

2AUCE

NEWS BULLETIN

March 22, 1979

UNIVERSITY CONDUCTING MEDIA WAR

The AUCE Contract Committee has advised SFU President, Dr. George Pedersen, that letters sent to the union membership March 12, 13 and 16 have been examined by AUCE's legal counsel. The lawyer has told the union that "these documents represent conduct which suggests grounds for an unfair labour practice." Specifically the university is:

- 1) communicating directly with the membership instead of the AUCE Contract Committee,
- 2) conducting a media war, and
- 3) the substance of the documents is grossly misleading the public, the media, and the membership of AUCE Local 2.

The first letter is in the form of a memo from the President and the other two are unsigned. The memo purports to bring the membership up to date with the events in the labour dispute.

The second letter, included in the same envelope with the memo, ends with "We hope that AUCE members will consider carefully this offer of binding arbitration." The offer talked about in the letter is precisely the offer refused by the Contract Committee on February 15. Since that date the Contract Committee has heard nothing from the university's negotiators. The third letter states that the university's negotiating team "is ready to discuss the matter further to ensure that it is well understood by union members."

These statements, and others in the letters are extremely misleading in the opinion of AUCE's legal counsel as well as being an attempt to undermine the Contract Committee. The Contract Committee has pointed out that, when Mediator Ed Sims requested both AUCE and the University to submit all items to binding arbitration on September 13, 1978, it was the university that refused

even though the union was willing. The result of all this has been a number of media reports that the union has rejected binding arbitration. In fact, the union has refused only the offer of conditional binding arbitration which stipulated that the arbitrator not consider the cost of living or the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

The Contract Committee has reminded the President that they are willing to meet with the University's negotiating committee at a mutually agreeable time and place.

AUCE RECEIVES SUPPORT: THE STORY SO FAR

- On March 9, 1979, the B.C. Government Employees' Union offered AUCE 2 legal assistance, financial aid in the form of a \$20,000 grant and the services of a media co-ordinator.
- The B.C. Federation of Labor extended its support to AUCE 2 on March 12.
- The NDP Women's Rights Committee has expressed its support for AUCE 2.
- Messages of solidarity have been received from AUCE Local 4 (Capilano College) and Local 1, (UBC).
- At the membership meeting of March 14 a representative of SFU's 21 daycare workers read a statement in support of AUCE's strike action, describing AUCE's stand as courageous action against a government which is "strangling the daycare system."

- Representatives from AUCE Local 6 (TSSU), SORWUC Local 1, CUPW, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union, IBEW Local 213 and The Vancouver Status of Women have joined AUCE 2 members on the picket line.
- A large contingency of concerned students have also expressed their support for AUCE 2 by actively participating in a leaflet campaign on the picket line.
- At the first student sponsored pro-AUCE rally on March 15, Mike Fellman (History Dept.) announced the intention of 13 History Profs. to walk off the job today if AUCE was not back at work. At least 66 other faculty members have said they would walk out as well.
- GOOD NEWS!...On March 15 AUCE won its battle with UIC when the umpire ruled that the contract clause on maternity benefit incentives would stand. The ruling, hailed as a major victory for working women, has set a precedent for other trade unions.
- Members of the NDP caucus promised to raise the SFU dispute in the Legislature after talking to AUCE strikers who had travelled to Victoria. George Kerster, Social Credit MLA for Coquitlam, described the 6% offer as "ridiculous".

AUCE 2 EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

We, the membership of AUCE 2 wish to express our appreciation once again to all those persons who have offered their support both on and off the picket line.

AUCE SUPPORTS STUDENTS

At a membership meeting on March 15, AUCE members passed a motion in support of students to the effect that grievance procedures will be undertaken on the behalf of AUCE members who might be penalized for failing to cross the picket line. Students who are not members of the bargaining unit may receive assistance from AUCE in the form of legal aid.

An Academic Penalties Committee has also been struck consisting of representatives from AUCE 2; the TSSU, Student Forum, Concerned Faculty and the Student Strike Support Committee to deal specifically with the matter.

LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD RESIDING

On March 12 Cana Construction applied for a 'cease and desist' order against AUCE's picket line which bars access to the \$9 million construction project on campus.

On March 16 the Labour Relations Board ruled that the four concerned parties had until 5 p.m. Monday, March 19, to reach an agreement on access for the 40 construction workers. AUCE 2, Cana Construction and the B.C. Yukon Trades Council agreed to the erection of a construction gate but the SFU Administration is in opposition. To date, the line stands and construction waits.

LOCKOUTS LIFTED...

On March 5 the University locked out five shops of the Library and on March 8, when the Purchasing Department workers chose to end their rotating strike action, they were locked out as well. AUCE then went out on a full strike. The Administration lifted the lockouts on March 20; however, AUCE's picket line remains firm.

BULLETIN BOARD

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Support TSSU

There will be a Strike Fund Benefit at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 at the Fisherman's Hall (138 E. Cordova). There will be two bands: Ad Hoc and SUR. TSSU needs volunteers to help with arrangements. For information call Jose at [REDACTED]

General Membership Meeting

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., at the BCGEU Hall, 4911 Canada Way.

ALL THIS FOR A DIFFERENCE OF 3% OVER 4 MONTHS!!!

- June 20, 1978 - The University informed AUCE's contract committee that monetary items would be discussed only after the non-monetary items had been disposed of.
- August 22, 1978- AUCE proposes 9-1/2% across the board, a COLA clause, and a number of non-monetary items, including benefits for temporary workers. The University states that AUCE is under AIB guidelines, (i.e. no money) until November 22, 1978.
- September 5 78 - First meeting with Government Mediator. SFU refuses to consider COLA clause.
- September 13, 78 . MEDIATOR REQUESTS BOTH SIDES TO SUBMIT ALL ITEMS FOR BINDING ARBITRATION. THE UNIVERSITY REFUSES.
- September 25, 78 SFU offers: A one-time bonus of \$200, effective Nov.22/78 and a 4% increase effective April 1, 1979.
- September 28, 78 AUCE takes first strike vote. The vote fails.
- October 2, 1978 AUCE membership rejects the bonus on principle.
- November 23, 78 The second strike vote PASSES.
- November 28, 78 AUCE says NO BONUS. Proposes 7-1/2% for a ONE-YEAR CONTRACT. SFU makes its 2nd offer: A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT. 1st year: \$400 bonus 2nd year: 4% across the board April 1, 1979 to March 31, 1980.

GOVERNMENT MEDIATOR SIGNS OUT

- December 5, 1978 ROTATING STRIKE ACTION BEGINS
- December 14, 1978 University makes its 3rd offer:
2% November 22, 1978 - January 31, 1979
4% February 1, 1979 - March 31, 1980
- January 8, 1979 TWO-YEAR CONTRACT ACCEPTED BY AUCE.
- AUCE's proposal: 0% March 31, 1978 - November 22, 78
7% Nov. 22, 1978 - Mar. 31, 79
8% April 1, 1979 - Mar. 31, 80
- Non-monetary items on the table reduced to 3:
- 1) The University to pay 100% of Extended Health Benefits
 - 2) No contracting out of work normally done by AUCE members
 - 3) Vacation scheduling: 1 additional day of vac. for each additional year of service after 13 years, to to a maximum of 5 additional vacation days.
- AUCE drops its monetary proposal to:
0% from March 31, 1978 - November 22, 1978
4% from November 22, 1978 - March 31, 1978
6% from April 1, 1979 - March 31, 1980
- January 10, 1979 The University offers : 0% from March 31/78-Nov.22/78
6% from Nov. 22/78 -Mar.31/80
- No change in its position on non-monetary items.

March 22, 1979

- January 11, 1979 AUCE membership rejects the University's offer of 6% over two years.
- January 18, 1979 AUCE executive authorized to call a 24-hour strike
- January 29, 1979 24-HOUR STRIKE
- February 14, 1979 The University agrees to sign 2 of the 3 non-monetary articles: Extended Health Benefits and No Contracting Out.
- February 15, 1979 AUCE drops its demand to:
- 6% from November 22, 1978 - November 22, 1979
 - 3% from November 22, 1979 - March 31, 1980

The University negotiating team says it has no authority to offer more than 6%, and offers
CONDITIONAL BINDING ARBITRATION:

- 1) The arbitrator to compare AUCE salaries with salaries offered by certain employers (selected by the University);
- 2) the arbitrator NOT to consider cost of living;
- 3) the arbitrator NOT to consider the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

- February 27, 1979 Delegation to BOG to request that the University negotiating team be given authority to negotiate a contract
- March 5, 1979 THE ANSWER: 5 shops in the Library LOCKED OUT
AUCE takes strike vote: vote fails.
- March 8, 1979 Purchasing Department LOCKED OUT
AUCE MEMBERSHIP VOTES FOR FULL STRIKE - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!