

# Hospital Guardian

Local 180

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' FEDERAL UNION

Vol. 3. No. 1.

January, 1957.

## PUBLISHERS NEWS LETTER.

Dear Readers:

Here we are in the beginning of a new year and before we finally write off the old year we would like to congratulate our Social Committee for the fine Christmas Party. The kiddies enjoyed it immensely and the gifts were first rate.

The important question before us at this time is the election of officers to lead the V.G.H. Unit for 1957 which is to take place at the Labour Temple on Tuesday, January 22nd at 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. We would like to see every member out to vote.

There will be seven officers to choose from a slate of fourteen nominees. Only one, the Conductor, was elected by acclamation. Brother Jack Lawson fills this position.

We have about eight months to go until the next negotiating period. Don't wait until it is too late and then wish that we had asked for this or that. Let us begin to plan now and have all our opinions recorded at the meetings.

Fraternally yours,

Press and Educational Committee,  
Chairman - E.R. Thomas.

J. Robertson,	J. Brown,	R. Alain,	S. Fletcher,	M. Wright,
R. Wardrope,	J. Petek,	J. Warner,	G. Kyte,	O. Olenik,

Whenever a new year rolls around the minds of organized workers turn to thoughts of wage increases and as we glance about us we find that this year is no exception. Labour is demanding and winning, with some exceptions, wage increases ranging from 30¢ to 75¢ an hour as well as other benefits. There are also signs of stepped-up anti-union campaigns. How do hospital workers fit into this picture.

That is for us, the members, to decide for ourselves. We can win awards similar to those mentioned above, if we really want to, and we can do our share in the battle to protect organized labour by breaking through Mr. Martin's wage freeze order and these will take very little effort on the part of any individual member as we have a powerful organizational set-up if we will just learn how to use it.

I would like to suggest four simple rules for each member to follow:

1. Attend as many Unit meetings as possible with a minimum of six during the year. This only takes one evening of the members time per month. The only valid reasons for non-attendance should be illness or being on duty.
2. Follow all rules laid down by the employer and perform all duties efficiently and conscientiously. A good union member is always a good employee.
3. Make proper use of the grievance procedure. Watch for and report to the Union any evidence of abuse, discrimination or unfair treatment. There must be no collaboration, private deals or tale-carrying between employees and the employer. We know what name to give those who try to get "in with the boss".
4. Criticisms of the Union or its officers must be made in the proper manner at the Union meetings as this is the only way that faults can be corrected. Union meetings are not held in the cafeteria, locker rooms or corridors of the hospital.

By observing these few rules I think that we will help to strengthen the unity, integrity and solidarity of our Union.

We at V.G.H. have about eight months in which to prepare ourselves for the next contract negotiations. Let's all see what we can do about it.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY REGULAR MEETING

Vancouver General Hospital Unit  
will conduct its

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tuesday, January 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Labour Temple, 307 W. Broadway.

A good turn - out is expected

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Special Poll for Afternoon Shift

A special poll will be open from

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NEW EMPLOYEES.

All new employees at V.G.H. are requested to take note of Article V, Section 5, of our current contract which states, in part, as follows;

"It is further agreed that new employees, including part time employees, covered by this agreement, with the exception of X-Ray Technicians, shall become members of the Union on the first day of the month immediately following completion of one month's service in a regular position and shall remain members of the Union as a condition of employment."

CABARET DANCE

V.G.H. Unit Social Committee  
will sponsor a

Dance - Cabaret Style

Saturday, February 9, 9:00 p.m.

LIONS GATE HALL

4th Avenue & Trafalgar

Two Spot Dances. Door Prize.

Admission 25¢

400 tickets will be sold - first come first served - no tickets will be sold at the door.

Get your tickets early from Bros. C. Steele, P. Sevin, J. Basaraba.

Good Music. Good Dancing.  
Good Fun.

ANNUAL MEETING

City Hall & Hospital Employees  
Credit Union

Thursday, February 14th,

8:00 p.m.

WAR AMPS. HALL

One block east of Granville  
on Broadway.

Annual Reports. Discussion.  
Election of Officers.

This is a word which we are beginning to hear often. What does it mean? How will it affect us? For good or ill, it will change our lives during the next few years. Can we help in any way to steer the change so that it will make life a better thing for each of us, or will we be crushed by the machine we have made.

I am not too happy with the word, but what it means is fairly simple. It means that more and more complicated machinery is being developed, machines to run machines, electronic brains, frankenstiens which a few years ago were the wildest science fiction, or somebody's nightmare, are now actually in use. Where a hundred men were working turning out washing machines or motor cars, now two or three, with the new machines, can turn out more and better washing machines or motor cars.

So what happens? First, less work, because the machine has taken over. So we have some people unemployed. Second, more goods, because the machine turns out a hundred items while the hand worker is turning out one. But if the people are unemployed they cannot buy. And if the machines are unemployed they lose money.

What is the answer? To cut the hours of work and lower the price of goods? Perhaps, but this would be a violent change and has to be worked out. The price of goods cannot be unduly lowered since the machines must be paid for, as well as the raw materials. We must also include in the price the costs of transportation and merchandising, as well as taxes.

The people who work in factories are in favor of reducing their working hours and raising their wages. This would make them a highly privileged class — but unless other workers could buy their products they would soon be unemployed.

If the machine age is to be a success the people must have the money to buy the goods. If the primary producers and service workers are not able to share in the benefits of machine production the whole economy will suffer from lack of markets.

This is the important problem for 1957. It is one which must be studied by all our labour leaders, locals and federations as well as by governments and by each of us. If the service workers do not receive wages sufficient to buy the machine products, soon the machines will be idle and rusting, the factory worker will be unemployed, the

### WHY A CLIQUE?

H. Duff.

Several times lately I have been told that the reason many members do not attend Union meetings is because they feel that the business of the Union is being conducted by a 'Clique'.

They are quite right, there is a 'clique' which conducts all the business of the Union and I am proud to be one of its members.

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### IN SYMPATHY.

The Provincial Executive, V.G.H. Unit Executive and the Press and Educational Committee together express their sympathy toward Brother Bill Black, our Business Manager, in the recent passing of his father.

We know that Bill was very close to his father and feels the loss greatly.

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producer of raw material will lose his market. We will have great useless machines and primitive living.

Let us hope that hospital workers are not left behind in the march to a better standard of living. The work they do is essential and humane.

If machines have made short-hours and better pay, the new way of life should apply to hospital workers, as well as to plumbers, electricians, or any other group.

The 'clique' is composed of all those members who try to keep faith with their obligation "to make every possible effort to attend all Union meetings". These are the members who make the decisions, voice their opinions, serve on committees and give of their time and talents in order that the Union, your Union, may be ever ready and able to serve you better. They are the workers, the voters, the doers, this then is your 'clique'.

However it is quite obvious that many of the 'Cafeteria members' are very displeased and dissatisfied with some of our decisions, so why not make a change?

There is a saying, "If you can't beat them, join them", well nothing would please us more. We do not want to be a 'clique', we would like to see every member not actually on duty present at every Union meeting. So why not come and make your own decisions, vote the way you want and then you can be satisfied and content that you are controlling your own affairs, and the Union will be ever stronger and better able to serve you.

Hospital Employees' Union, Local 180, Vancouver, B.C.

VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL UNIT  
Election of Officers for the year 1957.

SAMPLE BALLOT. (Mark your ballot with an "X")		
CHAIRMAN (ONE to be elected)		
McCULLOCH, Wm.	(Orderly)	I <u>  </u> I
OLDHAM, Charles.	(Painter)	I <u>  </u> I
STEELE, Charles.	(Main Kitchen)	I <u>  </u> I
VICE-CHAIRMAN (ONE to be elected)		
BALLARD, James.	(Oxygen)	I <u>  </u> I
THOMAS, Eric.	(Orderly)	I <u>  </u> I
SECRETARY (ONE to be elected)		
FORSHA, Phillip.	(X-Ray)	I <u>  </u> I
SCHULTZ, Harold.	(Maintenance)	I <u>  </u> I
CONDUCTOR		
LAWSON, Jack.	(Dietary)	ACCLAMATION.
WARDEN (ONE to be elected)		
ROBERTSON, Jean.	(Dietary)	I <u>  </u> I
SCARFO, Walter.	(Carpenter)	I <u>  </u> I
TRUSTEES <sup>3</sup> (ONE to be elected)		
COWAN, Kenneth.	(Maintenance)	I <u>  </u> I
DUFF, Hugh.	(Orderly)	I <u>  </u> I
EMIGH, Leslie.	(Dietary)	I <u>  </u> I
FEDAK, Walter.	(Carpenter)	I <u>  </u> I
WARDROPE, Robert.	(Painter)	I <u>  </u> I
<u>Election Date:</u> Tuesday, January 22nd, 1957. <span style="float: right;"><u>Polling Times:</u> 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.</span>		



## NORTH VAN. XMAS PARTY.

The North Vancouver Unit of Local 180 held its annual Xmas Party on Monday, December 10, '56, in the Masonic Hall. It was enjoyed by everyone and voted a big success. Mrs. I. Orioux acted very capably as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The program began with carol singing accompanied at the piano by Miss Muriel Strandebo, next were games for the children directed by Miss Andy Cameron. Then we enjoyed a program of varied dances beautifully performed by the young pupils of the Wilson School of Dancing of North Vancouver, followed by more carol singing. Next came two delightful movies, which are always appreciated, thanks to Bro. Alex Paterson.

Refreshments were then served, then came Santa Claus (Mr. John Ellis) with goodies for the youngsters.

Many thanks are due our Social Committee for a very enjoyable evening, namely Miss B. Deeming, Mrs. Warford our Chairman, Miss D. Deeming and Mrs. I. Orioux. Also sincere thanks to Mrs. Jones, Head of Housekeeping Department, for her very capable assistance and to Mr. Ray Dickson for his all around help wherever needed.

Thanks again to one and all,  
Happy Season's Greetings.

M. Doray, Sec. North Van. Unit.

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

(From article by P.M. Draper)  
(Canadian Labour, Oct. 1956).

"The targets of the Canadian Labour Congress can be measured in family terms. First, on the platform of principles adopted at the founding Convention of our organization last April is: "Full employment, at the highest possible standard of living." Surely that is something every Canadian wants!

When an employer and a Union agree on a new contract, it means more than setting a certain rate per hour; it means, very often, the difference between penny-pinching and reasonable comfort for the wife who looks after the family budget. It can mean a new sense of security. I think that, if you multiply the achievements of our unions in the fields in which we have been engaged by the number of families affected, you will then get some idea of the contribution that can be made to our country as a whole. You can also realize that, too, many of our objectives are by no means limited to the actual members of our unions. When we fight for better social legislation, we fight for it on behalf of all Canadians. This we shall continue to do, with the hope that the Canadian Labour Congress can make a real contribution toward a better and happier life for all of our citizens, not only in Canada, but throughout the world."