

# Hospital Guardian

## Local 180

### HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION

ROOM 116 - 307 W. BROADWAY, VANCOUVER 10, B.C.

Vol. 4, No. 4.

April, May, 1958.

Y O U R   B U S I N E S S   W.M. Black,  
Sec.-Bus.Man.

In taking over the front page of "The Guardian" for this its final issue in mimeographed form, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the founders and to those who so willingly gave of their time for its production and distribution.

Commencing with a Convention issue, "The Guardian" will appear in newspaper style. But, with a bigger paper and broader coverage, the help and assistance of our members will still be vitally important.

The Hospital Employees' Union is now preparing for its first Biennial Convention, to be held in the City of Penticton, from June 5th to June 8th.

There, new policies will be democratically hammered out - to improve our organization, to bring about a greater co-ordination of our many efforts, to lay the ground work for a betterment of our working conditions and perquisites for the future.

Hospital workers have grown in stature. We have taken our place in the organized Labour Movement. We have an appreciation that responsibility goes with good, sound Trade Unionism.

As workers we are affected by the ebb and flow of the economy of this Province. Our position was never one of isolationism. With dignity we have pursued a constructive role. In co-operation with other Trade Unions, we have worked toward creating a better climate for all working men and women.

These thoughts will be in our minds during convention deliberations.

## NEWSLETTER.

Dear Readers:

This will be the last issue of the Hospital Guardian in its familiar mimeographed form.

It is expected that plans will be completed at our Convention for the publication of a paper in regular newsprint under the guidance of professional printers and newspaper men and it is expected to have a much broader coverage and wider circulation than at present.

We feel that it is appropriate at this time to express our sincere appreciation to the first Press Committee who so ably planned the composition and launched the first issues of our paper. The members of that committee were - Hugh Duff, Jim Ballard, Audrey Jefferys, Mary Clark and Charlie Steele.

A special note of appreciation should also go to all those who have helped in the most tedious and least publicized work of folding, inserting and mailing. These include Stella Fletcher, Margaret Siden, Jean Robertson, Bertha Tawse, Mrs. Argo, Mrs. Merke, Yvonne Muise, Marguerite Forseth, Susan Olsen, Olga Olenik, June Warner, Shirley Gardner, Alice Harding, Mrs. Lupton, Lucie Huebner, Mrs. M. Grant, Joe Petek, George Kyto, Bob Wardrope, Harold Schultz, Bill McCulloch, Al Evans and if, because of poor memory, we have left out the names of some members who should be on this list this in no way detracts from our gratitude for the work that they have done.

We also thank Bill Black for his help in guiding the policies of the "Guardian" as well as all those who contributed with articles and letters of encouragement.

The present Editorial Committee, consisting of Eric Thomas, Jack Brown, Roger Alain, Angus Crowdy, Don Crowdy and Clarence Craig, intends to retire at the time of the Convention so as to pave the way for the re-organization that will be necessary for the new publication.

We are all proud to have been associated with the Hospital Guardian in its infancy and we wish the succeeding officers every success in producing the new paper. We know that they will find all Units and members ready and willing to co-operate with them.

Fraternally yours,  
Press & Education Committee.

It seems that the Canadian Labour Congress has at long last come to the conclusion that in order to achieve its aims and objectives it must enter the political field. The political resolution of the Congress is significant and is well worth studying by all union members and others interested in political and social reform. It is here quoted verbatim;

"This convention urges that all affiliated unions, federations and councils (a) to take utmost interest in political affairs (b) to continue such forms of political action or education as they may have carried out in the past and (c) to undertake such future activities as may in the future appear appropriate for achieving the basic objectives of this Congress."

In addition to this resolution the Congress instructed the Executive to arrange discussions with the C.C.F., farmer organizations and other interested parties with the idea of forming a political party on a broad base.

The new party would probably be based on the C.C.F. but would be known by a different name and would appeal to many more people, and its main aim would be to win for the common man the basic rights which he has so long been denied.

A. Crowdy, V.G.H.

Sunday, July 27th  
Sunrise to 2:30 p.m.

### HORSESHOE BAY.

Entree Fee - \$1.00 per person -  
plus \$5.00 deposit on boat.

Prizes - Trophy donated by Local 180 kept for one year with a miniature given upon surrender, plus \$50.00 first prize plus 5 other prizes determined by the amount of the entrance receipts. Trophy to be presented to hospital personnel only, but cash prizes may be won by all-comers paying entrance fees.

Boundary - Imaginary line between Sunset Beach and Northern tip of Bowen Island.

Eligibility - The Derby is open to all hospital employees and their friends. Let's all turn out and make it a big day.

There are only a limited number of boats available so make your reservations early.

For information and boat reservations contact your Derby Committee;  
Wally Fedak - Maintenance.  
Bill Taylor - Laundry.  
Jim Spracklin - Maintenance.  
Gordon McKae - Maintenance.  
Stan Kania - Maintenance.

## LOWER MAINLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The first 1958 meeting of the Lower Mainland District Council was in the Labour Temple on Sunday, March 30th, with Brother Cardin in the chair and 20 delegates present.

The main theme of the meeting was concerned with the dangers arising from the poor level of understanding among some of our members of the meaning of trade unionism which dangers are becoming more accentuated because of the rapid growth of our organization, turn-over in membership, poor attendance at meetings and the increasing tempo of the attacks upon Labor by its enemies.

In his report Brother Black stated that "the emancipation of the Working Class must be the work of the Working Class". He also remarked that we have too many "slot-machine trade-unionists" that is, trade-union members who think that all they have to do is to put three dollars in the slot every month, pull the lever, and at the end of the year automatically receive a wage increase. The need for more education was stressed.

It was reported that a new educational program was being launched which includes plans to hold departmental and language group meetings, the use of top flight trade-unionists as educational directors, with special attention to the Vancouver General Unit, and the holding of about twenty educational seminars during the year.

Our District Council decided to divide itself into two District Councils, one to be called the Lower Mainland District Council and including the Vancouver General, Grace, Powell River, North Vancouver, Burnaby, St. Mary's, and Royal Columbian Units, all in urban areas.

The other will be known as the Fraser Valley District Council and will include Chilliwack, Valley Haven, Abbotsford, Mission, Haney, Langley, White Rock, and eventually Surrey, all in rural areas.

It was decided that District Council delegates to the bi-annual conventions shall be elected for two-year terms to coincide with the bi-annual sessions of the conventions.

There were many interesting reports from the individual units and your delegates were able to learn a lot from the experiences of the others.

Hector Cardin & Eric Thomas,  
V.G.H. Delegates.



On Friday and Saturday, May 9th and 10th, a Seminar was held in the auditorium of the Labour Temple under the auspices of the Vancouver Labor Council for the purpose of informing the Unions of the work and operations of the Community Chest.

Brothers G. Meagher and A. Crowdy were sent as delegates jointly by the Vancouver General Hospital and Local 180.

The speakers on Friday were Dean Geoffry Andrew, U.B.C.; Professor W. Dixon, U.B.C.; Derek Thompson, Family Service Agency; C. Howard Naphtali, Executive Director of the Community Chest.

Several moot questions were asked and answered during the question periods. Of particular interest were the questions of costs about which many rumours are circulated.

The total cost of administration, including all salaries, campaign costs, etc. were 11.4% of the total receipts. The salary of the Executive Director is \$13,000 per annum, a smaller salary than many executives in less responsible positions. The Executive Director, by the way, cannot hold office for a period longer than three years.

One point that was brought to our attention that may not be common knowledge was the fact that in social and welfare work the various governments, Federal, Provincial and City, do pay 94% of the costs.

It was revealed that many persons in professional life and higher income brackets had not contributed as might have been expected in relation to their income.

In the afternoon the delegates were taken to see some of the Community Chest Agencies, of which there are 66 in action. Your delegates visited, in order, the Health Centre for Children (Research Dept.), the Sisters of the Good Shepherd at St. Ephrasia's School for Wayward Girls, the Jewish Community Centre and the Ki Van Club for Boys. We were very much impressed by the work being done by these agencies.

On Saturday we were addressed by E. D. Hill, Director of Planning, and Lloyd Whalen, VLC President and 1st Vice-president of the Community Chest. Brother Whalen emphasized the need for Labour's support in the campaign and asked Labour to do its part in this very

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V.G.H. UNIT  
ANNUAL PICNIC

To be held at the  
PEACE ARCH.

Sunday, August 3rd.

Busses leave Labor Temple  
between 9:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Bus Fare - \$1.00 return  
Children under 14 yrs free

Tea, coffee, sugar and milk  
supplied free.

Pop & ice-cream for the children

Sports  
Interdepartmental Race  
Horseshoe Pitching  
Mystery Person Hunt  
Oldest & Youngest Attending  
and others  
Many Prizes

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(cont'd from page 5)  
important community work.

The delegates then divided  
into discussion groups and ways  
and means were discussed. The  
Seminar then ended with Brother  
Whalen bidding the delegates good  
bye and thanking them for their  
attendance.

A full statement of the fin-  
ances of the Community Chest and  
of the Agencies is in the hands  
of your delegates and may be seen  
by anyone interested.

A. Crowdy (delegate)  
G. Meagher (delegate)

JUBILEE CAMP REGISTRATION  
OPENS JUNE 2.

Registration for Childrens'  
Jubilee Summer Camp opens June 2.

From that date on you can  
register on Mondays, Wednesdays  
and Fridays between 10 a.m. and  
2 p.m. at Room 1, 111 Dunsmuir.

There are four summer ses-  
sions - two for boys and two for  
girls.

Boys - June 30 to July 11.  
July 28 to August 8.

Girls - July 14 to July 25  
August 12 to August 23.

Register as early as you can

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WOMEN.

Organization of ladies' aux-  
illiaries to trade unions got a  
new push at the CLC Winnipeg Con-  
vention.

Delegates adopted a proposal  
that the Congress set up a ladies  
auxilliary executive with repres-  
entatives from various auxilliary  
groups of affiliated and chartered  
unions.

The new executive group  
would give direction in setting  
up new auxilliaries, co-ordinate  
the work and objectives of the  
auxilliaries and "wherever neces-  
sary assist and supplement the  
work and activities of the CLC."

## LANGLEY REPORTS.

May I express my thanks for the space in the recent issue of the "Guardian".

Tuesday, April 1st, was a historic milestone in the Langley Unit as we had no less than 20 members out to a meeting. This is the largest number we have ever had and I would like to thank the members, on behalf of the Executive, for their attendance. Total membership is 27.

The occasion was to meet Brother Black to present our 1958 wage demands and also to have the pleasure of meeting our Provincial President, Brother Fleming.

We were also pleased to have in attendance Brother W.D. Black, Chairman of the New Westminster Unit, and Brother K. Harris, Past Chairman of the White Rock Unit.

Bro. W.M. Black gave a resume of our position in the Labor Movement besides helping us to arrive at a balance in our demands.

Brother Fleming spoke, stressing the need for full unit attendance to maintain our way of life. May I take this opportunity of thanking him on behalf of the members and the Executive.

Once again the election is over and I think that the labor movement must have been sadly remiss, judging from the results. It seems that we have not yet

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learned to distinguish between our friends and our enemies.

In closing here are a few more books that I have read recently and think are well worth reading;

"The Man on the Assembly Line"  
by Chas R. Walker & Robt H Guest.

"The Quest for Security"  
by I.M. Rubinow.

"Unions of Their Own Choosing"  
by Robert R.R. Brooks.

May I congratulate Sister J. Robertson, Brother Don Crowdy and Brother Craig for their timely articles in the March "Guardian".

H.L. Moore, Secretary,  
Langley Unit.

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### VLC PLANS INSTITUTE THIS FALL.

Vancouver Labour Council will hold its fall labor institute on October 4th and 5th this year, but the location of the parley has not yet been decided.

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### AIN'T IT THE TRUTH.

"You look tired, dear," the wife greeted her husband. "Did you have a bad day at the office?"

"I'll say I did," he answered. "I took one of those aptitude tests and boy, oh boy, its a good thing I own the company."

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### UNION LABEL QUEEN CONTEST.

The Vancouver, New Westminster and District Union Label Trades Council is sponsoring a Union Label Queen Contest as a special show for the centennial year.

Each union participating will be required to set up its own contest committee and should be prepared to take on the cost of photographs, a gown and a bathing suit for its own candidate.

The girl selected must be over 18 and under 30 and single. This must be her first try at a contest. She must be a member of a union or the daughter of an active trade unionist.

Any unions interested are asked to contact the Council as soon as possible. For information and entry forms write or see;

Mrs. Josephine Hallock, Secretary,  
Union Label Trades Council,  
307 W. Broadway, Vanc. 10.

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### NO UNION?

A stern employer was severely reprimanding a meek employee.

"Mr. Jones, I understand you have been going over my head." he stated.

"Not that I know of, sir." ventured Mr. Jones.

"Isn't it true that you've been praying for a raise?"

### V.G.H. UNIT SICK & WELFARE REPORT.

April brought showers and shivers and your Committee really put in a busy month - visiting the sick and fractured among our members.

Flowers were sent to about twenty-five of our ailing fellow workers. Chocolates, cigarettes, fruit and candy were delivered to another twenty-five. Total bill for the month was \$138.81.

We feel that while there was no doubt that April was a bad month from the standpoint of health we are nevertheless pleased to report that our members are showing greater co-operation in letting us know when any of our friends are ill.

If anyone of you at VGH should know of any member being sick for three days or more please let us know their names and we shall see what we can do for them.

We feel that our work is being appreciated by those who are ill and that we are helping to create a stronger feeling of good will among our membership generally.

Wishing you all the best of health.

VGH Sick & Welfare Committee.

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Buy Union Made Goods.



## ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED AND DEVELOP FOREIGN MARKETS.

In the Vancouver Sun of April 26, 1958, the column, "It's Your Business" by Bill Fletcher, contained, in a reported interview with Austin Taylor, millionaire industrialist, the following statement;

Quote - "The other big problem today," continued Mr. Taylor, "is unions."

"They're putting this country back 20 years" he said, "While its bad here, its far worse in the States."

The industrialists argument is that Canada, paying high wages, cannot compete economically in a world market with countries that employ slave or sweatshop labor. - unquote.

There are two interesting points to be considered in the above statement, the first is the unintended admission that the trade unions are responsible for the elimination of slave labor and sweatshop conditions on the North American continent. This point needs no further comment.

The second point is the suggestion that the trade union movement on this continent should be eliminated and that we should revert back to "slave and sweatshop labor" so that Big Business here can more easily meet the cheap competition of other more backward countries.

It would never, of course, occur to Mr. Taylor, or people of his ilk, that if the business groups on this continent were to co-operate with organized labor in trying to organize the workers of other countries so that they can improve their working standards then those countries would have to compete with us on an equal footing and the business men on this continent would get from behind the eight-ball in international trade and our own workers would not suffer.

As Mr. Taylor unwittingly points out, it is not high wages that are pricing us out of the world markets but cheap competition resulting from slave labor.

It is for this reason that the trade union movement, through its international organization, the I.C.F.T.U., is striving to organize the workers in all of the backward and underdeveloped countries because it is felt that only by guaranteeing ALL people freedom, security and decent living and working conditions can we ever hope to build a world free from international and industrial strife.

E.R. Thomas.

## WAGE INCREASES, TAX CUTS NEEDED.

Tax cuts and wage increases to give Canada an "economic lift" were advocated by Canadian Labour Congress President Claude Jodoin in his opening address at the CLC convention in Winnipeg.

President Jodoin said that tax cuts "put money in consumers' pockets and so help . to reduce unemployment."

Calling for support to unions seeking wage increases, he declared: "I feel sure that from this convention will come labor's voice saying 'we are solidly united behind those unions which are already being attacked by management and the press because they have indicated they propose to seek wage increases ...'"

Mr. Jodoin referred to election promises and called for prompt action to reduce taxes. "Mr. Diefenbaker asked for a working majority and he certainly got it. We now have every right to ask him to put into legislative form the promises which he made in the two election campaigns and which undoubtedly led the people of Canada to give him such an overwhelming mandate."

"He has undertaken to call parliament at the earliest possible date and to take steps to relieve the serious unemployment situation. We shall follow with deep interest the measures he proposes."

In another phase of increased purchasing power, he pointed out that a number of important negotiations will take place this year with most of the unions affiliated to the CLC seeking wage increases which will give additional money to workers, leading to "more business for retail stores, more business for our service industries, busier factories, and a greater measure of prosperity for our farmers."

"The effect of unemployment can be cumulative in slowing down the country's economy; the effect of increased purchasing power can be cumulative in speeding up the country's economy, he said. "I know that labour is united in this view."

In the international field, Jodoin said organized labor in Canada desired for the world's people what it wanted for its own people - an ever-rising standard of living, political freedom, human dignity, the right of self-determination, and a world of peace. "Trade unions should give the utmost support to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, he said.

(The Labor Spectator)