

DRAFT LETTER TO CUPE

Mr. Ole Johnson,
CUPE.

Dear Ole,

The executive of AUCE Local 1 want to thank you for the opportunity of speaking with you and other representatives of the union on December _____. Now that the holiday rush is over, we would like to reiterate the points which we made at that time.

1. The membership of AUCE look upon CUPE members who work at UBC as colleagues and fellow trade unionists. Our union has received many expressions of good will and encouragement from our fellow workers; however AUCE has never characterized these as other than personal good wishes or moral support. We have never said we have the legal or financial backing of CUPE.

Indeed throughout our membership drive we have had offers of financial help from other Canadian unions but have preferred to rely on our own resources and retain complete autonomy over our affairs.

2. The group of UBC employees we have been organizing - non-unionized, non-professional and clerical workers - comprise a large number. We are aware that staff turnover is high and that organization is not easy. Nevertheless the organizing committee of AUCE undertook this difficult task when no other union was prepared to do so. We have consistently said we wish to form an independent Canadian union which would serve the particular needs of our membership, and consider that proposing affiliation with an established trade union now would be a betrayal of trust.

3. The executive of AUCE look forward to co-operating with CUPE in the future, and wish you all the best for 1974.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Lundy,