

Only some opposition to union

CUPE furthers organization at UBC

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The Canadian Union of Public Employees has chalked up another success in its current organizing drive at the University of British Columbia.

National organizer Ole Johnson said January 13 a majority of the research assistants, technicians and clerical employees at the Tri-University Meson Facility have indicated their desire to be represented by CUPE.

Application for certification of the bargaining unit was made to the Labor Relations Board Jan. 12, Johnson said. TRIUMF is a nuclear research project still under construction at the extreme south end of the campus. It is sponsored by UBC, Simon Fraser University and the University of Alberta, and is largely funded by government grants.

Johnson said the union has 31 signed cards out of the 55 employees. "We wanted to apply for certification as soon as we could," he said. "It gives us the

advantage if the employer tries to hire more people to wipe out our majority."

The TRIUMF certification, if granted, will be the latest in the current CUPE drive which is designed to increase the proportion of unionized workers at UBC and to include them in one union.

At present only about one-third of campus workers bargain collectively with the administration. Johnson, who has been on the campus about six weeks, said there was little opposition to unionism at the TRIUMF centre.

"This showed us how easy it would be, and it shows that any place would be as easy if the employees are determined to organize," he said.

However, in other areas of work on campus, Johnson said he has run up against objections from workers to attempts at organization.

"Some people are afraid that their working conditions will go down the drain, that once the

union comes in and there's a signed contract the administrators will hold them to the letter and they won't get some of the fringe benefits," he said.

"What they should be afraid of is that although they may have an agreeable administrator now, they might wind up with a real heel at some future date and then, without a union, there won't be any protection at all."

There has also been some opposition from office workers on the grounds that they should organize separately rather than join with maintenance and other manual workers.

"But when it's explained that we can be a lot stronger in a union of all the workers, they understand," Johnson said.

Many workers in such places as TRIUMF are also concerned that because the projects are operating on fixed government grants, they may be pricing themselves out of jobs by asking for wage increases that are too

high. "But just because someone is working on a grant-funded project doesn't mean that he or she has to be a second-class

citizen," Johnson said. "And the point of organization is that these things can then be negotiated, regardless of the outcome."

Soc course union ready for student beefs

A revamped five committee course union, with increased student participation, has been set up in the Sociology department.

Reorganized in January, the new union consists of class representatives, a general assembly (all interested soc students plus the reps), and various committees whose members are elected by the general assembly.

There are two types of committees — departmental committees which have an equal number of students and faculty, and all-student committees. The exception to the parity among the departmental committees is the execu-

tive committee which has three faculty members only. The students have placed one non-voting observer on this one until the faculty allows parity.

The last meeting of the assembly brought out a standing-room only crowd. The union is currently working on plans for information bulletins and an operating budget.

Any complaints with the Sociology department should be directed to the Soc Course Union in the Forrest Building, Room 414.

Telephone companies ripped off

ATLANTA (CUPI) — America's telephone companies, plagued by the increase in phoney credit calls, have taken the recourse of giving out new credit card numbers every year.

In 1972, for example, the credit card number consists of ten digits and a letter, as follows: XXX-XXXXYYY A. XXX-XXXX stands for a telephone number. YYY is an accounting code which depends on where the telephone number is located; for example, 035 is Atlanta, 167 Berkeley-Oakland, 158 is San Francisco, 159 is Hayward, California, 182 is Los Angeles, 032 is Washington, DC, 105 is New Mexico, and 072, 074 and 021 are New York. The A stands for a validating code which matches the fourth digit of the phone number: 1-Z, 2-J, 3-Q, 4-S, 5-D, 6-H, 7-U, 8-M, 9-A, and 0-X.

Thus the credit card number for the Atlanta police department whose phone is 659-1313 would be 659-1313 035Z. Similarly the credit card number for the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, whose phone is 521-0845, would be 521-0845 035X.

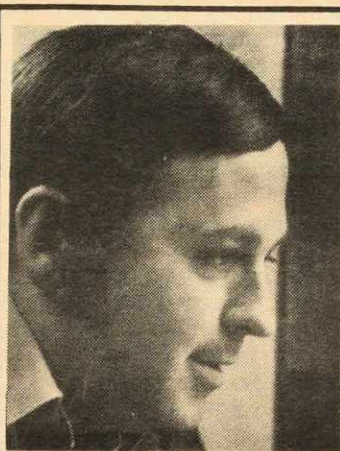
The phone company is aware that sometimes this information falls into the hands of people unauthorized to make credit card calls. Therefore they have a special Kredit Kard Kop Korps called CTI to track down phony calls. These folks have little trouble catching people who call from a home phone; call person to person; give a wrong sequence of numbers; use the same number over and

over; are ratted on by the people they called; or who do not act like a proper big businessman/woman when talking to the operator.

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