

ACROSS CAMPUS

Association of University & College Employees

Local 1 (UBC) NEWSLETTER

2162 Western Pkwy.

A.U.C.E. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP - BULLETIN

!!! RE: C.U.P.E. 116 !!!

September 15, 1976

By now each of you have been made aware of the possibly pending strike situation with which our brothers and sisters of C.U.P.E. 116 are now faced. On Sunday Sept. 12th their membership voted 80% in favor of taking strike action should their position not improve during mediation.

Recently a few members of our executive met informally with a few executive members of C.U.P.E. to discuss their negotiations. During our discussion with them we discovered that their major concern was that they retain their contract as it now stands, it is not totally a monetary issue. C.U.P.E. is well aware of the A.I.B. guidelines and their wage demands coupled with benefits exceed these by approximately 2%, a disparity that is easily negotiated. They are very concerned about job security and their union security, the University has proposed to greatly diminish these and weaken the rights that C.U.P.E. has long enjoyed. You may have read in the Sept. 14th issue of Ubysey that U.B.C. offered C.U.P.E. 8%; what the article failed to report was that this offer was contingent upon the union signing a "no strike no lock out clause", whereby C.U.P.E.'s legal right to exercise effective pressure during future negotiations would be literally gone; of course this offer was rejected. In light of C.U.P.E.'s refusal to accept those terms the University alternately offered \$35.00 across the board plus 3% to be added at a later date. Such an offer (and the term is used loosely) averages out to less than a 5% increase for most of the C.U.P.E. members and as this is the first year that their union is governed by the guidelines they are entitled to considerably more.

During our own membership meeting of September 9th we passed a motion that in the event that C.U.P.E. must strike and do picket the campus that our union deems those picket lines as 'bona fide'. This means that we recognize it as a legal strike and that the University cannot discipline any of our members for refusing to cross C.U.P.E. picket lines. This is a safe-guard for our membership. A motion to 'support' as yet to be passed. To support means that the membership of A.U.C.E. Local #1 as a whole votes that we respect C.U.P.E. picket lines in the spirit of true trade unionism. This our Executive recommends that we do.

On Monday, September 20th our executive will establish a polling station where each member can come and cast a vote on this issue. The ballots will be cast between 12:30 - 2:30 pm in IRC 4, this will enable everyone to come during their lunch hour and it must be pointed out that this is not a two hour lunch meeting. If people want further information their will be people on hand to provide it.

For the benefit of our new members who were not employed during our own strike in Dec. 75, it should be pointed out that the vast majority of C.U.P.E. members did respect our lines and consequently lost 5 days wages. Many C.U.P.E. members voluntarily provided support pickets as well as replacements for our own members who did not report to picket. On more than one occasion C.U.P.E. volunteers also relieved our night pickets so that they could attend our membership meetings. As well as helping us with distributing information, C.U.P.E. members also helped in A.U.C.E. strike headquarters. Undoubtedly our strike would have been considerably less successful and perhaps prolonged had we not had C.U.P.E.'s support.

In closing the executive of A.U.C.E. #1 would recommend that our membership give C.U.P.E. their support and consequently help make any strike action taken more successful. The more pressure put on the University likely the quicker things will be resolved. Please come and cast your ballot on September 20th and vote in favor of respecting C.U.P.E.'s picket lines should they find it necessary to strike.

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