

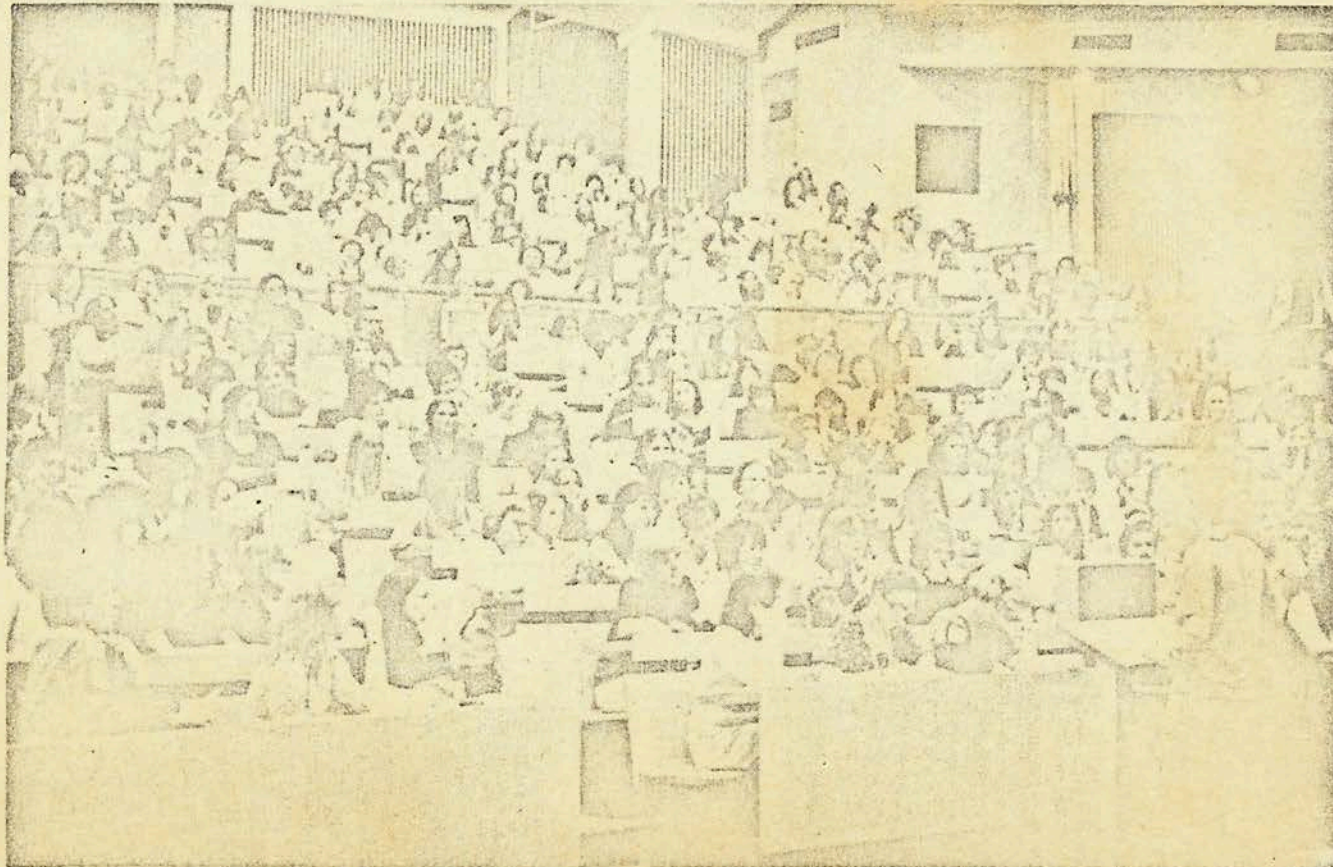
EILEEN DAILY SAYS NO

University workers must "get tough"

Clerical workers at U.B.C. are discovering a new strength and solidarity, as the results of their strike referendum vote, counted last week, show. Eighty-five percent voted in favour of strike action if the university doesn't come up with a new offer soon. And they've discovered that they can't rely on the help of the N.D.P. government to get a better wage settlement. This marks a new phase in their fight to win a first contract.

Negotiations are set to resume this week and the Association of University and Clerical Employees, Local 1, which represents the 1,200 U.B.C. workers, hopes the strong strike vote will result in a new offer from the university. "The vote is an indication of our determination to achieve our demands, and our willingness to strike if necessary," A.U.C.E. stated.

The major issue is money. A.U.C.E.'s original demand for a \$250 increase across-the-board is based on the principle that any wage settlement should begin to close the gap between male and female, between technical and clerical workers. Some clerical workers make as little as \$408 per month, while technical employees with no special



AUCE takes strike vote at UBC

photo by Ian Mackenzie

I'm suggesting there's a real world of toughness out there for other people, and why shouldn't it be that way for universities? They should be in a position to justify and fight for what they want."

At the time Barrett said this, A.U.C.E. was still awaiting a decision from the L.R.B. on their certification application - previously working

that U.B.C. staff were trying to organize - and the board set up by his government was their main obstacle at that time.

Webster: "If they negotiate a salary increase this year . . . are you prepared to meet the cost in operating grants to the universities, of a salary increase that's been negotiated?"

Barrett: "The universities will have to come back to us and tell us what their costs are

. . . we will meet the costs of new programs. And if they're faced with new costs because of negotiations, yes, we will meet those as well."

When the university administration told A.U.C.E. to go to the government for more money, they were hopeful some progress would be made, since Barrett had stated such openness and concern for working people, and the university serving their in-

terests in a broader way.

On July 29, 1974, the Contract Committee met with Eileen Dailly, Minister of Education and James Matkin, Deputy Minister of Labour in Victoria. They discovered that, regardless of what Premier Barrett goes around announcing on talk shows, his government is not putting its money where it's mouth is.

Eileen Dailly stated her position firmly. The matter is totally out of her hands. The universities are autonomous, and she will not enter into the negotiations.

This must be the "real world of toughness" where you must "justify and fight" for what you want that Premier Barrett was referring to. Or perhaps a more accurate interpretation is that given by James Matkin, the Deputy Minister of Labour.

Commenting on the obvious discrimination against women in the present wage scales, he said, "If we were going to eradicate sex discrimination, we'd have to restructure society."

It is becoming apparent to the A.U.C.E. members that in "the real world of toughness", the strength of their own organizational unity and the support of other women workers is what will win their battles.

* See the "President's Report on the Status of Women at U.B.C.", published in 1973.

Of the cast of characters, the University administration presented their position first, saying they were not opposing any ap-