

# Janitors discuss basic grievances with management

By KEN CORBETT  
At a meeting on January 29th between the management of Modern Building Cleaning and their employees, the workers

brought forth their basic grievances about their working conditions. Mr. Shea, representing management, met with nine representa-

tives of labour to discuss the demands for basic and fringe benefits on their petition.

According to Kent Blades, an employee of Modern Building Cleaning, the demands of the employees were as follows:

1) Recognition of all statutory holidays.

Shea explained that Modern recognized all holidays recognized by the University. Blades noted that Remembrance Day, a normal statutory holiday, was not recognized by Modern or by the University. He also cited the case of some employees of Custodian Services, another campus cleaning company having labour troubles, who were not paid for Christmas or Boxing Day.

2) Two weeks paid vacation. Due to the constant shuffling of companies in the past three years, no employees have received vacations during this time, said Blades, although they have received an additional four percent as vacation pay.

3) Blue Cross coverage. Previously, continued Blades, management had promised to implement Blue Cross coverage at many different times after individual employees had requested it. But each time, claimed Blades, the question was avoided. With the new change in management, he said, the employees are hoping that Shea's promise might mean more. Shea has been with Modern's management here only for a short time.

4) Wages. Blades spoke on the manner in which costs and wages were arrived at. First, the University does its own cost analysis of the buildings to be cleaned. It uses the standard wage rate of \$2.28 an hour paid to its own personnel in calculating the costs of janitorial service. The labourers are demanding a raise in pay from \$1.75 to \$2.25 for maids, and from \$2.25 to \$3.00 for janitors.

5) Adequate personnel. Blades contended that the University is trying to cut costs by suggesting cleaning companies limit the number of staff employed

in each building. This, he explained, increased the work load for each worker, and it was therefore more difficult to keep the buildings clean.

"There's not necessarily going to be an improvement in the conditions of the buildings unless an adequate number of staff is assured by the companies."

He said that the management admits there is a shortage of staff, but blames this condition on the guidelines set by the University.

Blades stated that the employees of Modern Building Cleaning and those of Custodian Services would present an united front in their demands for better working conditions. He asserted that if their demands are not met by February 1, the janitors will stage a walkout, plus a small demonstration near Annex B. He hoped that the News Media might be on hand to provide coverage.

Blades added that the janitors were counting on some degree of student support.



Janitors discussed grievances about their working conditions to management this week. If their demands are not met by today they will stage a walkout.

## Proposed housing project up in the air

By DERWIN GOWAN

The university has been doing "not very much recently" with respect to the proposed housing complex to be built at the rear of the Montgomery Street co-ops, according to the UNB Director of Academic and Campus Planning Director, Eric Garland. The whole project is up in the air, he added. The project was "fairly active right up until December," but since then, the administration has

turned its attention to the co-ops themselves.

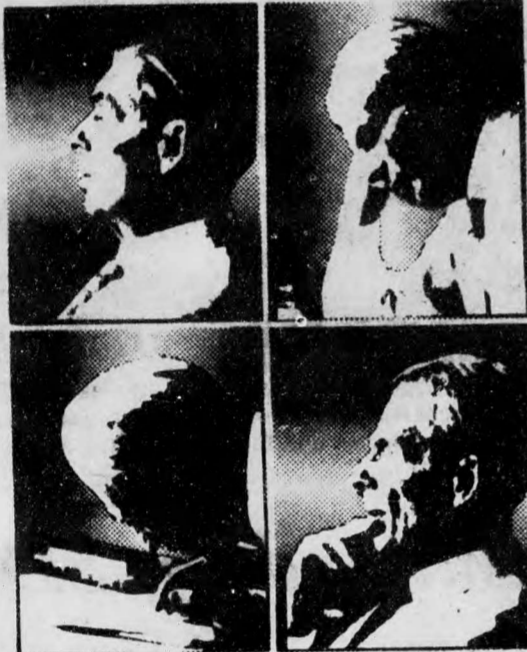
Preliminary plans had been completed, and estimates of costs have been received. The rents had been estimated to be from \$145 to \$185 per month last year; but, due to inflation, and recommendations of various committees, these estimates have had to be raised to a level from \$175 to \$200 per month.

Garland says that cost is a major obstacle, and that there is no sense in building housing "which students can't afford."

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