

NEWS

Inmates becoming 'angry and agitated' claims local president

Oldfield said. "To fill a building with scab labour proves that."

Jim Richards, who's secretary of Local 234 and on the bargaining committee, estimates half the corrections centre staff live in Milton, while many others are nearby in Halton Hills.

"The Province has the ability to save taxpayers millions and millions of dollars," Richards said, noting they can still choose to respond to OPSEU's last offer made on December 24.

He noted that managers from ministries across the province who've been on-call since last week have been earning time-and-a-half and double-time.

He also said that three days after the correctional bargain unit members rejected the offer, the Province allegedly approved every manager across the province to become eligible for an increase in salary that amounts to some \$58 million.

He estimated that strikebreakers will cost almost \$10,000 a week to the Province.

"All the fighting and the personal sacrifices, the blood sweat and tears we've put into this," Oldfield said, "does that not sound like people who care about their jobs, about what they do?"

He said over the last year, union members have held 50 information pickets, lobbied at MPP offices around the province, and boarded buses to Queen's Park to send the province a message.

On Monday, he said there was security out on the perimeters of the prison, brought in by the Province. In addition, he said they plan to bring in scabs to do the work, including retired managers and police personnel, along with managers from various provincial ministries.

"The inmates have been locked down since Dec. 30, and through the holidays," he said.

That means inmates — two to a small cell, with only a washroom — are not able to come out to shower or make a phone call.

"They're angry and agitated," Oldfield said, noting this is a safety issue everyone should be concerned about.

In Sudbury, correctional officers walked off the job six days before a province-wide strike/lockout, citing unsafe working conditions.

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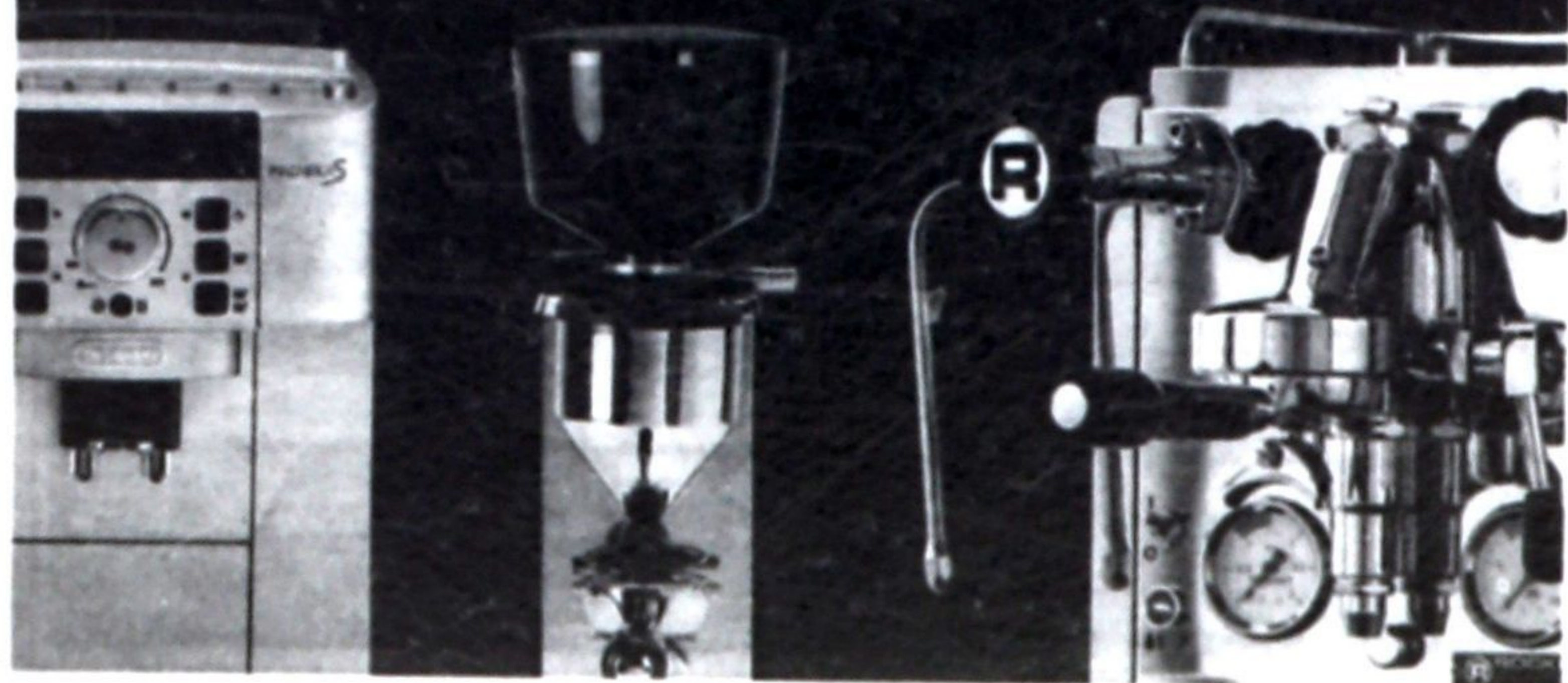
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