been expressly forbidden from attending Provincial Executive Meetings and also from

making reports to you at Local membership meetings. We are info that this decision was made not by the membership, but by the Executive of the Local. Do you feel that your Representatives which are elected not by the Executive but by you should have the right to attend meetings of the Provincial and to report to you on what goes on at those meetings unless you, the membership recall those Representatives? Do you feel that an Executive should be able to forbid membership-elected Representatives from fulfilling their duties of office as laid out in the by-laws and constitution. Please comment.

14. Have you ever felt that members of your Local were prevented (by intimidation or any other means) from expressing their opinion on agenda items, or from raising issues of concern at meetings?

15. Are all meetings of your Local -- be they membership or committee meetings -- open to all members of the Local as the Constitution demands (section 21 K 1)?

16. Are you aware that on occasion, members of your Local have been to leave meetings because issues to be discussed were "confidential" from them, in violation to the Constitution?

17. Yours is the only Local of AUCE which holds "in camera" (secret) meetings from which certain members are barred. How do you feel about this practice?

Do you feel that barring members from meetings prevents full democratic participation in your union? Should there be full rights participation by members of a union in the affairs of their union?

18. AUCE was set up as a feminist alternative to the more traditional "male-controlled" unions. Our aims and objectives include:
- organizing the unorganized -- especially women
 - speaking out publicly on issues important to workers -- especially women
 - maintaining a membership controlled (as opposed to an executive controlled) structure

Do you generally agree or disagree with these objectives:

Agree generally _____

Disagree generally _____

What changes would you make to these aims and objectives?

How well has your Local lived up to these principles?

If you disagree with the aims and objectives of AUCE, what do you think the aims and objectives of AUCE and of other unions should be?

19. Do you think that the Provincial Executive has lived up to its responsibilities?

Yes _____

No _____

What have they done right or wrong?

20. What should a Provincial organization do to assist and support a union such as yours?

INQUIRY INTO SECESSION QUESTIONNAIRE
PAGE 5

21. Do you have specific complaints about AUCE or the Provincial Executive? What are they?

22. Is one of your reasons your Local is interested in leaving AUCE the fact that Local 5 is a member of the CCU?

Yes _____

No _____

In order for any disciplinary action to be taken against Local 5 for this violation of AUCE's policies and procedures, one of the member locals of AUCE would have to file an appeal of the sentence imposed by the previous Provincial Executive. So far, no local has appealed and asked for a sentence to be imposed (possible sentences include suspension and/or expulsion from Provincial). Do you think your Local should file such an appeal? Why do you think they have not?

For your information, Local 5 has also submitted a petition to secede from AUCE. If they did in fact leave AUCE, would this alter in any way your attitude about Local 4 leaving? How?

23. If your local does secede from AUCE, do you hope to:

Remain independent: _____

Join another labour organization: _____

If you wish to join another organization, why?

24. Do you want your Local to secede from AUCE? Yes _____

Please feel free to use the other side of this page for any comments you may have. We would be pleased to hear anything you have to say.