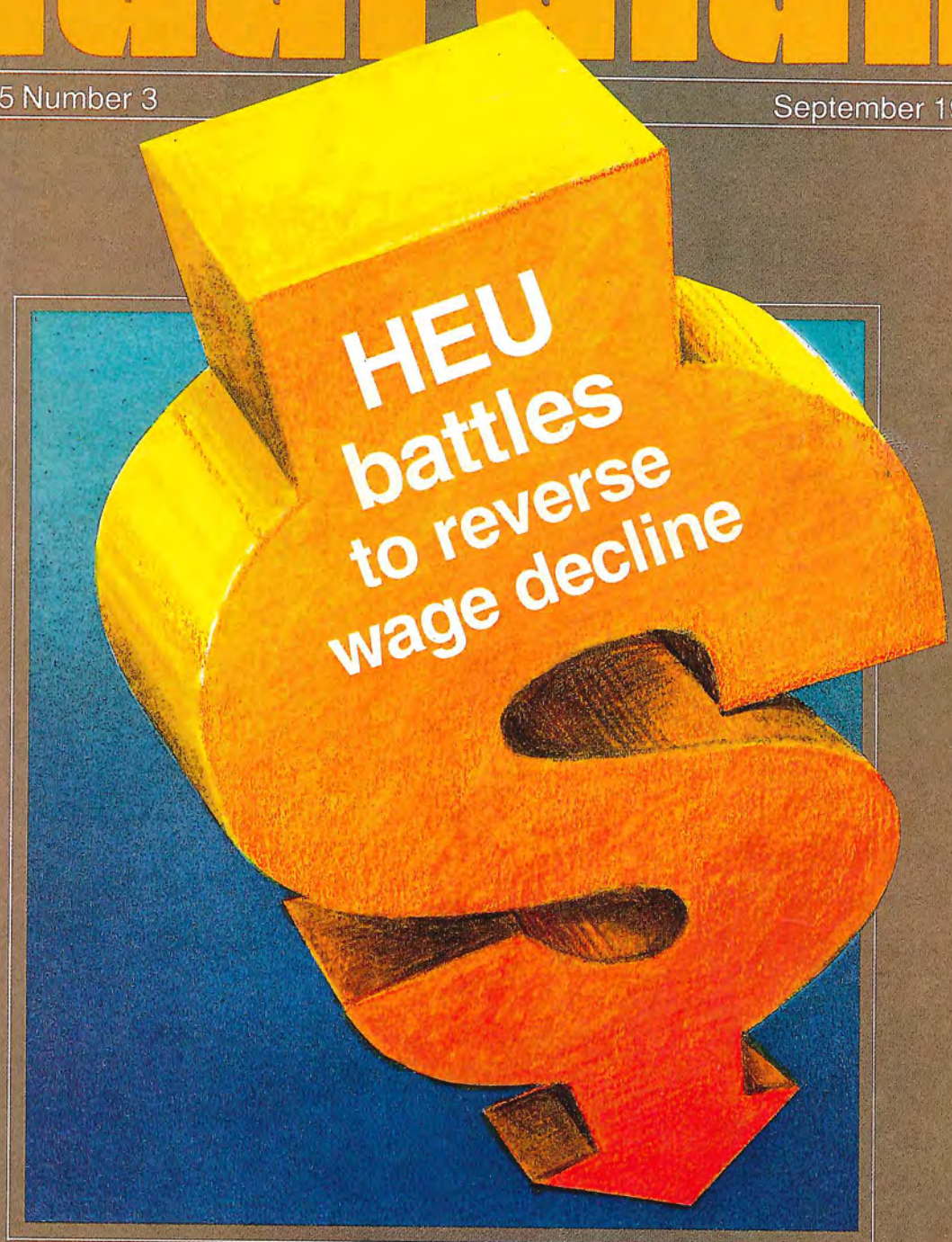


# THE HOSPITAL Guardian

Volume 5 Number 3

September 1985







**HOSPITAL  
EMPLOYEES'  
UNION** LOCAL  
180

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

## THE HOSPITAL Guardian

Editor: Lecia Stewart

The Hospital Guardian is published by the Provincial Executive of the Hospital Employees' Union, Local 180, under the direction of an Editorial Committee whose members are: **BILL MACDONALD**, **JACK GEROW**, **MARY LaPLANTE**, **ALBERTA DORVAL**, **CLARKE GARDNER**.

The Members of the Provincial Executive are:

**BILL MACDONALD** President  
**JACK GEROW** Secretary-Business Manager  
**MARY LaPLANTE** Financial Secretary  
**ALBERTA DORVAL** 1st Vice-President  
**MIKE BARKER** 2nd Vice-President  
**EILEEN HENNEBERRY** 3rd Vice-President  
**ANDY KOZYNIAK** 4th Vice-President  
**PHIL MacLEOD** 5th Vice-President  
**CLARKE GARDNER** Senior Trustee  
**JULIA AMENDT** Senior Trustee Elect  
**JOYCE DAWSON** Trustee  
**NANCY MACDONALD** Member-at-Large #1  
**DENNIS JEFFERY** Member-at-Large #2  
**LIZ MARSHALL** Regional Vice-President Fraser Valley  
**JEAN WEIR** Regional Vice-President Kootenays  
**NEIL ANDERSON**  
Regional Vice-President Lower Mainland — 1  
**GWEN PARRISH**  
Regional Vice-President Lower Mainland — 2  
**STEVE MORRALL** Regional Vice-President North  
**HENRY THEOBALD**  
Regional Vice-President Okanagan  
**RHON L'HEUREUX**  
Regional Vice-President Vancouver Island  
**PHYLLIS SHIPLACK** 1st Provincial Executive Alternate

The Union maintains offices at:

**Provincial Office:**  
2286 W. 12th Ave., Vancouver V6K 2N5  
Telephone 734-3431

**Okanagan Office:**  
No. 103, 2359 Hwy. 97 North, Kelowna V1X 4H9  
Telephone 860-5115

**Kootenay Office:**  
745 Baker St., Nelson V1L 4J5  
Telephone 354-4466

**Vancouver Island Office:**  
1402 Stadacona Ave., Victoria V8S 3T1  
Telephone 595-4433

**Northern Office:**  
829 Victoria St., Prince George V2L 2K7  
Telephone 564-2102

Member of

**CALM  
ACPS**

Canadian  
Association  
of Labour  
Media  
Association  
canadienne  
de la presse  
syndicale

## INSIDE

### COMMENT

3

#### A TIME FOR PROGRESS

HEU gears up for 15th Biennial Convention

4

#### GETTING INVOLVED

Labor councils now open to HEU

6

#### MARCHING DOWN MAIN STREET

Prince Rupert protests health care cutbacks

8

#### THE RESTRAINT "STING"

9

#### THE STRATEGY OF DISASTER

Economic zones a bust in the Philippines

12

### FRONTLINES

14

#### NO CHARITY HERE

Cancer Society workers demand fair treatment

16

### FRONTLINES

17

### MILESTONES

17

#### A CATCH-UP INCREASE

Negotiations under way for Master Agreement

Reopener

20

### LETTERS

22

### SPEAKING OUT

24



## COMMENT

### The power of public protest

By Jack Gerow

Some highly orchestrated but secretive meetings took place in a Vancouver hotel during the third week of August.

Behind closed doors, an elite group of Federal politicians were gathered to discuss nothing less than the future of Canada as a friend and neighbor to the United States.

But the real issue that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his cabinet colleagues were discussing was our survival: our survival as an independent nation and our survival from the overkill mentality of Pentagon warlords.

While these discussions were taking place, some 200 people from all walks of life gathered on the steps of the courthouse across the street to protest any Canadian participation in Star Wars. And what these protestors were saying was simply this — Star Wars is stupid.

And they were not the only protestors. All across Canada, individuals and groups from every element of society were saying essentially the same thing.

If Canada is to survive, our country must not become just another cog in the U.S. Military Machine. Working men and women in this country do not want any part of any program that's going to turn their homes, their schools, their hospitals and their factories into the firing field and battleground of a nuclear war.

That is why Star Wars was such a bad deal for Canadians — we would be the front line in any nuclear war.

But there are other reasons why



Canada should stay free from Star Wars.

We were told that the United States had invited Canada and other countries to participate in a multi-billion dollar research project.

And we were told that Star Wars would create thousands of jobs that Canadians cannot create themselves.

But the whole truth has now come out.

Canada and the United States have an arrangement called the Defence Production Sharing Agreements.

Under this arrangement, for every dollar that the U.S. spends in Canada under the Star Wars project or any other military project, the Canadian government must spend an equal amount buying military equipment from the United States.

No matter how the Federal government tried to cover-up the real terms of Canadian participation in Star Wars, it would have been widely disclosed that Canadian tax dollars would end up subsidizing Star Wars.

The truth of the matter is that Canadian participation in Star Wars would result in a net loss of jobs in Canada.

The same amount of money

spent on health care would create at least three times as many jobs as Star Wars.

Some three weeks after his meetings in Vancouver and the courthouse demonstration, Prime Minister Mulroney announced that Can-

ada would not participate in Star Wars.

Now what does this really mean?

First, it means that public protest can influence government policy.

We have seen this before.

First, the poll-minded Federal government backed down on its proposals to slash UIC benefits after organized labor raised a storm of protest.

Next, the same government backed down on its proposals to cut-out the indexing of pensions after seniors and organized labor raised another storm of protest.

And now the Tories have backed down on Star Wars.

But have they totally backed-down. Of course not. The only decision that the Prime Minister has made is a "political" decision — the Federal government will not participate in Star Wars directly.

What we need now is a Federal government that will not attempt to get involved in Star Wars research through the back-door. Any government encouragement or incentive to private corporations who want to cash-in on contracts with the Pentagon is unacceptable.

What we need now is a Federal government that will make the "moral" decision that Star Wars is bad for Canadians.



# HEU gearing up for 15th Biennial Convention



The Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the Hospital Employees' Union will be held February 22 to 27 at The Richmond Inn in Richmond.

As many as 400 delegates are expected to attend the six day convention. The length of the convention has been extended to accommodate both the regular business of the Fifteenth Biennial Convention as well as the Tenth Provincial Wage Policy Conference to be held at the same time.

Although it has been traditional to hold wage policy conferences in between convention years, this pattern has been changed somewhat in recent years because HEU's collective agreements are running longer than two years.

Because most of HEU's collective agreements, including the Master Agreement, expire on March 31, 1986, a wage policy conference to determine the membership bargaining demands must be held sometime in early 1986. The







HEU's 14th Biennial Convention was held at The Richmond Inn from September 30 to October 3, 1984.

union's Fifteenth Biennial Convention must also be held in 1986 so a decision has been made by the Provincial Executive to hold both the convention and wage policy conference at the same time.

All HEU members who have attended at least 50 per cent of their unit meetings over the past year are eligible to run as delegates to the convention. The number of delegates each unit is entitled to send is outlined in the HEU Constitution and By-Laws as follows:

- \* 50 members or less — 1 delegate
- \* 51 to 99 members — 2 delegates
- \* 100 to 249 members — 3 delegates
- \* 250 to 399 — 4 delegates
- \* 1 additional delegate for each additional 175 members or major fraction thereof.

Even though the convention and wage policy conference have been combined, the delegate entitlement remains the same. In other words, units must not elect one full set of delegates to a wage policy conference and a different set of delegates to the convention.

Article XI, Section F of the HEU Constitution states when a wage policy conference is held at the same time as the convention, each unit must designate its wage policy conference delegates from its convention delegates.



Pictured at left is Zorica Bosancic, a member of the convention's tabulation committee.

From a practical standpoint, most units will probably elect their convention delegates first and then designate the required number of representatives for wage policy conference purposes as outlined in the Constitution.

Units will be holding elections for delegates at their Fall meetings.

While the duties and responsibilities of convention delegates are many, those members who are considering becoming delegates should know that the union reimburses delegates for reasonable expenses, accommodation, meals, transportation costs and lost wages.

In addition, this year for the first time, there will be a New Delegate Seminar offered for first time delegates. The seminar, designed to give new-comers a basic understanding of convention procedures and the union's structure, will be conducted prior to the opening of

the convention on February 22 at 11 a.m.

The business of the convention will be divided into two basic sections. The biennial convention is structured to deal with amendments to the union's constitution, and resolutions to shape overall union policy. In order for a unit to submit a proposed amendment to the constitution, it must first be ratified by a majority vote at a regular meeting of the sponsoring unit. If it passes, it must be submitted in writing to HEU's Provincial Office at least 90 days prior to the convention.

Resolutions must also first pass a majority vote at the unit level before they can be put before a full HEU convention. The deadline for resolutions is at least 60 days prior to the convention.

At press time, the convention agenda was not yet finalized but in addition to the regular order of business, the six day convention will be highlighted by several prominent guest speakers, an opening day wine and cheese party to meet the delegates, a convention dance and a variety of special presentations and ceremonies.

The December issue of The Guardian will provide more details on the convention proceedings as well as highlights of some of the proposed resolutions, constitutional amendments and wage and contract demands.



# A common cause for HEU



July 16, 1985 marked the official swearing in of HEU's first affiliate to the Vancouver and District Labour Council (VDLC), the St. Paul's unit.

British Columbia's 20 labor councils have some new faces in their ranks these days.

They're members of the Hospital Employees' Union.

After a 15-year absence, HEU units around the province are starting to apply for affiliation to local labor councils and already some 23 units are official members of their regional house of labor.

Many other units plan to affiliate in September.

For Dennis Jeffery, HEU member from Penticton Regional Hospital, the opportunity to belong to the labor council in his region is welcome indeed.

"For years, the South Okanagan council has been calling to invite us to meetings as observers. The people here have always been anxious to get us involved."

But Jeffery says he declined the invitations because he wanted to attend a labor council meeting with full voice and vote, something an observer is denied.

Today, as 2nd vice-president of the South Okanagan Labor Council, Jeffery's 15-year wait is finally over.

"Right now, I'm actively involved in our council's attempt to get the mayors of all the cities in our region to proclaim a week in September as "Union Label Week."

Jeffery says that such a proclamation would help encourage all citizens to buy union made goods and patronize unionized establishments.

Although Penticton unit is the first HEU unit in the region affiliated to the South Okanagan Labor Council, Jeffery feels confident he can persuade other units to get involved.

"We have a good active council up here and we're happy to be a part of it. It helps us develop a stronger trade union consciousness and allows us to get involved in everything in the city."

The re-affiliation of HEU units like Penticton to labor councils was

made possible by an historic agreement worked out last year between HEU and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. That agreement allows HEU to re-enter Canada's main house of labor, the Canadian Labor Congress, as a direct affiliate for a four-year trial period. As an affiliate to the CLC, HEU is then permitted to join local labor councils across the province as well as the B.C. Federation of Labor.

HEU's re-entry into the CLC has been relatively smooth, but the accompanying affiliations to the B.C. Federation of Labor and some local labor councils have encountered a few bureaucratic hurdles.

One of these has involved the interpretation of HEU's internal structure. HEU maintains that each of its local units is entitled to affiliate on an individual basis to local labor councils. In fact, Article XX, Section C of the union's Constitution and By-Laws outlines that all component units and groups of HEU may join and main-



Union activist and St. Paul's unit chairperson Fred Muzin at a May Day demonstration at the offices of the Compensation Stabilization Program. Muzin believes labour council affiliation will be a tremendous benefit to the members of the St. Paul's unit.

tain membership in a labor council. The position of some labor councils, however, has been to suggest that HEU affiliate on a regional basis.

Jack Gerow, HEU secretary-business manager, says HEU has no regional type of structure to allow for regional affiliations and further, that each of our units has the right to decide individually whether or not to join a labor council and pay the required per capita.

Nevertheless, Gerow says he feels confident that an understanding can be worked out with the CLC, the B.C. Fed and local labor councils that will resolve this matter. In the meantime, however, applications from HEU's local units are being accepted by labor councils, with some compromises worked out at the local level.

One of the first compromises was worked out in Victoria where four HEU units are now affiliated to the labor council. Royal Jubilee, Victoria General, Gorge Road and Mount St. Mary units have all achieved individual recognition and are now official members of the Victoria and District Labor Council.

Another compromise has been the affiliation of the St. Paul's unit to the province's largest council, the Vancouver and District Labor Council (VDLC).

The unit has agreed to a revised delegate entitlement formula in exchange for individual unit recognition to the labor council.

Fred Muzin, chairperson of the St. Paul's unit and a delegate to the VDLC, says representatives from his unit executive attended several labor council meetings as observers before a recommendation was put to the membership on affiliation.

"After attending the meetings, we concluded it would be a tremendous benefit for our members to belong," said Muzin.

In fact, the St. Paul's unit voted nearly unanimously to join the VDLC and their application was accepted July 16.

Muzin said the labor council allows more people to get involved in the labor movement -- people who may not necessarily want to be shop stewards or unit executive members but like the idea of being a labor council delegate.

"And by attending meetings, we all get to know there are common problems and common labor concerns that don't just exist in the hospital. These problems can't be eliminated just by HEU on its own. There has to be agreement and solutions from all labor concerned."

Muzin scoffs at those who suggest you don't have to belong to the labor council in order to reap its benefits.

While some HEU members have commented that support for any HEU strike or demonstration would be provided without having to belong, Muzin disagrees.

"We've been out protesting against hospital cutbacks at our

unit for some time now and to my knowledge there's been little support from any other unions."

Muzin believes that will change now that his unit is active in a labor council that has 104 affiliated unions representing some 50,000 working people.

The Prince Rupert unit of HEU has already seen first hand the difference labor council membership can make. When a dozen HEU members were recently laid off from the Prince Rupert Hospital, the labor council co-sponsored a civic demonstration to heighten awareness of the effects of health care cutbacks.

Liz Marshall, chairperson of HEU's Mission unit, says her unit has applied to affiliate to the New Westminister Labor Council in spite of the long drive it takes for delegates to get to the meetings.



Chairperson of HEU's Mission unit, Liz Marshall.

Marshall feels it's important for unions to bond together in a particular region so that working people can begin to have a real input into such things as municipal affairs.

Marshall is also spearheading a drive to get a Fraser Valley Labor Council established which she feels could better serve the unions in the area.

Other HEU units that have affiliated to local labor councils include Castlegar, Hardy View Lodge, Halcyon Home, Kootenay Lake, Willowhaven, Rossland, Sparwood, Cariboo Lodge, Quesnel, Simon Fraser Lodge, Dawson Creek, Nanaimo, Queen's Park, Prince George, Terrace, Kitimat and Fort St. John.



# Prince Rupert protests health care cutbacks

The layoff of 12 HEU orderlies and practical nurses at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital has escalated into a city wide protest against health care cutbacks.

Some 100 Prince Rupert area trade unionists, led by HEU members from the hospital, marched down that city's main street on August 10 with banners waving to demand an end to the layoffs at the regional hospital.

The march and subsequent rally was co-sponsored by HEU and the Prince Rupert and District Labor Council. The Prince Rupert unit of HEU recently affiliated to the labor council.

Speaking to the demonstrators, Jim Rushton, labor council secretary, promised that the labor council will do its best not only to save the jobs of those facing layoff, but also to expand local hospital services.

HEU representative John Hurren called on the crowd to demand the replacement of the hospital's

board of directors, noting board members have remained silent on the layoff issue and did not attend the demonstration.

"If the board is not prepared to represent the people of Prince Rupert, then it's up to the people of Prince Rupert to replace the board," Hurren said.

Local HEU unit chairperson Vicky Tauber warned that the layoff of two orderlies on the night shift would cause a lack of security at the hospital. She also questioned whether the hospital will really save money through the layoffs.

She said because of staff shortages, hospital administration is already calling people in on days off and paying double time for that work.

The dispute began July 16 when a dozen HEU members were handed layoff notice. The hospital claims the layoffs are necessary to "counter a \$275,000 reduction in its budget."

In addition to the impact of the layoffs on the quality of care at Prince Rupert Hospital, HEU is battling hospital administration over its handling of the workforce reduction.

According to Hurren, the hospital laid off junior LPNs and then arbitrarily transferred senior employees into positions without posting jobs and without granting bumping rights.

Hurren contends the hospital's actions are in contravention of the union's collective agreement. "They just want to get as many people off the payroll as quickly as possible and the only way to do that is to circumvent chain bumping."

HEU members at the hospital itself had planned protest action against the layoffs.

However, the hospital, represented by the Health Labor Relations Association, applied to the Labor Relations Board for an order to prevent HEU members from engaging in any work stoppages.



HEU members protest in Prince Rupert.

DOUG COLLIE — PRINCE RUPERT DAILY NEWS



# Has restraint worked?



Is government now more efficient and cost-effective?

There was a time not so long ago when government politicians spent most of their waking hours attempting to convince anyone who would listen that restraint was not only necessary, but would in the end turn out to be a wonderful experience for everyone who had the foresight to co-operate. There would be jobs for all, a booming British Columbia economy, and a government that would be, in the words of Finance Minister High Curtis, "lean and efficient."

The truth of the matter is that thousands of public employees lost their jobs in what has turned out to be one of the biggest "con" jobs ever perpetrated on an unsuspecting public by politicians whose main and over-riding concern was getting re-elected at any price. Many British Columbians, we are sure, are tired of hearing from these same politicians that we have turned the proverbial economic "corner" and have realized that the "good times" corner may be many years away. For some of our people, like those who line up at the food banks each week, that corner may never be reached, let alone turned.

## Restraint is now a "non-word" in Victoria

That nasty "R" word is never heard these days behind the tweed curtain in Victoria and has instead been replaced with official buzz phrases like "Partners in Enterprise" and "Man in Motion."

### "MAN IN MOTION"

This latter phrase has been interpreted by some cabinet ministers to mean an airline ticket to anywhere.

Perhaps the time has come for someone, somewhere, to take a long hard look at the whole restraint exercise on behalf of those thousands of public employees who sacrificed their jobs, their careers, and for many, their dreams in the name of a restraint program that was a political exercise from start to finish.



According to information widely published in the media, it is now understood that the whole restraint program may well have been a cruel political hoax from start to finish, created with the help of a professional political organizer in 1982 in order to help get the government elected.

## Government by poll

As a direct result of polling data which told the government that "the public knew we were in tough times, and they knew someone had to make some tough decisions, and they were prepared to accept those tough decisions," (Patrick Kinsella, SFU, 1984), a campaign was created to convince the public that their provincial public service was fat and bloated, peopled with employees who were not earning their keep, therefore could be "let go" without creating much of a furor. At the same time, the restraint program, again according to Kinsella who was providing political advice to the government,

was viewed as the perfect vehicle by which to portray Premier Bennett as the tough decision maker that the polls said the public wanted.

Those 1981-82 government polls and the political problems that they revealed are what gave birth to restraint, and it is clear now that political necessity, not economics, is what destroyed thousands of jobs and created the current economic malaise that British Columbia, unlike the rest of the country, is now unable to shake off. Restraint was never guided by rationality, its sole purpose was political.

## Politics of restraint

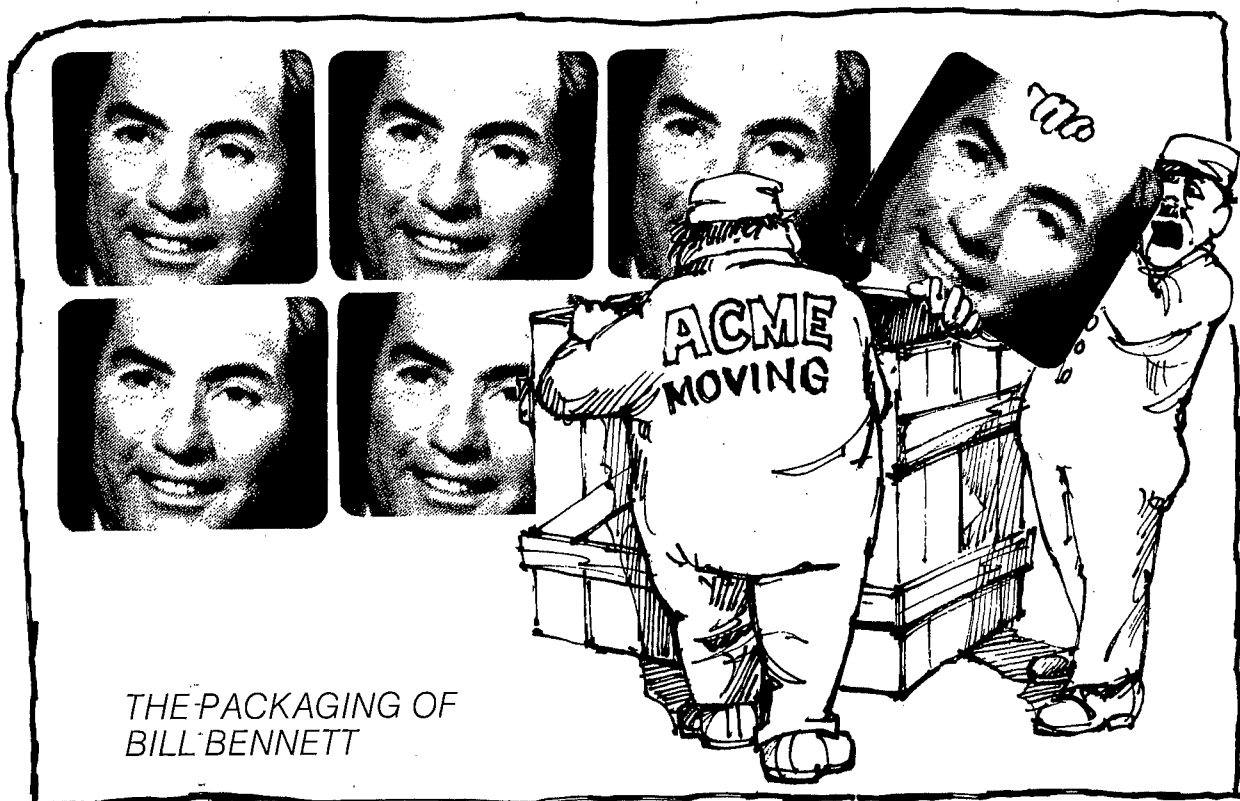
It was the politics of restraint that killed jobs in health care; in education; in social services, and in our forests and government service generally. As a government service, we are not any more efficient now than we were before restraint. How could we possibly be more efficient when so many operations

were left short-staffed and some programs are no longer even in existence?

Restraint apparently has benefited those it was designed to help; namely, the government of the day, and in that regard, it must be termed a political success. The failure of restraint was in its inability to provide any solutions for the province's serious economic problems. Restraint only added to our suffering, it did not heal anything.

The rest of the Canadian economy is slowly improving while ours is not. One in seven British Columbians are out of work, and one in five is attempting to survive on some form of income assistance. Canada is slowly climbing out of its economic hole while B.C. appears to be digging itself in deeper.

The number of people unemployed for more than 14 weeks in B.C. increased 30 per cent from December 1984 to March of this year; and more than half the long term unemployed have been jobless for more than a year. The much heralded mega projects that restraint was supposed to help



THE PACKAGING OF  
BILL BENNETT



fund have, for the most part, turned into short-term "flashes in the pan" that have yet to make any serious inroads in the unemployment figures.

## No Expo jobs in Pouce Coupe



Our economy hasn't boomed and there will be no Expo jobs for anyone living outside the Lower Mainland, and if everyone doesn't show up at the Expo site with a pocketful of change (and bills) at least three times, we will probably be passing on that debt to our grandchildren.

So much for the jobs and booming economy that restraint was supposed to create. Let's look at the "lean and efficient" government Mr. Curtis said his government's cutback program would create.

## Restraint — less government at more cost

The "leaner" and more efficient government that Finance Minister Curtis spoke of in his 1984/85 budget speech is not exactly what restraint has produced according to a recent study published in the Vancouver Sun on July 15, 1985.

According to the study, increases in provincial spending have

outstripped whatever "savings" that may have been realized from the restraint program.

- welfare income assistance payments are expected to be \$278 million more this year than they were in the 12 months before Mr. Curtis' speech
- hospital operating grants are \$190 million more; payments to doctors are up \$148 million
- interest on the provincial debt is up \$356 million

This is the provincial government's over-all spending record, in millions of dollars, since its 1982-83 financial year:



## LESS GOVERNMENT AT MORE COST!

Editorial compliments of the B.C. Government Employees Union "Restraint Reporter."

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Budgeted	7,688.7	8,445.0	8,390.0	9,056.0
Spent	7,513.3	8,363.9	8,746.0	—
Difference	-175.4	-81.1	+356.0	—



# Learning from the hardships of others

## *Philippine workers warn that export processing zones are a disaster*

By  
Geoff Meggs

Philippine factory worker Pedro Rebollos has a message for B.C. trade unionists: stop export processing zones before they start.

Rebollos, 27, moved to the world's first large-scale export processing zone in Bataan in 1981, hoping a job in the booming tax haven north of Manila would be his ticket to prosperity.

Creation of the zone was one of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos' first acts when he declared Martial Law in 1972. Like B.C.'s Social Credit government, Marcos assaulted human rights, rolled back trade union rights and then opened the economy to foreign investment in a bid to create jobs.

The strategy has been a disaster. In July 1984, Rebollos and 125 other workers at the Chemark fan assembly plant in the Bataan Export Processing Zone were laid off without severance and told the company was broke. They joined 14,000 other jobless workers in the Bataan EPZ, none of whom have any form of unemployment insurance or welfare.

"They eliminated our jobs but didn't even give us notification," Rebollos said. "They gave us two weeks' pay when our collective agreement calls for two months pay for every year of service. That is why we fight for our rights."

Although unions are technically legal in Marcos' EPZ's, strikes and lockouts are not. The legal minimum wage of 57 pesos a day — about \$4.40 — can be waived if a corporation is in trouble and 12, 14, and 16-hour shifts are common.

At the Chemark plant, skilled workers earned about 50 cents an hour Canadian, about half what they needed to survive in the costly BEPZ. But Rebollos and his fellow workers insisted on their rights



Modern export zone hospital is fully staffed but has no patients because workers cannot afford daily hospital charge.

from Chemark, a Filipino-owned company with a marketing arm in New York.

Convinced the shutdown was an illegal lockout designed to bust their union, they threw up picket lines last November and settled in for a struggle. The 30,000 fan motors still in the plant are their bargaining chip.

This kind of labor militancy, in the face of arrests, assassination and torture of trade union activists, is sweeping the Philippines as the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship drives the country into its worst-ever economic crisis.

With the economy paralyzed by a staggering national debt and reeling from 50 per cent inflation, almost 80 per cent of the population was forced below the poverty line in the last 10 years.

The 57 peso minimum wage is far below the 83 pesos a family of four needs to survive, but in the Bataan EPZ, where multinationals write the rules, special concessions see some workers reduced to less than 12 pesos, or a dollar a day.

Rebollos' wife Doris is a seamstress in a Bataan EPZ Mattel plant producing outfits for Barbie



Canadian trade unionists link arms with

dolls. Her quota is 100 costumes a day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year for the minimum wage. Four months pregnant, she is regularly harassed by management, which suspects her of union activity, but she counts herself lucky still to have a job.

For tens of thousands of EPZ workers, who came from all over the Philippines to share in Marcos' economic miracle, unemployment is a fact of life.

Despite government guaranteed loans to build plants, repressive labor laws, tax-free remittance of profits, duty-free status and a host of subsidies, the multinationals are bailing out of Bataan and heading for greener pastures.

At its peak, the Bataan EPZ had





Unable to afford World Bank financed zone housing, these Bataan workers built shanties from discarded Ford Canada packing crates.



Workers at Chemark Plant in the Bataan Zone.

59 companies employing 30,000 workers in plants worth almost \$3 billion. But today, only 42 companies are operating with a workforce of 14,000, predominately women.

Why the collapse? Many companies simply used up the "incentives" and then closed their doors, walking away from plants built and paid for with tax dollars while profits were invested elsewhere. Others moved to new havens in China, Taiwan and Korea and still others were wiped out by the world-wide recession.

The Ford Motor Co. stamping plant, which had Ford Canada involvement, stands empty. Other plants were never opened. The economic benefits promised by Marcos

— the same ones now promised here by the Socreds — have proved a nightmarish financial quagmire.

"The EPZ was to increase our foreign exchange, create jobs and help people here learn new technology," says Rebollos. "But companies who invested here borrowed most of their capital from World Bank funds guaranteed by our government. The profits they were supposed to invest in the economy came from Philippine banks.

"Now the companies are defaulting and we must pay the World Bank loans. For every dollar they invested here they borrowed \$8.33 locally and took out \$13.58 in profit."

There was no complex technology imported, Rebollos notes. Instead, antiquated and unsafe equipment was imported from overseas to make consumer goods like fans, running shoes and doll clothes. When sales dropped off or China, Korea or Taiwan offered better incentives, the plants simply shut their doors.

When told that B.C. Premier Bill Bennett is touting special economic zones as the engine for B.C.'s long-awaited recovery, Philippine EPZ workers stare in disbelief. In Bataan, the EPZ brought unemployment, dislocation and misery. It took five years to begin to fight back.

Despite military attacks on the

picket line and wholesale scabbing, workers struck a company in Bataan in 1979 and hung on through 417 arrests and 13 months of strike to win union recognition. In the last three years, the Bataan EPZ has been shut down three times by general strikes demanding free trade unionism and an end to economic and political repression.

But Rebollos and his fellow workers, who sleep each night in a thatched hut on the picket line, see strikes as a short-term solution. Along with 10,000 others, they joined a two-day protest march to the regional capital on May Day that demanded an end to the dictatorship and creation of a national democratic government dedicated to the welfare of the Filipino people.

"These companies will not allow Filipinos to learn and develop," says Rebollos, "because if the country develops they would have no source of raw materials and cheap, docile labor."

Philippine workers doubt Canadians would tolerate the conditions they have endured. They would like to see starvation wages, forced overtime and trade union repression wiped out worldwide.

They'd like Canadian unions to build solidarity links with the Philippines, pressure the U.S. to end its support for Marcos and pressure the Philippine government directly to end its brutal repression of trade union rights. And they'd be delighted if Canadians prevented free trade zones from being established here.

Their goals are summarized by the sign on a donation box the Chemark workers have hung on a tree at their picket camp. It reads: "Please donate. Every contribution builds Justice, Peace and Freedom."

Geoff Meggs, editor of the United Fisherman and Allied Workers Union newspaper "The Fisherman," recently returned from a one-month tour of the Philippines sponsored by B.C.'s Ecumenical Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines.



## FRONTLINES

### Union membership continues to grow

Union membership has continued to grow for the third year in a row and has reached 3,662,000 as of January 1985, according to Labor Canada statistics.

That's an increase of 11,000 unionized employees in one year. Union membership now represents 39 per cent of all non-agricultural workers in the country.

Federal figures also show that the Canadian Labor Congress remains the largest labor organization with 2,119,724 members, or 58 per cent of all unionized workers.

There has been an

almost steady increase in union membership since the mid-1960s when only 30 per cent of the work force was unionized. In 1960, union membership stood at 1,459,000.

The largest union is the Canadian Union of Public Employees with 295,961 members. The National Union of Provincial Government Employees is second with 244,992 members and the Public Service Alliance of Canada ranks third with 181,460.

The largest private-sector union is the United Steelworkers of America with 148,000 members.

### Average wage increase

OTTAWA — Average annual wage increases negotiated in major collective agreements dropped to 3.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1985 from 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1984, according to statistics released from Labor Canada.

The decrease marks the fourth time in the last five quarters that average annual increases have been below four per cent.

Sixty of the 108 agree-

ments signed during the first four months of 1985 covered 108,000 employees in the public sector. Average annual increases, which include cost-of-living payments, dropped to 3.6 per cent from 4.4 per cent, Labor Canada says.

And in the remaining 48 agreements covering 72,000 employees in the private sector, wage increases dropped to 2.5 per cent.

### No UI changes called a victory

The federal Progressive Conservative government has backed off its plan of reducing unemployment insurance eligibility and benefits, a decision that some labor groups are calling a small victory.

Earlier this year, The Guardian reported that the Tories introduced what were considered to be the first of major changes to UI. Under the new regulations introduced in the March federal budget, severance pay benefits would have to be completely spent before jobless workers could expect to collect benefits.

The Tories, however, will still be reviewing whether to increase the number of weeks a worker must be employed — from 10 to 14 — before qualifying for UI, say labor officials.

Other changes, such

as decreasing the number of weeks an unemployed worker can receive benefits from 50 to 40 and reducing the percentage of earnings on which benefits are calculated from 60 to 50 per cent, could still come in March 1986.

Labor groups say the Tories' strategy is to whittle away at UI programs bit by bit to prevent a strong protest such as the one that resulted when they tried to de-index old age pensions.

To Kim Zander, from Vancouver's Unemployment Action Centre, the UI changes are easy to understand.

"The Tory government is trying to pay off its deficit on the backs of the workers," Zander says.

The major changes proposed by the Tories would cut UI benefits by \$300 million a year.

### "Paternity papa law for Manitoba"

WINNIPEG — New dads here will soon have more to rejoice over than their newborn babies.

In its speech from the throne, the Manitoba government said it will bring down a provincial labor law giving new fathers six

weeks of paternity leave if they've worked for the same employer for at least a year.

The bill would also reword other laws to comply with the equality provision in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



## FRONTLINES

### Vancouver City Council sets fair wage policy

A recent poll has shown that more than 80 per cent of the population supports the kind of "fair wage" legislation recently adopted by Vancouver City Council.

The survey, conducted on behalf of the B.C. Building Trades Council by an independent polling firm, shows that 81.5 per cent of the public supports the idea that "fair wage laws should be used to establish reasonable wages in the construction industry."

Vancouver City Council recently passed a by-law requiring non-union contractors to pay the same wages and benefits earned by regular city employees, members of the Canadian Union of

Public Employees. Committee of Progressive Electors member Libby Davies called the new by-law an "historic one" for the city.

Building trades council president Roy Gautier said that "we are hopeful that other municipalities will follow Vancouver's lead." He added that the fair wages issue should be a prominent one in municipal elections this fall.

"Taxpayers have a right to ensure that their tax dollars are not being used to exploit working people in these times of high unemployment," Gautier said. "A small group of socially irresponsible contractors should not be allowed to

reap abnormal profits from the present economic situation."

Ironically, a fair wages policy has been part of the Vancouver City Charter since 1902. According to Mayor Mike Harcourt, however, successive councils have taken a wrong stand on fair wages, adding that the previous policy of not considering wage rates amounted to "no policy at all."

B.C. Federation of Labor secretary-treasurer Cliff Andstein welcomed the move, saying it will ensure that non-union contractors don't win city contracts through low bids that guarantees them high profits, but the workers low wages.

### Support striking bank workers

The Canadian Labor Congress is asking for your support for 250 striking members of the Bank of Commerce Visa Centre in Toronto. The strike is extremely important to bank workers across Canada. The CLC is providing their strike pay and the United Auto Workers are assisting with organizational services. The bank's VISA credit card system relies heavily on telephone communications. This is where you can help. Traditional picket lines have tried to stop scabs and goods from getting through. This time we are trying to stop information from getting through.

Supporters should call on the quarter hour and tell the person who answers that the Commerce should come back to the bargaining table with a fair offer for VISA Centre workers; or, if you have a VISA card, make numerous inquiries about your account. Calling on the quarter hour will create "surge" periods in the Commerce phone system. Please try to call several times a day if possible. "800" toll-free number in Vancouver is 112-800-663-3521 or 734-6123.

### \$4 Expo wage slammed

The Norwegians realize that \$4 an hour isn't a living wage and so does the Vancouver and District Labor Council.

But so far, Expo 86 refuses to budge.

The \$4 an hour wage controversy arose after Gunnar Jerman, commissioner-general of the Norwegian pavilion at Expo, revealed that the wage guide put out by the transportation fair set base wages at only 45 cents more than the minimum wage. Jerman says

the \$4 rate was inadequate for people to live on and added that the Norwegian pavilion's pay scale would reflect the city's cost of living and would include double time for overtime and weekends.

The labor council agrees with the Norwegians.

"There's no bloody way that \$4 an hour is a living wage in Vancouver," says council president Doug Evans.

Evans and the council

have decided to call on all countries with pavilions at the \$800 million fair to follow the Norwegians lead and pay a living wage to workers on the site.

"The Norwegians said they were going to pay a rate sufficient to live on in Vancouver — and that's what all the countries should be doing," says Evans.

Expo 86 has so far refused to increase the \$4 an hour wage guideline.



## Cancer Society Workers need fair treatment too

*Sometimes, when an incident or story arises within the Hospital Employees' Union, its disclosure in a normal news article just doesn't seem to do it justice. The case of six employees who work at a Lodge operated by the Canadian Cancer Society is one such example. For more than three years, these six HEU members have waged a struggle for the right to union representation and fair treatment from their employer. This incredible story is told, in their own words, in the following letter:*

More than three years ago we, the kitchen staff, joined the Hospital Employees' Union because we were not receiving fair treatment from our employer, the Canadian Cancer Society.

Following certification, we began negotiations with the employer, seeking the same wages and benefits paid to the food service workers employed at the A. Maxwell Evans Clinic — a clinic operated for cancer patients that is located less than a block away. At that time, on wages alone, those HEU members were earning between \$500 and \$800 a month more for performing the same work.

Unfortunately, the Cancer Society would not respond to our bargaining demands and after nine months of fruitless negotiations we decided to take a strike vote and serve strike notice.

Much to our shock, the Cancer Society then fired all of us and contracted out the food operations at the Vancouver Lodge to VS Services Limited, a Toronto-based food service management company.

We won our jobs back only after the protest of the union and the intervention of a government appointed mediator.

However, we weren't able to keep our HEU certification and we had to re-sign cards and re-apply to the Labor Relations Board so that the union could continue to represent us in negotiations with VS Services.

While this was going on, because we were unprotected, the employer used the opportunity to take away most of our benefits. We lost our dental plan; our right to any sick pay for the first six days of illness; we were all left without any medical coverage for three months as we were forced to serve a new three month probationary period; and we lost our pension plan.

The employer still refuses to give us back these benefits.

Frustrated by further delays in collective bargaining, we voted again in favor of strike action on February 27, 1985.

Negotiations between our committee and VS Services have broken off. The company's final — and only — offer on wages and benefits was substantially less than the compensation received by other HEU members performing comparable work, also employed by VS Services. The Company justified their offer on the grounds that the Vancouver Lodge is not a health care facility and therefore the kitchen staff do not merit the wages and benefits paid to food service workers in health care.

We have received no increase in our wages since May, 1981. In the same period of time, the cost of living has risen in excess of 25 per cent.

HEU has proposed that our dispute be settled by arbitration but to date the company has not agreed to that proposal.

The Cancer Society has disassociated itself from this dispute on the grounds that it is no longer our employer. We believe that the Cancer Society subcontracted the Lodge's food service operations to VS Services to avoid its labor relations obligations. While the Cancer Society may not be our current employer, the Society does indeed control the purse strings and we believe that its contract with VS Services is responsible for keeping our wages and benefits depressed to substandard levels.

The Cancer Society's Executive Director has rejected our union's request to attend collective bargaining sessions and refuses to accept responsibility for any retroactive pay increases for the time when the Society was still our employer. That refusal has led HEU to file a complaint with the Labor Relations Board and seek an order obligating the Cancer Society to meet and bargain collectively. On July 26, 1985, in an obvious attempt to avoid the consequences of that complaint, the Cancer Society applied to cancel our union's original certification.

We know that any strike action by us is likely to disrupt services at Vancouver Lodge. We appreciate that the circumstances of a person's stay at the Lodge may be somewhat stressful. And we want everyone to know that it has never been our wish to cause any inconvenience or added distress.

That's why we have waited so long to settle this collective agreement. But three years is a long time to be patient, especially when both our previous and current employers have been so unreasonable.

Surely, of all the millions of dollars that are donated for cancer research every year, some of it must go towards paying fair wages and benefits to the people who provide a needed service to cancer patients.

All we're asking for is what's fair. We hope we can count on your support.

Signed by all six HEU members at Vancouver Lodge

*W. Kadosargene Raymond Mr. T. Larr  
K. Borowick S. GATIE J. Walsby*



## FRONTLINES

### Disposables create job loss

The introduction of disposable medical supplies and utensils in provincial hospitals may be a cost-cutting move for administration but it also means fewer jobs for HEU members.

This spring, Vancouver's Grace Hospital introduced disposable bowls, scissors, needles, syringes, catheter trays and other items. Shortly after, management laid off four central supply aides and said that the layoffs were due to the introduction of disposable items in the opera-

ting room and wards.

In June, disposables led to another job loss at Shaughnessy Hospital.

Not only does the introduction of these items cause the loss of jobs to HEU members, but as these items are mostly American-made, any increase in manufacturing work is outside of the country.

In addition, the disposables are primarily non-biodegradable plastics and add to the province's garbage disposal problems.

### Chilean ambassador regrets "not killing all"

UNITED NATIONS — A delegation of New York City union leaders had an unnerving experience when they met with Chile's ambassador to the United Nations to protest the March 30 murders of three Chilean trade unionists.

During the meeting,

Ambassador Oscar Paredes declared that his government's "greatest mistake ... was not to have killed all the people" who were detained in the national stadium in Santiago during the 1973 military coup. More than 20,000 people were held in the stadium at that time.

### WCB slammed by B.C. Fed inquiry

A B.C. Federation of Labor inquiry into the workers' compensation system in the province has indicted virtually every aspect of the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The inquiry's report, based on 134 briefs presented by unions, community groups and individuals, cites 38 specific recommendations designed to salvage a compensation system that has become a shield for employers, where workers receive nothing except mistreatment, and employers are protected from litigation against them by their employees as a result.

B.C. Federation of Labor president Art Kube said that the WCB is working neither the way it was intended to nor the way it should be.

In the past few years health care workers have seen the total number of injuries increase by 25 per cent and back injuries increase by 32 per cent. And according to the 105-page B.C. Federation of Labor report,

HEU members, along with other workers in the province, are finding that the Workers' Compensation Board itself is also part of the continuing occupational health and safety problem in B.C.

The report's recommendations are aimed at improving every facet of the workers' compensation system including regulations, enforcement, adjudication, rehabilitation, boards of review, workplace hazards, the financial assessment system and the WCB administration.

The report, based on 15 hearings held throughout the province, also came to the conclusion that the appeals process has become increasingly unsatisfactory to the injured worker.

Recommendations to increase staffing and reduce the case loads of adjudicators, to allow for prior notification of negative decisions, and to improve decision letters and access to files after a negative decision are also included in the report.

## MILESTONES

After nine years of service, Ernie Donnelly retired from his maintenance position at Lady Minto Hospital.

Brother Donnelly's retirement plans include fishing, gardening, and spending more time with his grandchildren.

Four HEU members recently retired from Victoria's Gorge Road Hospital. They were: Elizabeth Ramage, a housekeeping aide; Sheila Dovey, also a housekeeping aide; Dena Smith, a food service worker, and Joan Hynds, a nurse aide.

Anna Schuster, Ethel Johnston, and Robin Ward have retired from their positions at Richmond General Hospital.

Sister Schuster plans to take some night school courses. In between, she promises to continue baking her famous chocolate cake.

Sister Johnston has a family living in Victoria which she will have more time to visit, and Sister Ward can now spend more time doing her favorite activities; gardening, cooking and looking after her grandchildren.



## FRONTLINES

### The contracting out "con"

A confidential federal report has shown that contracting out government services to the private sector is not a cost-effective method of getting the job done.

A treasury board report on contracting out in the federal public service had found that there are many cases of "wasteful abuse" and "bureaucratic patronage," and that one of the most common abuses is the failure to submit contracts for competitive bidding.

In an effort to correct the abuses in the contracting out system, the Public Service Alliance of

Canada has proposed a four-point plan of action.

PSAC proposes that:

1. There be rigid restrictions on personal service contracts by limiting them to specific, clearly defined technical projects of limited duration.
2. There be no contracting out of work which can be done by public employees except in emergencies or when there's the absence of a particular skill.
3. The federal government pass legislation similar to the

U.S. "whistle blowing" law. This would allow public employees and their bargaining agents to inform the press and public without fear of retaliation when they believe public funds are being wasted.

4. The federal government establish a contracting out account, which would record all funds spent by government departments and agencies on contracting out and make them

available to the public.

PSAC believes the plan of action would help to control abuses such as those that occur when outsiders are placed in charge of public sector employees.

"We hope the Prime Minister will realize the dangers in a system whereby public service employees can be controlled by friends of politicians and friends of senior management — people who have no accountability to parliament or the taxpayers," says Guy Jacobs, PSAC vice-president.

## HEU awards bursaries

With a little help from the Hospital Employees' Union, 15 people are off to get a higher education this year.

For the 1984 to 1986 period, the union spent more than \$7,000 helping its members and their families to pursue academic studies.

The 15 bursaries awarded recently ranged in amounts from \$1,000 to \$350. The bursaries assist HEU members, or the sons, daughters and spouses of HEU members, to obtain post-secondary degrees.

Recipients are selected on the basis of financial need and scholastic achievement.

The successful applicants for

HEU's 1984-85 bursaries and 1985-86 bursaries include:

J. Paul Hopkins, Mt. St. Joseph Unit, and Karin Trapnell, Lions Gate Unit — \$1,000 Edward James Ashmore Memorial Bursaries sponsored jointly by Surrey Unit and the Provincial Executive.

Shirley Brodeur, Royal Jubilee Unit, and Sarah Dench, Victoria General Unit — \$500 bursaries sponsored by the HEU Provincial Executive.

Derek Ferdis, Shaughnessy Unit, and Ann Goldman, Quesnel Unit — \$500 bursaries sponsored by the Lions Gate Unit.

Kathy Mortimer, Lions Gate Unit, and Robert-Murison, St. Paul's Unit — \$500 bursaries spon-

sored by the Royal Jubilee Unit.

Bonny Bytz, Queen's Park Unit, Frank Donnici, Trail Unit, Katrina Lindblom, Quesnel Unit and Theresa Lueke, Vancouver General Unit — \$350 bursaries sponsored by the Vancouver General Unit.

Angela Lawrence, Burnaby Unit, and Nancy Meeres, Chilliwack Unit — \$350 bursaries sponsored by the Victoria General Unit.

Richard Pywell, Surrey Unit — \$350 bursary sponsored by the Mission Unit.

The HEU Bursary Program is administered by a Bursary Committee under the direction of the Provincial Executive.



## FRONTLINES

Union members around the province are being asked by the B.C. Federation of Labor to boycott the following products and companies until labor disputes at these firms are settled. In

all cases, the Federation has called a boycott at the request of the unions who represent workers at those companies in the hopes of pressuring management to settle long outstanding disputes.

—Eaton's  
—Canada Trust (all locations)  
—Canadian Tire (all locations)  
—U.S. lettuce (Red Coach, Donny, Big Fred, SAS, Big A, Bobby & Andrews brands)  
—Procter & Gamble (soap products/detergents)  
—Louisiana Pacific Corporation, Forest Products (Construction material, Waferwood Construction Panels, Pabco Xonolite Insulation, Weatherseal windows and doors)  
—Sandman Inns  
—Chilean Products

—South African Products  
  
HOT EDICTS — The Federation is asking that no supplies of any kind be delivered or extended to these firms until disputes are settled.  
—Slade & Stewart Ltd.  
—Okanagan H.R.I. Supply Ltd.  
—Canadian Tire — Prince George location  
—Stevenson Construction — Pennyfarthing site  
—Purolator Courier  
—Entex Door Systems Ltd.  
—Inland Natural Gas and Columbia Natural Gas

## The unions were right

Industry Minister Don Phillips said the Ironworkers', Local 712 were throwing away jobs and were out to destroy the province.

And newspaper editorial writers claimed that the Ironworkers' decision not to accept a wage cut was an example of how organized labor was scuttling a plan to revive the moribund provincial economy.

As it turns out, the unions were right all along.

Last summer, Nanaimo Ironworkers twice voted down deals which would have severely undercut existing wage rates in the metal fabricating industry. Both the B.C. Federation of Labor and the Building Trades Council

came under heavy criticism from the media and the provincial government for supporting the no-wage cut stand.

AMCA International Ltd. demanded wage concessions from the Ironworkers without even guaranteeing the creation of any jobs. AMCA wanted to bid on a contract to assemble modular oil equipment at a proposed plant at Nanaimo's Duke Point Industrial Park.

But after a visit to a similar plant in Everett, Washington, Nanaimo Mayor Graeme Roberts and Nanaimo Free Press Editor Frank Phillips agreed that the unions were right in rejecting the deal.

"Now it has to be said

clearly and unequivocally that the unions were right when they slammed the AMCA International deal last summer as a cut-price wage rip-off of the B.C. labor market," Frank Phillips stated in a March 28 editorial.

The Nanaimo Free Press editor said that neither he nor Roberts expected to "learn some stark facts on wages, which blow that AMCA deal right out of the water."

When the two men visited the Conoco-Fluor plant in Everett they discovered that the firm negotiated contracts based on existing state wage levels that worked out to between \$14 and \$20 and more an hour depending on skill levels.

AMCA wanted the Ironworkers to accept a high of \$14.25 an hour and a low of \$6.90.

Frank Phillips from the Free Press went on to say that the labor market had been exploited in a game of "corporate chess."

The B.C. Federation of Labor agrees.

"The bottom line of the story is that the company that won the contract, which AMCA said it could win only with a major wage concession, is paying wages equivalent to those in B.C. union contracts," says federation Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Andstein.

"We knew we were right all along but it's certainly nice to see that the media admit they were wrong."



# Face-to-face with the HEU bargaining committee



GWEN PARRISH



NANCY MACDONALD

Negotiations are under way for the November 1, 1985 wage reopener contained in the HEU/HLRA Master Agreement.

HEU's five-member bargaining committee elected at the last wage policy conference had its first face-to-face negotiations with HLRA on September 9. The committee is comprised of Gordon Meagher, Vancouver General Unit; Alice Jones, Maple Ridge Unit; Dennis Jeffery, Penticton Unit; Gwen Parrish, Vancouver General Unit, and Nancy Macdonald, Royal Jubilee Unit.

In addition, HEU President Bill Macdonald, Secretary-Business Manager Jack Gerow, and Assistant Secretary-Business Manager Lee Whyte are on the bargaining committee.

HEU has demanded a catch-up increase to cover the last five

months of the collective agreement to reverse the erosion of members' wages that has occurred during the term of the contract.

During the past 46 months, the cost of living in British Columbia has increased by 6.7 per cent more than the wages of HEU members.

The provincial bargaining committee has said HEU members need that kind of an increase just to prevent any further decline in their standard of living.

The committee also said the first priority for HEU's bargaining committee in the reopener would be the negotiation of classification adjustments.

The committee has demanded wage adjustments for unclassified members to bring them up to comparable rates paid to provincial government employees.

In early March, HLRA walked out of the classification arbitration hearings and has refused to continue with the process.

HLRA has demanded the resignation of Ed Peck as the chairman of the classification arbitration board and claims there is a conflict of interest between Peck's role as arbitrator and his role as commissioner of the Compensation Stabilization Program (CSP).

Furthermore, the association has indicated it will prevent the classification of any more HEU members by refusing to attend hearings called by Peck.

As a result, HEU will go after wage adjustments for unclassified members in the November 1 reopener.

Although the Master Agreement does not expire until March 31,





DENNIS JEFFERY



ALICE JONES



GORDON MEAGHER

1986 the last wage increase it contained was paid on January 1, 1985 and amounted to only 1 per cent.

HEU's Master Agreement covers some 23,000 HEU members and runs from January 1, 1982 to March 31, 1986 (51 months). It paid only 12½ per cent in wage increases and provided very few improvements to benefits.

Before a CSP roll-back, the Master Agreement contained a 14 per cent increase staggered over 27 months and shortened the work week to 35 hours. However, as a result of the provincial government's wage control program, the contract was rolled back to its present form.

In the event HEU and HLRA are not able to negotiate a settlement on the reopener, the matter is to be arbitrated by Don Munroe.



## LETTERS

### Time to be heard — George Derby on the line

It is time for us, the patients at George Derby Centre, to make ourselves known. Our facility has existed quietly in East Burnaby since 1947. We are a few blocks north of New Westminster and some residents of that community are aware of our presence.

We are not a prison or a concentration camp, although some patients feel that we are. Our woodland acres are surrounded by a chain link fence. There is a guard at the gate and no patient can leave without a pass.

We are all disabled veterans, mainly from World War II, with a few survivors from World War I. Members of the Royal Canadian Legion, and other veterans' organizations, know who we are. Many of us go on outings to Legion branches in the Vancouver area. Volunteers come in to bring us amenities such as candy and cigarettes.

Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at George Derby. We do not have the kind of "happy hour" that is enjoyed in many nursing homes. Even so, some men are able to keep themselves supplied with booze.

Our facility is actually a branch of Shaughnessy Hospital. This is one reason why we are having problems. We are located at a considerable distance from the "parent facility" on Oak Street in Vancouver. Many of the

administrators who control our lives rarely visit George Derby. Consequently, they are often not informed about our realities and our needs.

Arthritis, alcohol abuse, and respiratory problems are common disorders among the patients. We have had hard lives. We have done a lot of drinking and smoking. Now, in the "later years," we are paying a heavy price.

A few men have been able to continue their marriages. Many of us are alone, or mainly alone, in the world. We have friends at George Derby and possibly relatives, close or distant.

The patients at George Derby are classified as "intermediate care." Our funding is mainly provincial and some federal. All of Shaughnessy Hospital, including the George Derby Centre, was transferred from federal to provincial jurisdiction in 1974.

There are eight housing units called pavilions. Each unit has a capacity of about 25 men. Therefore, we are able to accommodate about 200 patients at George Derby. Presently, there are about 150 patients in residence.

Why should the patients at George Derby now make themselves known? Why, after four decades, should anyone pay attention to what is happening in our corner

of the world?

The answer to these questions is rather simple. Life has not been going well for us in recent months. The situation is getting worse. We need help!

As I said, there are a lot of arthritics at George Derby. We have an indoor pool, for hydrotherapy, but there is no water in it! Our physiotherapist retired about a year ago and was not replaced. The arthritic patients keep their lives going mainly by way of narcotic pain killers. These drugs do not, however, slow the process of degeneration and disablement.

There is almost no therapy for the men who suffer from alcohol abuse. There is a branch of Alcoholics Anonymous but only a few patients attend the meetings. There is no specialized counsellor. — There is mainly the confinement provided by the pass system and the chain link fence.

Drastic changes have been taking place in recent months. As I said, we no longer have a physiotherapist or a hydrotherapy pool. One of the pavilions has been closed. Soon we will be able to buy things in the canteen only from vending machines.

The rates that we pay are being doubled during 1985. The men are paying more and more for

less and less. There is general agreement that the quality of health care has declined since 1974 and especially during recent months.

Possibly all of this is being done in the name of "restraint." Or possibly these old men are not very important in the scheme of things. Is it because the wars have been over for a very long time?

There are mainly two times when veterans need medical help. We need special attention in the months immediately after a war. We need help again when we are in the "later years" — when our health declines to the point that we are not able to survive on our own.

We do not think that our fellow citizens will abandon us if they know what is going on. It is time for concerned persons to delve into the serious reductions that are taking place at Shaughnessy and George Derby.

Alfred E. Kuenzli  
George Derby Centre

#### Enjoyable reading

I enjoy reading The Hospital Guardian Journal where I work. I was especially interested in reading about the strike in long-term care and the settlement.

J. Mate  
Registered Nurse  
Penticton & District  
Retirement Service



## LETTERS

### "Bum-pinching" an oversight

In a recent issue of The Guardian, you published an article entitled "Bum-pinching all part of the job." Since that article quotes a paragraph from a book I wrote in the early 1970's, entitled Defending the Undefendable, I thank you for this opportunity to respond.

According to the five sentences cited, it is not a coercive act for a male boss to pinch his female secretary.

Let me say, first of all, that although your rendition of the quote was indeed accurate, this viewpoint is not reflective of my thinking now, nor was it even when the book was published. This paragraph appeared there by mistake; it is inconsistent and incompatible with the entire remainder of the book (which criticizes the initiation of violence, such as pinching, and defends unpopular economic activities which are not physically invasive).

In the two paragraphs which appear in the book immediately preceding the one which you cited, I characterize pinching as "coercive," as "harassment," as "molestation," as "offensive," and as immoral. These are hardly the words of an author who favors pinching, or is even indifferent to such a practice. The paragraph you quoted was thus an aberration,

completely contradictory to the views expressed in the remainder of that chapter, and indeed, all throughout the book.

But all this is an explanation, not a justification for the paragraph you cited. That these words appear in the book at all is solely due to my own inattention and oversight in editing the galleys. I have publicly apologized for that paragraph appearing in the book before, and now take the opportunity of doing so once again. Further, I have notified the publisher of this error, and have been assured that in any future edition of the

book, this offensive paragraph shall be deleted.

As well, you imply that Defending the Undefendable, and the short misbegotten paragraph cited in it on pinching, are representative of the work of the Fraser Institute. Let me assure you, nothing could be further from the truth. This book was written and published long before I joined the Fraser Institute (May 1979). Defending the Undefendable certainly never passed muster under the editorial process of the Fraser Institute, under which all research is subject to a pre-publication screen-

ing by a distinguished editorial advisory board.

(Dr.) Walter Block  
Senior Economist

### Congratulations extended

We, the members at Burnaby Hospital, wish to send our congratulations to our Brothers and Sisters in the long-term care facilities for receiving parity with acute care facilities.

Robbin McCurrach  
Burnaby Unit

### HEU welcomes new units

At the Fourteenth Biennial Convention of the Hospital Employees' Union held in October, 1984, delegates endorsed a resolution to develop and implement a comprehensive campaign aimed at organizing unorganized health care workers in B.C.

Since then, a number of new HEU units have been organized.

In this issue of The Guardian, HEU would like to extend a special welcome to its new members from:

Queen's Park Personal Care Home, New Westminster; Peace River Haven, Pouce Coupe; Cambie Private Hospital, Vancouver; St. Jude's Anglican Home, Vancouver; Beckley Farm Lodge, Victoria.





**By Robert White**  
*Canadian Director, United Auto Workers Union*

In the debate about the future of Canada's economy and, consequently, the kind of society we will build, the Tory administration — with the enthusiastic endorsement of the business community — has placed the central emphasis on the need to strengthen the role of market forces and increase the attractiveness of Canada for multinational investors.

The economic problems that Canadians face today cannot be solved by strengthening the hand of corporations and the logic of the marketplace. It is largely those past decisions made on this basis that are responsible for where we are today.

#### **Resource sector**

So where are we today? It is generally acknowledged that the resource sector will not be a source of new job creation in the future and, in fact, that many communities will witness the loss of their livelihood. The absence of a manufacturing base limits our ability to diversify these towns and regions — and continuing to emphasize market solutions is to deny them any hope.

Similarly, it's very nice for some people to talk of the alternative of high tech as a salvation. But, even if successful, all studies show that the numbers are simply not there to provide needed jobs. And where is the evidence that we would be

## **SPEAKING OUT**

# **Free trade cannot solve our problems**

successful in the context of a free market in today's environment? After all, we weren't able to develop a high tech sector in the past when the number of competitors were so much fewer and less effective.

As for international trade and the job potentials of unregulated trade, the chairman of Daewoo recently discussed the Korean strategy of "using U.S. technology and low-cost Korean labor to compete head-on with Japan."

How do we match this combination, with its hourly labor costs of under \$2 an hour?

And what about free trade with the U.S.?

#### **Not convincing**

Some people have argued that because the U.S. has a lower unemployment rate, this is proof that free trade will work. This counter-argument is not all convincing.

First, such comparison of unemployment rates is misleading; they reflect regional differences and our greater dependence on resources. If we compare the traditional manufacturing regions of the two countries, unemployment rates are almost the same.

Second, even though the Reagan administration has severely cut back on social programs, the government's overall deficit is high because of defense spending. This has acted as a short-term stimulus in the economy. So the economic lesson is that the positive effects are not because of reducing the deficit as the Tories are advocating, but the exact opposite — because of government pump priming.

Third, if the goal is to improve long-term competitiveness, the U.S. is not a very good example.

The U.S. is today importing more foreign-made goods than ever before, while its exports lag.

If there is a more relevant parallel for the direction of the Tories, it is Thatcherism. The U.K. economy, like the Canadian economy, does not have a strong enough manufacturing base to look forward to free trade as a solution.

#### **Deficit reduction**

Moreover, it is in the U.K. that the theory of deficit reduction and social cutbacks has been most consistently applied.

The result has been that short term pain has extended to long term suffering. Unemployment, at over 13 per cent, is higher than in any other major industrialized country and more than twice as high as it was five years ago.

These social costs of adopting the new agenda should be made absolutely clear:

In the name of "improving the investment climate" and being "competitive" all other needs are subjugated to the requirements of the corporate bottom line.

The issue we must never lose sight of is what kind of Canada we want. The issues of economic development and social priorities cannot be segregated. As long as the few control our productive capacities and can use this control to frustrate anything that interferes with their interests, there is no economic equality, no economic democracy, and severe limits on the meaning of political democracy.

It is therefore, vital that the process of developing an alternative that will work and will build a better Canada include a debate on the building of a meaningful — not rhetorical — economic democracy.