

THE HOSPITAL GUARDIAN

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION, 180, N.U.P.E., C.I.C.

VOL. 1

VANCOUVER, B.C., DECEMBER, 1960

No. 7

1960...A Year to Remember!

DECISIVE ROLE FORECAST FOR LABOUR

Through the official organ of our Organization, we wish to extend to the entire membership the Compliments of the Season. But, in so doing, we feel we should utilize this occasion to pause and reflect.

Local 180 is concluding a year of reasonable activity. Progress has been made. New units have been added to our organization. We are now gearing ourselves for future activities and to meet the stresses and strain of the troubled society in which we live.

As a Union, our job is to improve, where possible, the standard of living and the working conditions of our people. At the same time we have not been unmindful of our community responsibility and throughout the year we have attempted to measure up to that responsibility.

We have contributed to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in an effort to assist our underprivileged brothers and sisters throughout the world. We have attempted to play our part both in national and provincial conventions. Our resolution on war and disarmament was unanimously endorsed at the B.C. Federation of Labour Convention. It was endorsed in part at our own National Union.

Difficult to Combat

Some progress has been made in arousing the interest of the common people to the dangerous drifting, due to lack of positive thinking, in world and international affairs. But the apathy which is abroad is most difficult to combat.

The editorial writers of our daily press, the news commentators, take a negative approach. Their main object is to maintain the status quo. They choose to ignore the fast changing times in which we live. They are attempting to maintain a 1940 ideology in the 1960 technological age, where time and space no longer have a great deal of meaning.

We have not demonstrated a humanitarian, enlightened approach to our own regional, national or international affairs.

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FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS are exactly right for the theme of this Hospital Guardian, and for the joyous Yuletide season. The singers are Margaret McCabe, Susa Coady, Linda and Louis Weisberber, all children of members of St. Paul's Hospital Unit.

JOB DESCRIPTION PROGRAM UNDERWAY AT VGH UNIT

The long-awaited Job Description Program, which was negotiated at the bargaining table and was to be started upon completion of the Centennial Building, is now under way.

A new procedure is being used. The actual survey is being carried out by the personnel department and the Job Descriptions will be written by them. Only representative employees will be contacted. The revised job descriptions will then be posted for ten days.

If an employee thinks that his job has not been properly described, the personnel department request that Mr. Castley be contacted.

Your Union Office will also receive a copy of the Job Descriptions. If there is dissatisfaction with any of the descriptions, contact the office. It is imperative that we have the thinking of the members, or the groups, involved, because final approval of the descriptions will be between your Union and the Vancouver General Hospital.

The proper description of your job can be of the utmost importance to you and can affect you economically. Job descriptions are used in a question of re-evaluation and re-classification. They are also used during negotiations.

In many instances the descriptions of the various positions and classifications are completely out of date. Any similarity with the actual job content to-day is a mere coincidence. Also, over the years new departments have been added for which we have no descriptions.

WAGE POLICY CONFERENCE HELD

The first of five Wage Policy Conferences was held in Vancouver Sunday, Dec. 4. This conference encompassed all the hospitals on the Lower Mainland for whom we are the bargaining agent, including Surrey, White Rock and Powell River.

Top officers of the various Units were in attendance.

Regional bargaining and termination dates were reviewed. A sub-committee was established to carry out research.

It is anticipated that joint Committee from your Provincial Executive and from the B.C. Hospitals' Association will meet soon to thrash out the rules which will prevail in area and regional bargaining.

Other Area Conferences will be held soon.

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Concentrating at the smorgasbord are J. Simon, E. Ydenburg, Mr. and Mrs. B. Standell, Mrs. K. Rutkiewicz, Mrs. Anna Kristan.

CELEBRATION AT ST. PAUL'S

By AL COADY

On Saturday, Oct. 22, a happy group of St. Paul's Unit members and their guests attended a smorgasbord dinner and dance. The Affair was held in the Polish hall on Fraser.

Special guests were: Provincial President John Fleming and Mrs. Fleming, Secretary Business Manager William Black and Mrs. Black, Br. Sid McDonald and Mrs. McDonald, Br. Jim Ballard, President V.G.H. Unit, and Mrs. Ballard, Br. Hugh Duff, Br. Phil Sevin and Mrs. Sevin, Br. Phil Forsha and Mrs. Forsha, Br. Al Buczynski, chairman V.G.H. Social Committee.

After an excellent dinner, dancing was enjoyed by all. Among those who won dance prizes was our provincial President John Fleming, who expressed his thanks for the chance to meet so many of the St. Paul's members.

Thanks go to the ladies of our social committee for helping make this affair a success.

A Christmas party for the children and grand children of St. Paul's Unit

members will be held in the Labor Temple auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. This party is for children up to and including 12. An excellent program has been booked for this event, so all St. Paul's unit members who did not list their children's names please contact Br. A. Coady so that none will miss the big day.

St. Paul's Unit hamper drive is now well under way. As this is one of the worst years for unemployment the requests for help at Christmastime are increasing each day. Dec. 12 to 16 has been designated hamper canned food week for St. Paul's members. "Let's fill the boxes to the top" so that others may share the joys of the Christmas season with us.

B.C. Federation Returns Officers

President Bob Smeal and secretary Pat O'Neal were re-elected by acclamation to their posts in the B.C. Federation of Labor.

First vice-president Joe Morris defeated Stu Hodgson of the IWA by 185 to 146 votes. Also returned were second vice-president Russ St. Eloi, third vice-president Mel Kemmis, and fourth vice-president Ray Haynes.

These are members of the executive council: R. Bryce, Pulp Sulphite; E. T. Staley, carpenters; Chris Crombie, Newspaper Guild; Charles Stewart, Street Railwaymen; Dick Greaves, Marine Engineers; Lloyd Wisheart, Fire Fighters; Jock McKenzie, IWA; Pen Baskin, Steelworkers; Bill Symington, Packinghouse Workers; Jack Holst, IWA.

Union Strength Depends on Membership

By JIM BALLARD

Unions are an association of people in any given area of employment. When a union becomes certified, it becomes the bargaining authority for all the employees within an industry.

The Union is the vehicle that negotiates the economic conditions under which you will work. Through negotiations it establishes your salary levels, your perquisites, your hours of work.

As we move into a critical economic period, there is an amazing indifference on the part of a great number of union members to the operation of their Union.

All the working men and women have to sell their labour. It should be obvious what would happen if we attempted to sell that individually. Therefore, we unite with the main object of developing one voice, strengthening our bargaining position in order that they will get a fair return at the bargaining table.

Union meetings are held to enable the membership to agree on what they should negotiate for. What fringe benefits are desirable? What price tag should we attach to commodity labour? Under what conditions shall we work?

It is also at these meetings, usually every year, through the democratic process, they elect the men and women who will be their representatives at the bargaining table and who will manage the affairs of the Union at a local level. This is what is commonly referred to as the Union Executive.

In addition to the local Executive, there is an over-all Provincial Executive, since we are a provincial union. There is a Business Manager, who devotes full time to handling our affairs. They are selected biennially at a provincial convention.

A good union is a union in which the membership is sufficiently interested. They make the necessary effort to see that the proper men and women are elected, who will do the job that must be done. Then it is the duty of the membership to make sure that their executive are kept fully informed of the membership's wishes.

If the Union membership fails to take sufficient interest in what is going on, then a small group may exercise a control which properly belongs to the membership. Your Union is, or should be, the business of all the membership, not just a portion of it.

It is only by attending your union meetings that you are going to have a guarantee that a strong functioning union will be maintained to look after your interests.

MRS. JENNY JENSON DIES IN ROSSLAND

Mrs. Jenny Jenson, a staunch member of Hospital Employees' Trail-Rossland unit, has died.

Sister Jenson was formerly a member of the old Trail local 302, and had not missed a union meeting from 1953 until recently, when she was ordered by her doctor to take it easy.

Unit officers mourn her as "one of the best union members we ever had."

She is survived by one daughter, two sons and eight grandchildren.

Disarmament Proposal Adopted

The B. C. Federation of Labour has adopted a resolution submitted by the Hospital Workers calling for Canada to adopt an independent position in world affairs and to give world leadership for total disarmament by setting an example.

The resolution is similar to one the Hospital Workers forwarded earlier this year to their national convention.

It notes that every effort should be made to halt the armament race, as the stockpiling of nuclear weapons is no longer a deterrent.

It recommends: "Canada should take its position in giving world leadership for total disarmament by setting an example. The resultant savings should be utilized for creating a better way of life for all Canadians and for assisting the under-privileged and under-developed countries of the world."

Pension Scheme Change Sought By Local 180

Hospital Workers have made an official request that the Superannuation Act be amended to eliminate the present discrimination between male and female workers.

Secretary-manager W. M. Black has put the matter in writing in a letter to Municipal Superannuation Commissioner W. H. Forrest in Victoria.

The letter sets forth the stand taken by hospital employees at the June convention. It notes that the Act was designed to cover mainly male employees, but with the entry of hospital workers the proportion of female employees will be greatly increased.

Hospital workers are 85 per cent women, and the members believe in equality between male and female.

Therefore it is requested that the Act be amended to provide that retiring age for female workers be a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 65.

The letter points out that female members of the union are bitterly opposed to the present discrimination in their retirement age in relation to that of male workers. It is hoped that the Superannuation Act will be opened this year, and that the officials concerned will give full consideration to the request.



THE BIG MOMENT is almost here for hundreds of children whose parents are members of the Hospital Workers Union. Most units stage parties at which Santa presides and the kids are kings and queens for a day — just like Susan Coady.

Educational Seminar Planned At Parksville In February

Hospital Employees will hold another educational seminar at Parksville's Island Hall Hotel on Vancouver Island, from February 6 to 10.

The seminar held early this year was considered a success by all those participating, and the decision to repeat the seminar is taken in accordance with policy set down at our June convention.

The curriculum will be simplified this time, and will stress parliamentary procedure—how to run a union—and procedure for shop stewards.

The seminar will feature panels with class participation. There will also be a short course on our own union structure and union administration.

The seminar has developed as one of the best ways in which a union of

our size can be brought together at grass roots level. When possible, it pays to rotate students. In this way we will over the years reach and benefit a greater percentage of our membership.

The Provincial Executive will pay the entire cost of one delegate from each unit. Larger units are permitted to send extra delegates according to a sliding scale outlined in a letter from head office, but the cost of such extra students must be borne by the local concerned.

Registration forms must be returned to head office by January 15.

This issue of THE GUARDIAN features news of the various units. Keep the information coming for use in subsequent editions.

THE HOSPITAL GUARDIAN

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"In humble dedication to all of those who toil to live."

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Merry Christmas – To ALL

It is Christmas time, and to many of us the season brings thoughts of the Bible texts we learned long ago.

One such quotation is: "Peace on Earth; Good Will Towards All Men." Another — and perhaps this is a favorite in our culture — is: "Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me."

We ask if these fine old texts can be applied to the white parents of New Orleans just now. Many of us have watched recent developments in that unhappy city on television. Four colored children were to be associated in school with white children. This caused a major civil upheaval. It was led not by delinquents, but by supposedly responsible white parents.

We can still see the distorted face of a white mother who was interviewed on TV. They asked her what should be done about the children. Her answer, with a hate-filled face, was: "Beat the hell out of them."

How can a mother — any mother — say that about four little girls in pig-tails, little girls whose eyes speak only the innocence of the very young?

How — for that matter — can we here in B.C. condone our own "couldn't care less" attitude towards children who happen to be born as native Indians?

Some of the blame should go to those propaganda agencies and their masters who manufacture hate and prejudice for personal gain. And some we must bear ourselves, because we have been too busy to heed the lessons of our childhood.

This year let us resolve to bring the ancient greeting "Peace on Earth, Good-will" to all people of all nations, creeds and colors. In this, we may achieve a truly Merry Christmas.

A Special Report

UNEMPLOYMENT — Canada's No. 1 Problem

By W. M. BLACK

Unemployment is a depressing subject. It is particularly depressing to this writer who was one of the many leaders of the unemployed during the Hungry Thirties who experienced the freight trains, the jungle and the relief rolls.

We felt the impact of unemployment in our youth. We are going to feel it again in our middle years. There were no jobs when we were twenty; there are no jobs when we are fifty.

Apparently society hasn't learned any lessons in the last thirty years. But one can find ample evidence of an approaching disaster. At least, it will be a disaster to a million Canadians, those who will be out of work by the spring of 1961.

I was intrigued by an article published in the weekend supplement of the

Vancouver Province, Nov. 19, 1960, by Pat Carney and headed "Unemployment a Ticking Bomb — Damage Potential High." I quote in part from this:

"The unemployment time bomb is ticking away in B.C.

"The warning is barely discernable in some sectors of the economy; in other sectors it is loud and clear.

"No one knows when it will go off, nor the extent of the damage it could inflict on the economic structure.

"But it's there, and time for disarming it is running out."

Miss Carney then pointed out the increase in B.C. unemployed over this same period last year. In B.C. alone this winter the number of unemployed could reach 70,000 or about 12% of the labour force.

"What the statistics don't show is the

Good Old Days?

It is enlightening to read the Office Rules drawn up by one employer of the 1870's.

1. Employees will daily sweep floors, dust the furniture and shelves.

2. Each day fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks. Wash windows once a week.

3. Each clerk will bring in a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business.

4. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to your individual taste.

5. The office will open 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. daily, except on the Sabbath, on which day it will remain closed. Each employee is expected to spend the Sabbath by attending church and contributing liberally to the cause of the Lord.

6. Men employees will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go regularly to church.

7. After an employee has spent his hours of labour in the office, he should spend the time reading the Bible and other good books.

8. Any employee who smokes Spanish cigars, uses liquor in any form, gets shaved in a barber's shop or frequents pool and public halls, will give me good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.

9. The employee who has performed his labors faithfully and without fault for a period of five years and who has been thrifty and attentive to his religious duties will be given an increase of five cents per day, provided a just return in profit from the business permits it.

— Royal Bank Magazine (Canada).

insidious, destructive psychological force at work.

"It is the pressure on the thousands of still employed, who, sensing uncertainty and pessimism, the by-products of unemployment, cut back on their consumer spending and thus accelerate a vicious circle."

Can we afford to have this bomb explode? Will we escape unhurt? Some business leaders may be rubbing their hands with glee, but their jobs and their businesses could be at stake, too. If unemployment gets out of control, it will know no bounds.

One of the contradictions of free enterprise is that billions of dollars are spent on national advertising every day, exhorting the population to buy with no down payment and so many months in which to pay.

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First Contract Signed By Kitimat Unit

KITIMAT — Negotiations have been successfully concluded between the management of the hospital here and the union committee for a first agreement to run 20 months to June 30, 1962.

The settlement includes all conditions standard to Local 180 contracts. Included are the union shop, night shift differential, sick leave, three weeks vacation after five years of service, superannuation, medical plan coverage, and unemployment insurance.

There is also a special clause retaining all seniority established with the former Alcan Co. Hospital at Kitimat.

A spokesman for the negotiators commented: "The cost of living is very high in this northern community and the United Steel Workers have done a tremendous job in establishing a wage standard compatible with local conditions."

"Local 180 has maintained this standard in the Kitimat General Hospital and consequently the wage rates are among the highest in the hospital field."

The negotiating committee included Mrs. M. Rayner, chairman; Mrs. A. Sinclair, vice-chairman, and Mrs. E. Gray, secretary.

POWELL RIVER PLANS PARTY

POWELL RIVER — Public Relations chairman K. Boodle reports that the social committee has its plans running smoothly for the annual Christmas party. It's been set for Friday, December 16.

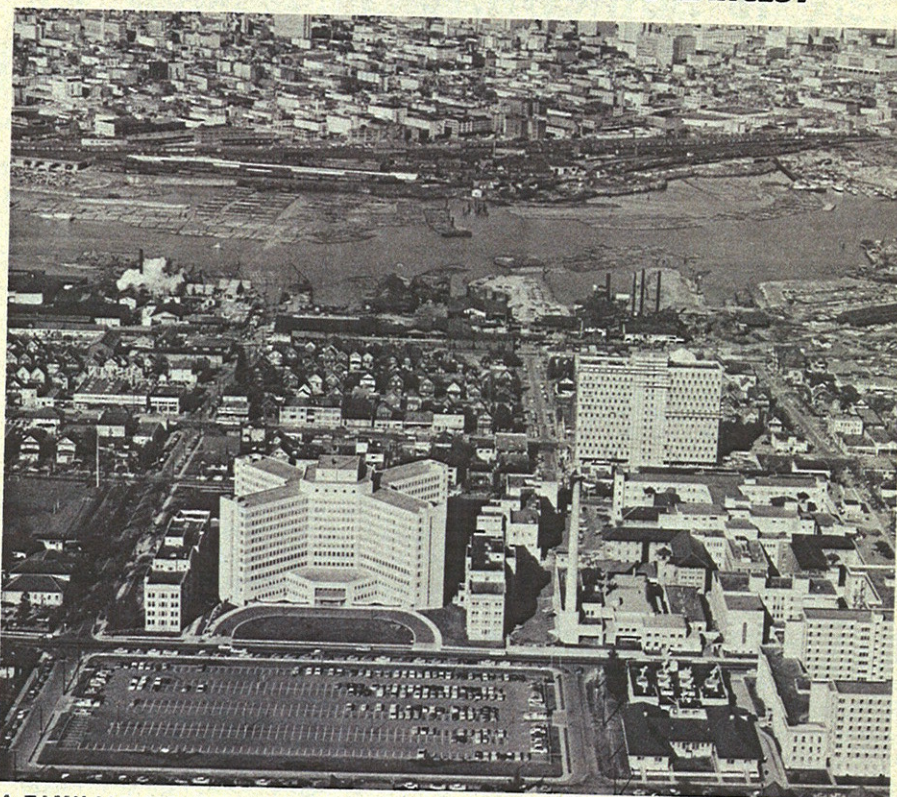
It was with mixed feelings we saw our Sister Hannah McGivray retire after 32 years of faithful service. We will miss her familiar figure around the hospital. Her gentle, kindly way endeared her to one and all.

On the other hand we are glad she is to have a well-earned rest. At a tea given in her honor she was presented with many lovely gifts from the doctors, nurses, hospital board and staff. God bless you, Hannah, and may you enjoy your retirement.

STRIKE!

NEW WESTMINSTER—The Royal Columbian unit of Hospital Workers 180 is off to a flying start with the winter bowling league. Sixteen teams are going strong, and again this year two bowlers from the VGH unit are taking part.

VANCOUVER GENERAL — CANADA'S LARGEST



A FAMILIAR SIGHT to hundreds of hospital employees is Vancouver General Hospital, the largest in the land. This aerial picture shows that the hospital is actually a city in itself — and it points up the variety of skills which members of Local 180 must possess to keep this essential service operating efficiently 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

BANANA BOAT DREAMS FULFILLED FOR ROYAL CITY DIETICIAN

By F. E. WOODWARD

NEW WESTMINSTER — Everyone dreams of a Caribbean holiday by traditional banana boat.

The dream came true this fall for Lilian Murray of the Royal Columbian dietary staff. She reports: "I have just completed a wonderful Caribbean holiday traveling by banana boat to Panama City."

"Had a lovely time in the banana country and while there visited the Aumors Hospital, which is a beautiful place and very modern. I then took the plane visiting several beautiful islands. I left Montega Bay October 17."

Much as we hate to be reminded of our old age, a nice gesture was made when it was suggested a banquet be given for all those who will be superannuated in the next 12 months. They will be presented with a lifetime membership in their local union.

Welcome back, Brother Darby, from your five weeks holiday in the Old Coun-

try. Hope you are feeling fit for the next few months of serious union business.

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The social committee is busy planning the Children's Christmas party which will be held December 19 at 7:30 p.m. It looks as though it will be its usual stunning success.

Three Retire At Penticton

PENTICTON — Three union members have left the staff of the hospital here. They are Gertrude Hill, a veteran of seven years, Vyvyan Anderson, who has been with us two years, and Brenda Boothe, 18 months.

Mrs. C. M. Taylor of the press committee reports that through the efforts of the recreational committee of the Joint Conciliation Group, the hospital staff enjoys a bowling league of six teams.

Here Is Something That Can Be Done To Help Achieve 'Peace On Earth'

By TOM HAZLITT
(Vancouver Newspaper Guild)

You can do something about world peace.

In fact, ordinary union members — people who work in hospitals and factories and mills—are the only people in this whole troubled world who can do something about it.

This is a personal column. It reflects the thinking of one trade unionist who for some time has been in a state of quiet despair at the antics of world leaders on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Ask yourself this question: "How hard would you work and fight to save your family from the immediate threat of fire, explosion, and terrible disease?"

The answer of course is that most of us would fight and die and make this gift most gladly if by doing so our children and grandchildren could survive and enjoy this wonderful world.

We are facing that threat right now. Anyone who doubts this has only to read the newspapers and the current literature of the arms race.

Impersonal Threat

But this is an impersonal threat, and instead of fighting back we react by going about our business. We assume that the death and destruction will come to someone else in some distant place. I believe this is wrong.

Let there be no doubt about what will happen unless we change our ways.

The shelves of the Vancouver Public Library are well stocked with books which set forth in horrifying detail the extent of the destruction which we can unleash at will—or perhaps against our will.

The type of bombs now being manu-

factured by both sides can lay waste to this continent, kill our people by the scores of millions, and doom those who happen to survive to slow death by cancer or starvation or both.

In our crass stupidity, we have already released enough radioactive material around the world to cause hundreds of thousands of children to be born mentally or physically defective. Every cow in every field in the world is absorbing strontium-90 into its system, and the seeds of leukemia and bone cancer that result from our folly will be with us for generations.

No Real Doubt

These are not exaggerations. They are among the more conservative conclusions reached by the Nobel prizewinner Linus Pauling. Scientists argue about the exact degree of destruction we have caused, but no sane person doubts the ability and sincerity of this great American scientist.

I say this: It's got to be stopped, and as our leaders show little sign of doing so, the ordinary people of the world have got to force them into it.

How do we do it?

We do it—each of us according to our own standards and our own God—by making a personal decision that war and preparations for war are obsolete. Then we pressure our leaders into making this the true policy of the country.

This has nothing to do with politics or pacifism. It is common sense that

This article was contributed to encourage discussion of a vital topic; your comments and ideas are most welcome.—The Editor.

breaks the bounds of party and religion. Once this decision is made we must live by it.

This is harder than it sounds.

Face Problem

Despite centuries of free speech, it has become dangerous to be in favor of peace. This problem must be faced, and the more of us who face it publicly the better.

There are practical things we can do every day:

- We can write our cabinet ministers and our MPs. It costs nothing, not even a stamp. It is effective. We can challenge them and praise them all down the line. There is considerable evidence to support the view that Canada is staving off getting nuclear arms right now only because External Affairs Minister Howard Green can show support from individuals in all parties for his stand on disarmament.

- We can force the news media into telling us just what is being done towards disarmament at the UN and elsewhere. Only then can we tell if enough is being done. (Those who doubt this might ask themselves if they know just what HAS been proposed by East and West at the current UN session.)

- We can convince community groups of all kinds to join organized labor in working towards peace. It's cause for great concern that although labor has taken a firm stand on disarmament, other potent forces like the PTA, the churches, the youth organizations, the service clubs have been largely silent.

We can take action on all these levels. Because of the danger we face, we are forced to conduct our affairs with dignity and without violence. This is a time for action, but most of all it is time for a peaceful revolution in the minds of men of goodwill. It is time for each of us to take a stand.

PENTICTON UNIT PRESENTS BURSARY

PENTICTON — Hospital Employees here have established a \$100 bursary for a local grade 12 student who is proceeding to an institution of higher learning.

It will be known officially as the Pentiction Hospital Employees' Union Bursary, and a selection committee will give preference to a student whose father or mother are members of the union.



PREPARATIONS FOR A PARTY — M. Biel, C. Tearall and E. Philip celebrate their retirement at union party at Kamloops.

A CONVENTION SCENE RECALLED



1960 . . . A YEAR TO REMEMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

We are still determined to use the big stick, whether it be locally or internationally. Our way is the right way.

It may be that the leadership being produced in all fields is incapable of realigning its thinking with the times. It could be that all they are concerned with is personal gain. Let history take care of itself. The younger generation will not thank them for the heritage which is being passed on to them.

But before we reap the whirlwind of this stupidity, the voices of the common people should be heard in all stratas of our society. Let them speak out in their Trade Unions, in their Parent-Teacher Groups, in their Community Associations, etc.

Others Have Rights

We should realize that we are not God's chosen people. Others on this earth have a right to live. How many have an appreciation of the tremendous population growth, or population explosion, which is taking place? Visualize if you can the vastness of the city of Chicago and then grasp the fact that every day a new Chicago is brought into being in the world.

Every minute, about ten thousand Chinese are born. Within forty years, half the population of the world will be Chinese, citizens of the People's Republic of China. Add to this total, Africa, India and other Asiatic nations.

Food is in short supply throughout the world. Millions of men, women and children are going hungry every day. It should be obvious that these millions couldn't care less about our way of life. They will follow any strong man who can promise them food and security. Herein lies the dilemma of the supporters of the status quo.

Can they quarantine them? Can they isolate them? Can they build a fence around them? Can they depend upon disease, pestilence and war levelling off the populations? This was the solution relied upon by past generations. What is the thinking of our leaders of to-day? Is their only answer going to be the use of atomic weapons of destruction to annihilate the hordes of hungry people throughout the world?

Examine Selves

Some of our readers may consider this a morbid article. I hope it is an accurate and positive one. Let us examine ourselves. Let us look into our own hearts and do some serious thinking. The consciousness of the people must be awakened, and pressure must be brought to bear on politicians of all political parties. We must refuse to sit back and be apathetic but must become positive in our approach. Put aside the big club, individually and collectively, and grapple with the problem. This is the only way we can create the environment wherein the phrase, Peace On Earth, Good Will Towards All Men, will become meaningful.

There is no longer any room in this world for the selfish individualist. We live in an era of mass or social production. We work together socially. We must learn to live together socially. Whether we like it or not, we are our brother's keeper.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

HOPE — Members of Hope unit of B.C. Hospital Employees' Union Local 180 have chalked up an average attendance of 50 per cent at each regular meeting since the unit was organized.

THEATRE PARTY FOR CHILDREN

December 11 is a date to remember for members of the Vancouver General Hospital unit.

That's the date of the Children's Christmas Party, to be held this year at the Circle Theatre on Kingsway at 6:00 p.m. sharp.

Children of members will enjoy an hour of cartoons, treats and presents. With your help and co-operation we hope to make this the best party yet.

Chairman A. Buzinski and the VGH social committee extend their thanks to all who have helped their work during 1960. Best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas go out to all members of the Hospital Employees Union everywhere.

**THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE**

EXTENDS

TO ALL HOSPITAL WORKERS and THEIR FAMILIES

*Sincere Wishes
for a
Happy Christmas
and a
Peaceful New Year*



Continued from Page 4

UNEMPLOYMENT — Canada's No. 1 Problem

Our whole way of life in our modern 1960 is tied up in credit buying. The debt owed by the workers is astronomical. In the Vancouver Sun of Oct. 16, John Usher wrote an article entitled "Credit Buying." A few quotations from this will substantiate my statement:

"In Vancouver, credit buying extends from such major items as homes and automobiles to making a phone call.

"In 1946 charge accounts, installment credit and personal cash loans outstanding in Canada amounted to around \$400 million.

"By the middle of this year it stood at close to \$3.5 billion.

"More than \$399 million was tied up in charge accounts; about \$1.4 billion in installment debts and another \$1.6 billion in personal cash loans.

"None of these statistics take into account the billions outstanding in home mortgages, yet another form of credit buying. For NHA housing alone, the national bill runs close to \$4 billion."

What will happen to this debt if the time bomb does go off? It is going to be much more expensive to be unemployed in the Hungry Sixties than in the Hungry Thirties! The cost of living index is still rising. The Unemployment Insurance Fund is being depleted.

Until recently, the Federal Government was soft pedalling unemployment. The Prime Minister was the man who stated that no Canadian would go hungry or would be without gainful employment. It is strange that only during the stress of war the working force can be fully employed. But surely what can be accomplished in the stress of war can be accomplished in the interests of maintaining a proper standard of life, in maintaining human dignity.

An Old Story

Maybe the dust should be taken from some of the briefs that were prepared in the latter part of the second World War. I have before me a report on the "Broader Aspects of Post War Planning." This was presented by a committee of Reeves and Aldermen to the convention of the Union of B.C. Municipalities at Kamloops, on Sept. 15, 1942. The preamble of that document is most interesting:

"It is essential that preparation be made now to plan for a post war economy which will ensure the survival of democratic rights and bring in a new system in which there will be no room for the evils existing prior to the outbreak of the war — a system wherein waste of both hu-

A Quote To Remember

"Never again must we tolerate the chronic unemployment, the extremes of wealth and poverty, and slums . . . and lack of opportunity for so many which had disfigured our national life in the past. Together with the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and other nations, we should take our part in working for the development of a great, world-wide civilization."

— Anthony Eden, in a speech delivered early in the second world war.

man and material substance will be abolished.

"This, to some, may sound an impossible task, but just remember that Canada has the resources to look after a hundred million people, with only twelve million at present to share and enjoy them. Therefore, it becomes a problem merely of distribution, on a new and maybe revolutionary basis.

"This is not beyond the imagination

'SHOCKING' WAGE RATES REVEALED

Shocking substandard wages of laundry and dry cleaning plant workers in the sprawling Metro Toronto region have been brought to light by a new union organizing drive.

More than 7,000 of these workers in this area have been drawing down a weekly pay of between \$20 and \$32 — less than half the national wage average.

Thomas Corrigan and Gil Davis, organizers of the International Laundry, Cleaners and Dyehouse Workers Union which has been conducting the drive, say new Canadians make up the bulk of the victimized laundry employees.

The union flatly denied charges contained in a statement by the Dry Cleaners and Launderers Institute of Ontario. The institute said the union was employing threats of violence to force workers into its rank.

Harry Simon, regional director for the Canadian Labour Congress, described the company institute as notorious for its anti-labour tactics.

and ingenuity of men with intelligence and good will, of which Canada has its fair proportion."

Those who master mind the operation of our society have a responsibility. It is certainly not the responsibility of the working class to give the leadership. We have not yet assumed this mantle. But those who have assumed it must put to use all the technological know-how at their disposal in order to put the work force of this country to gainful employment.

A lot of things have been tossed at us. "We have priced ourselves out of the world markets." "Wages are too high."

Facts on Wages

The Labour Gazette of October 1960 informs us that the average wage in B.C. was \$83.73. In striking that figure, they have thrown everything high and low into the melting pot. But we have many thousands in B.C. who are working for a lot less than \$250 per month and attempting to maintain families.

Over the years we have failed to develop a National Social Security Plan into which every worker would have contributed in order to provide some security in his senior years. This, in itself, would have relieved the labour congestion. But with the average wage of the working force across this Dominion, it is nigh to impossible to raise a family and at the same time make adequate provisions for retirement.

The leaders of industry should stop pointing the finger at Labour and should look in the looking glass. The game of free enterprise is like a poker game in which the house man gets a rake-off no matter who wins. Capital has had its field day. The usurers, the lending companies, the mortgage companies, the middle man, the non producers—these have all managed to grab off a big cut without contributing a thing.

This writer has no desire to be super critical but merely wished to point out some of the deficiencies, some of the dangers.

Nor has Labour been merely critical. At the national level it has attempted to give constructive leadership. Warnings were issued four and five years ago of this approaching disaster. Recommendations were made to the federal government. The development of secondary manufacturing industries was advocated. We have drawn attention to the widening gap between the labour force and available jobs and we have suggested considerable expenditures of capital by federal and provincial governments on basic public facilities designed to encourage the development of the country's resources.