

A.U.C.E. Local # 1,
Room 228,
Box 11,
Student Union Building,
University of British Columbia,
2075 Westbrook Place,
Vancouver,
British Columbia V6T 1W5.

July 11, 1974.

The Honourable Mr. David Barrett,
Premier,
Government of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria,
British Columbia.

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Re: Contract negotiations between the
Association of University and
College Employees Local # 1 and
the University of British Columbia.

After almost two years of organizing, the clerical and library staff at U.B.C. formed their own independent union. A.U.C.E. Local # 1 was certified on April 11th of this year, and since May 2nd has been attempting to gain a first collective agreement with the University.

Negotiations between the Union and the University broke off in May over the refusal of the University to offer a reasonable wage increase. Shortly thereafter, a mediator, Mr. Ed Sims, was appointed by the Department of Labour. After six weeks of mediation, the Union has still not received a second wage proposal from the University, and the effect of the University administration's attitude is having definite, negative repercussions on the whole University community. Staff are resigning at an overwhelming rate, and few of the vacancies are being filled because the University, by its poor wages and working conditions, is unable to compete in the labour market.

On July 4th, the most recent meeting of the two negotiating parties, the University's representatives made the serious allegation that the Provincial Government is not prepared to honour its promise of providing funds outside the regular University budget to meet a negotiated wage increase. As you can well understand, the Union is extremely concerned about this allegation.

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In view of the rapidly deteriorating situation at U.B.C., and the grave allegations made by the University, the Union hereby requests a meeting with yourself, the Minister of Education Mrs. Eileen Dailly and the Minister of Labour Mr. William King, at the earliest possible date to discuss these matters and hopefully come to some understanding of the Union's position.

A.U.C.E. is asking for a base rate for clerical workers of \$658.00 per month. Our objective is to begin to equalize salaries between clerical and technical workers, and overcome a longstanding injustice. As you are aware, discrimination against women clerical workers at U.B.C. has been well documented. We know that the Provincial Government made special funds available to rectify a similar injustice in the Province's hospitals, and we ask that you make it clear that you are prepared to do the same in relation to women employees of the Province's universities. Some of our members in the Faculty of Medicine work at Vancouver General Hospital, side by side with employees of the Hospital who earn #250 to \$300 per month more. (See enclosed Brief III.)

On July 23rd, the Union and the University will meet again in mediation. We trust that by that time we will have met with you, and the Government will have made its position clear. If the University is not prepared to present a reasonable wage proposal on July 23rd, the Union may well have to take drastic action.

Yours truly,

Emerald Murphy,
Chairperson,
Contract Committee,
A.U.C.E. Local 1.

cc: Mrs. Eileen Dailly,
Mr. William King