

Jan/84

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES

October 31, 1983

IRC 2

12:30-1:30 p.m.

CHAIR: Marcel Dionne

SECRETARY: Patricia House

There was no agenda for the meeting. Marcel Dionne announced that the purpose of the meeting was to give members all the information the Executive had been able to gather about the potential BCGEU strike and the possible general strike. The Executive has decided to withdraw the two motions that were circulated in advance of the meeting because it was felt they were out of order. The motions that were previously passed at membership meetings in July and September dealt with our participation in any action of Solidarity. (These motions were circulated again to the meeting)

Marcel further explained that we expect to be called upon to stay away from work starting November 8. CUPE 116 have told us that when the B.C. Federation of Labour calls them to go out (expected November 8) they will go.

Marcel then turned the floor over to Fairleigh Wettig to report on what the situation is with the other campus unions. Her notes follow:

Education Sectors (Scheduled to go out Nov. 8th) Reports rec'd from:

- BCTF 59% in favour of general strike - Scheduled to walk on Nov. 8th
- Langara Faculty Association 52% in favour of a 1 day political protest.
- AUCE Local 2 (SFU) in favour of General Strike
- Cap College Faculty Association (N.Vanc) 92% in favour of General Strike
- King Edward Campus 67% in favour of General Strike
- CUPE Provincial all locals called out

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UBC Campus Situation

- Those in legal position to strike: OTEU Local 15 - 2 components: AMS / Thunderbird
- CUPE 2278 TAU Strike Vote November 17, 1983 looks positive
- BCGEU 5 components: Firehall  
Admin Services of Lands, Parks and Housing (Chancellor Blvd.)  
Environmental Lab on Wesbrook  
Fish & Wildlife on Main Mall  
Forestry on Celtic Dr.
- CUPE 116 (contract expired - no strike vote taken on negotiations HOWEVER they are having a general meeting Sunday to instruct membership that they are expected to participate in General Strike.)
- IUOE Local 882 (contract expired, no strike vote taken on negotiations but have stated that as Fed affiliates they will participate in General Strike)

The floor was then opened up for questions. Marcel asked that speakers limit their comments to five minutes as he wanted to allow as many people as possible to speak and we had limited time. He then turned the chair over to Fairleigh and left the meeting to contact Employee Relations to [REDACTED] the meeting time to be extended. *inform them would*

Kitti Cheema was the first speaker. [REDACTED] She made it clear that she was speaking as an individual member and not as a member of the Executive. Kitti then launched into her statement. It was a lengthy political comment and when it became clear that the membership was not prepared to listen any more and that she was out of order, the Chair and the Trustees attempted to stop her. However, she would not stop until she had read the whole prepared statement, [REDACTED]

Then other members asked various questions:

- Q. Asked for practical detailed direction; how will we know if a picket line is legal?
- A. You won't, you have to assume that it is and not cross it until there is a legal ruling (LRB or court injunction) brought down. The Executive will inform you when such a determination is made and the membership will decide at that time what to do.
- Q. What happens to you if you cross a picket line?
- A. Marcel said he didn't know. Under the by-laws any other member could press charges against you. Discipline could range from a reprimand to fines to withdrawing your Union membership which would call your continued employment into question. On the other had the membership, may decide to do nothing.

Then Katy Young (AUCE Local 1's lawyer) was asked to answer the question of the legality of withdrawing our services as a political protest. She stated that there are few precedents on this type of action, so it is unclear just how the LRB or the courts would rule. She feels our contract gives more protection than most and that a good argument can be made for this type of protest. However, she did point out that because it is relatively untested in the law, it is very hard to predict the outcome and so some risk is involved.

Although Employee Relations had given consent to an extension of the meeting, it became necessary to adjourn at this point because the room had been booked for some one else.