

Union Action Now - cont'd from page 4 . . . . .

in several provinces designed to cripple labour's effectiveness. Such action can only result in more conflict, not less.

For while growing numbers of workers are being deprived of the right to collective bargaining, no one has come up with any real alternative to this method of settling disputes.

In the next year unions will demand more say in decision making, more leisure - longer vacations, even workers' sabbaticals - more on-the-job training, and more say in the administration of fringe benefits such as pensions and medical plans.

But the quality of our lives cannot be improved by material means alone. We will have to devote more attention to our relationships with one another, to a re-evaluation of traditional values, to efforts to change our environment, to achieving a greater involvement in the democratic process.

That's why unions today must concern themselves with matters other than the traditional bread-and-butter issues - the war on poverty, conservation and pollution control, community chest drives, human and civil rights, tax reform, consumer affairs and dozens of other problems that affect not only the unions member but the public at large. The union movement must extend itself from a worker protection to a consumer protection organization.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In reference to the article published in last weeks issue of the News, taken from the Printed Word, entitled "How to Hurt Your Beloved Country,". I as a Union Officer with the same views shared by my colleagues feel the article was ill timed as we will soon enter Labour Contract Negotiations with the major employer in our town. The inference is made in the article that union people have little concern for society other than their own rank and file and suffer in no way by strike action. No Union Bargaining Committee would recommend that action by strike be taken for the sole purpose of creating a vacation period for their membership, or with such exorbitant demands that would bleed their employer to the point of bankruptcy. To qualify this, I too would like to quote from an address given by our Internationals Union, Vice President, V.P. O'Neal to the British Columbia Trade and Industry. I quote in part. "We can provide for all workers, as we do now for many thousands of workers a vehicle of expression - a way in which the needs, problems, ideas and hopes of working people can be made known and can influence public policy. I have no hesitation in saying that no group or body can fill this roll as well as trade unions.

Too often Management, and others in the community look upon unions as an obstructive force, an obstacle to progress. Some wise industrialists and politicians in other countries have however, recognized that this is not so - that, in fact, the interests of the entire community is best served by strong and well organized Trade Unions.

Unions not only protect the workers in an industry, they assist good management and efficient operation because

frustrated and disorganized workers are not as productive as well paid, well organized workers who are responsible members of the community with a stake in its future. A Minister in the French Government recognized this recently when he pointed out that the present weak and fractionalized state of the French Trade Union Movement is hampering French industry. Ill-organized and frustrated workers are not functioning properly and are walking off the job, here and there, day after day, making smooth operation of industry impossible. He emphasized the advantage to industry of large, powerful industrial unions in North America which are able to represent their membership properly, are able to ensure that their needs are met, their grievances dealt with. Sweden with more limited resources than Canada's has made amazing industrial progress, benefitting every section of the community. Most Swedish industrialists will acknowledge that fact and few would trade their situation for the industrial anarchy which result wherever unions are weak and their rights curtailed. In this country the absence of strong trade unions in the Maritime provinces or in Manitoba has done little for industrial development in those areas" unquote.

I would further like to illustrate the type of man we have as our union - Leader and Boss - President-Secretary, Joseph P. Tonelli, at a ceremony held in December was bestowed in the city of New York with the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Trade unionists, politicians, business leaders joined in the celebration to honour our President Secretary Tonelli, Additional ceremonies took place at the Vatican on December 26th when Pope Paul VI received President Tonelli. Among others to pay tribute was United States President Richard Nixon.

The reason I cite the President-Secretary's qualifications is. This man with our Canadian Director Mr. L.H. Lorrain, both of the highest of character and integrity, scrutinize the operation and action of all Locals in the United States and Canada, and would hardly sanction any strike action for sake of members vacation using Unemployment Insurance to off set loss of earnings to create community disturbance. This action in this union does not apply, Strikes do occur but only when all avenues of negotiations have been exhausted and the workers must use their only instrument of defense - to Strike! I submit this letter in rebuttal to your - "How To Hurt Your Beloved Country", Thank You,

Yours Very Truly,  
Al. Allen,  
Proudly - Recording Secretary,  
International Brotherhood of Pulp  
Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Union,  
Local 665, Terrace Bay, Ontario.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The article printed in last week's paper was inserted while the editor was on vacation. However, the editor accepts full responsibility for staff decisions made during her absence. It is note worthy though, that the article reflected the views of a generation several decades younger than your editor.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The afternoon group of The Ladies Auxiliary, Community Church will meet Monday, April 20th at 1:45 P.M.

Bandages for the Leper Colony will be rolled, used sheets and linen are needed.

Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. D. Rafalant on the passing of her father.