

Dec. 1980

Lobby CLC
opinions

slp.

A.U.C.E.

THE AUCE SPECIAL CONVENTION ON AFFILIATION RECOMMENDED THAT AUCE AFFILIATE TO THE CLC INTACT AS AUCE:

The Special Convention on Affiliation in April passed resolutions which advocated that AUCE preserve its structure rather than submerging its identity in that of another union:

Be it resolved that AUCE Convention's recommendation to the AUCE membership which will be sent out with a referendum ballot which will include a variety of options, be that AUCE remain constitutionally intact with it's current decision-making structure.

Convention followed its approval of the above by amending what had originally been a Local 4 resolution to read:

Be it resolved that this Convention of AUCE shall recommend to our membership that we shall work towards affiliation with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) intact as AUCE, and that this recommendation shall be sent out with the previously passed Resolution.

With the passing of these two resolutions, the Convention provided the AUCE membership with a strong recommendation that AUCE reaffirm it's belief in its own structure and ideals and in its importance to the trade union movement.

VOTE TO LOBBY THE CLC TO HAVE THEM ACCEPT AUCE INTACT.

BOB McADIE - For Lobby (Chemistry Stores Clerk, SFU)

I support the lobby option because I want to see AUCE in the CLC. Those who would have us merge claim the same goal, but would also entrench us in unions that have not met the needs of campus workers in B.C. AUCE has won the best contracts. We have accomplished much in our brief history and if we wish to continue a progressive and fruitful road, we must keep the structure that gives us control.

Nancy Wiggs - For Lobby (Secretary III, UBC Legal Clinic)

In the upcoming affiliation vote the temptation is almost overwhelming to go for what appears to be the obvious easy solution for everything that ails AUCE. To be sure many things do ail AUCE. But it is not clear to me that those ailments would be cured by merger. They would be as prevalent in any union. Changing the name and adding a new level of bureaucracy will not change the character of our membership. I remain convinced that we have nothing to gain and possibly much to lose by merger. I urge you to vote for LOBBY.

Melody Rudd - past Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, Local 2 Vice-President, Provincial President and Local 2 Shop Steward:

I feel that the AUCE leadership has been irresponsible in not calling a halt to the affiliation referendum when the vast majority of AUCE members abstain, fail to vote, and become increasingly confused as the referendum proceeds. I feel that certain local leaders of AUCE are continuing to push the affiliation issue in hopes of attaining long-term, well-paid jobs as union business agents.

Katarina Halm - For Lobby (works in Bio-Medical Cmns. @ VGH, AUCE #1)

I would like AUCE to lobby the CLC to accept us as an independent union. It is through autonomy that we can best use our potential to effect changes for the workers in our communities.

ANN SULLIVAN - For Lobby (Library Assistant, Monographs, SFU)

"I favour AUCE becoming part of the larger labour movement but feel that we ought to retain our identity as AUCE - a union built on membership participation and control. I would prefer expending our energy in maintaining and improving our contracts rather than fighting to democratise the larger, bureaucratic unions. We can be more influential in the CLC as AUCE, rather than as an insignificant part of another union. Support AUCE by voting for the lobbying option on your ballot."

SANDY SHREVE - For Lobby (Secretary, SFU)

"Any benefits we can get from the CLC, we can get by joining as AUCE. Let's put the CLC to the test. Why narrow our choices prematurely and jump onto the merger wagon before we take the opportunity to really find out what we'd be getting into? VOTE YES FOR THE LOBBY OPTION."

ELAINE MacPHERSON - Secretary, A/V Division, College of New Caledonia

FOR LOBBY: "Merger is a very serious and unnecessary move for AUCE to make at this time. I feel we are and can continue to be a strong and effective union without merging, where we run the risk of losing our autonomy. Let us remain intact as AUCE."

JACK GEGENBERG - For Lobby (Math T/A at SFU, Local 6)

"A quote from Plato's *The Apology*: 'The hour of departure has arrived and we go our ways - I to die and you to live. Which is better only the god knows.'"

ANONYMOUS - for reasons explained below

"I am a CUPE member of Selkirk College in the Kootenays. I wish to remain anonymous in my support of AUCE remaining a separate union if it is to enter the CLC. The reason I am remaining anonymous is because a letter written in support of AUCE remaining a separate unit resulted in our CUPE local being threatened, through a rumor campaign, with administration by the CUPE National Representatives. Administration means that we would be administered by the National in Ottawa, our funds would be seized, our Local executive would be kicked out of office and an executive loyal to the National's interests would be appointed to control our Local. This threat was not brought forward until negotiations started for a new contract and it was a very destructive thing to have happen in the middle of bargaining which was strongly supporting the fight for financial rights of women in the workplace and for a good financial settlement for clerical, food and service workers, mainly women. LEGITIMATE OPPOSITION EXPRESSED AS A FREE RIGHT IS NOT A RIGHT OF CUPE MEMBERS AS THIS TYPE OF ACTION DEMONSTRATES. AUCE remaining a separate union and lobbying to go intact to the CLC will be much more useful to women and to all low-paid workers because they will be able to pursue their objectives without outside interference from their National or Provincial organisations.

IF AUCE BECAME PART OF CUPE AND DECIDED THAT THAT WAS NOT WHAT WAS WANTED, PEOPLE SHOULD REALISE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE OPTION UNDER THE CUPE CONSTITUTION TO WITHDRAW OR TO SPEAK AGAINST THE UNION."

PERCE GROVES - Library Assistant IV, SFU. FOR LOBBY

"AUCE contracts are evidence that being in a small union is not a deterrent to being an innovative union that makes gains for its members. A contract is what really matters in the long run; and I haven't seen a CUPE or a BCGEU contract that I envy."