

Local 1 of the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) was certified at the University of British Columbia in April of this year. Since then we have been attempting to negotiate a first agreement with the University Governors. A strong letter of support from the Faculty Association in favour of the Union has been sent to the President and to the Government in Victoria.

The Union is asking for a base rate of \$658 per month for clerical and library workers. The University has offered \$446. As you know, clerical workers have long been underpaid. The University's offer amounts to 24 cents an hour for workers now earning a base rate of \$408 per month.

As underpaid and newly-organized workers we are asking for your support. The Provincial Government is on record as favouring the unionization of workers. We ask you to write the Minister of Labour in Victoria and ask him to state clearly that he will petition the Minister of Finance, Mr. Barrett, to provide funds to Universities to pay their clerical employees decent wages and further that \$648 per month is a reasonable and indeed modest wage scale. An additional copy should go to the Board of Governors of the University of British Columbia to enable them to see that there is solidarity in the Labour Movement and support from the other Unions in our community.

A referendum strike vote has been called for this week on campus. The results will be forwarded to you. A vote in favour of strike action will mean that we will be seeking your support. We will expect you to respect our picket lines. A confirmation of this support would be appreciated by our Executive. Please address all correspondence to the Union office - 2162 Western Parkway, Vancouver 8, B. C.

Telephone number on campus - 224-5613 - Association of University and College Employees - local #1

PRESS RELEASE

The Association of University and College Employees charged today that the B.C. Labour Relations Board is acting in contradiction to provincial government policy.

In a letter to Premier Dave Barrett the Association asked him to investigate why the Board has delayed action for over three months on their application for certification to represent 1100 unorganized library and clerical workers at the University of B.C.

In a radio interview with Jack Webster on March 6th the Premier said that if the staff of the universities organize for collective bargaining the government would be prepared to cover the costs of negotiated salary increases.

However, the practices of the Labour Relations Board appear to make it extremely difficult for workers to organize. Since December 14th salaries and conditions of employment have been frozen at UBC, so that employees earning as little as \$408 a month have not received end-of-probation increases of \$10 a month.

AUCE, an independent Canadian union whose membership is 90% women, was formed in August of 1973. It is presently conducting a membership drive at SFU and also has an application for certification pending for the non-academic support staff at Notre Dame University of Nelson.

A copy of the letter to Premier Barrett is attached.

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March 27th, 1974.

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Delegates to the International Mathematics Congress scheduled soon for Vancouver may find that they have to face picket lines in the continuing dispute between clerical and library workers, and the administration of the University. 5,000 delegates who are scheduled to be in the city in mid-August may find a strike-bound campus. In addition the 23,000 students seeking to register for classes in the first week of September will be facing disruptions in enrollment. The clerical and support staff have been seeking a contract through Mr. McLean, spokesman for the University, since early spring. The Association of University and College Employees have now been given the unqualified support of the Faculty Association, who will also be seeking certification and a contract this year. In a letter sent today to President Gage the Faculty re-iterated their support for the Union.