

May 9, 1980.

To the Contract Committee:

Rumours continue to grow on the corpses of old rumours. Here is the latest one and there appears to be some substance to it.

About 11:30 pm. this evening a picket co-ordinator from the GSAB came into the office and mentioned that she had heard that a mediator had either contacted the University or been contacted by the University and that tentative meetings of the parties concerned was in the works. I said I had heard nothing of any substance, but that anything was possible.

A few minutes later the woman in our bargaining unit who is a friend of Clark Gilmour's (Mediation Services Commission Assistant Head or whatever) came into the office and substantiated the rumour. She indicated that Gilmour had been talking to Connaghan today and that he was familiar with Connaghan through past labour disputes. She said that a meeting was being (or an effort was being made) called with the University to be followed by one with the Union as groundwork for a further meeting with the parties concerned. At that point she left the Union Office.

This may mean absolutely nothing. Obviously Connaghan was talking to Gilmour - what that means we cannot be sure of. You may have heard this rumour earlier today.

What this leads to is the question of resuming negotiations with the University. This question has to be addressed relatively soon if for no other reason than for tactics and for those members on the picket lines (and for those members still working). Obviously it would be wonderful if the above rumour pans out and negotiations resume and we sign a fantastic agreement. For the effectiveness of our strike I don't feel that we can leave this question unresolved much longer especially with further membership meetings on the horizon. We have built up some trust and it would be a shame to squander it by not exploring methods to resume fruitful negotiations.

Grant in the Courier (sic?) yesterday (May 8, 1980) stated that the University would not refuse any opportunity to meet with the Union, although he did say the University was unable to pay for the Union's wage demand. That may be a negotiating position or it may indicate that we are in for a lengthy strike. If the latter materializes I think we would be in a stronger position if we had tried to resume negotiations and met with the same belligerent University response.

Anyways, I do not envy the Committee's position should negotiations resume. Especially in regards to the 15% - is that a firm 15% or a negotiable 15% in light of the membership's present attitudes. Would the Committee be willing to make a recommendation for something less than the 15% or would they just bring it back for a vote?

Ray

cc. Carole, Wendy, Marcel, Strike Committee, Nancy