

Association of University and College Employees

LOCAL No. 1 (U.B.C.)

CONTRACT BULLETIN //

July 21, 1978.

FROM THE CONTRACT/STRIKE COMMITTEES

At today's general membership meeting, the membership voted 86% in favour of taking a referendum strike vote. A press release has been issued to that effect.

We have received many favourable remarks regarding Vicki Workman's motivation made on behalf of the Contract Committee. We have been asked to make this available to the entire membership. The following is the text of that statement:

The Contract Committee believes the time has come to hold a strike vote in order to make plainly obvious that AUCE supports and is absolutely committed to its proposals. Such a vote would display to the University this membership's willingness to defend its rights under the present contract.

So our first step is to decide whether or not to hold a referendum strike vote. If we decide against holding the strike vote, then we have lost the battle before it's begun. The University would know the results, and they would gain complete control of the situation. The Contract Committee would be left bargaining University proposals, which are all of the take-away variety. AUCE would forfeit its freedom to be self-directed.

On the other hand, if we decide to proceed with the strike vote, and if the results are strongly positive with at least an 85% majority, then we will have available to us the one sure means to register our dissatisfaction with the University's bargaining to date and steer negotiations with them towards a favourable outcome. A decision to go ahead with the referendum strike vote now is essential.

With the crucially strategic registration period rapidly approaching, the Contract Committee's bargaining power will be greatly enhanced by the support of a solid union, as shown by a strongly positive strike vote. The University has, as usual, been stalling in the hopes that AUCE would lose the opportunity to use its most potent tactics. But this has been the pattern of negotiations during the last 3 years - AUCE is forced to take measures that make it clear to the University that we are determined to win and retain a good contract. In order to counteract the University's delays AUCE must speed up negotiations by deciding today in favour of holding a strike vote. The sooner it is confirmed that AUCE gives unanimous support to its proposals and rejects the University's demonstrated intent to erode the clauses of the present contract, the sooner we can bring the utmost pressure to bear upon the University to come to an agreement. There are good reasons for every clause in the contract. The contract protects us and we must protect the contract.

If we fail to commence with these key decisions today we are very seriously weakening our position. We should remember that with AIB restrictions coming off this September 30, we could at least expect wages that would enable us to keep pace with the cost of living. This year it is not the Government, it is the University which is denying those wages to us.

We cannot afford to wait any longer. Let us vote to act as quickly as possible to use the means at our disposal to show the University that AUCE stands more firmly united than ever. The strength of any union does not lie in the number of times it goes out on strike, it lies in the solidarity of its membership. By voting in full support of holding the referendum strike vote, we will have our only opportunity to show that AUCE enjoys such solidarity and thereby also the strength to exert a powerful influence when mediation is resumed.

AUCE's proposals are not outrageous. They are progressive but fair. AUCE has shown integrity during negotiations.

The course of events is now in the hands of those of you here today. The Contract Committee trusts that this motion will be carried.