

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 4, 1973

THE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES PROPOSED IN THE NEW LABOR CODE WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNJUSTIFIABLY SLOW IN IMPLEMENTING CHANGES TO BENEFIT UNORGANIZED WORKERS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL 1 OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE EMPLOYEES.

A.U.C.E. IS CURRENTLY HOLDING A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION FOR CLERICAL AND LIBRARY EMPLOYEES AT UBC BY EARLY DECEMBER. THE DRIVE IS NOW THREE WEEKS OLD AND OVER 300 OF THE 1,050 EMPLOYEES IN THE UNIT HAVE JOINED THE UNION. A.U.C.E. WAS FORMED BY UBC EMPLOYEES LAST YEAR AS AN INDEPENDENT UNION.

"IF THIS LAW HAD BEEN PASSED AS SOON AS THE NDP WAS ELECTED A YEAR AGO, A.U.C.E. COULD HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED LAST YEAR," SAID A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE OF LOCAL 1. "BUT, AT THE RATE WE ARE GOING, WE WILL CERTAINLY HAVE A MAJORITY BEFORE THE NEW LAW IS IMPLEMENTED."

THE STATEMENT ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE NDP GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET MADE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT APPLICABLE TO UBC. ABOUT 90% OF THE CLERICAL AND LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ARE WOMEN, AND THEY ARE NOT ENTITLED TO TAKE CASES OF DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING, SALARIES ETC. TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

"CONTINUAL DIFFICULTIES IMPEDE ORGANIZING. A.U.C.E. IS PROHIBITED FROM USING THE UNIVERSITY MAILING SERVICE; IT IS PROHIBITED FROM USING MOST OF THE BUILDINGS ON THE CAMPUS. THE UNIVERSITY IS A HUGE ORGANIZATION. IT TAKES TENACITY TO REACH ALL EMPLOYEES.

"AS YET, A.U.C.E. HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE LEGISLATION. OUR COMMENTS ARE (HAVE TO BE) BASED ON NEWS STORIES AND INFORMED SOURCES. WHEN WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE LEGISLATION IN DEPTH WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON THE ACT AS A WHOLE.

"WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT A.U.C.E. LOCAL 1 WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE END OF THE YEAR. FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, WE HOPE THE NEW LEGISLATION WILL SOMEDAY IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES OF ORGANIZATION AND HENCE IMPROVED CONDITIONS AND BENEFITS."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

JEAN RANDS
PRESIDENT
298-8430

VERITY WORMALD
VICE-PRESIDENT
731-0873

DICK MARTIN
SECRETARY
876-5139