

EXCALIBUR

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Thanks to the Muse.



ERIC GODDARD PHOTO

Students interested in forming an active Boycott Kraft Committee are invited to attend a meeting at Monday noon. The place will be announced.

Kraft boycott gets rolling campus support mounts

BURNABY (CUP) — The students and workers at Simon Fraser University have scored what they term "a partial success" in their fight to have Kraft products and non-union lettuce removed from the university's cafeterias.

The cafeteria workers have reached a contract agreement with a contract agreement with their employer, Mannings Ltd., and have succeeded in having a clause included which should prevent Mannings from using Kraft products, or non-union lettuce, or any other non-union products.

The clause was promoted by a group of students who set up an alternative to the university's cafeterias, which are all operated by Mannings. The lunch counter challenged Manning's monopoly contract with the university administration, provided better quality food at lower prices, and promoted the Kraft and Iceberg Lettuce Boycotts.

Both the Kraft Boycott and the Iceberg Lettuce Boycott were called in response to corporate control of the food industry.

The Kraft Boycott has been called by Canada's National Farmers Union in an effort to fight the growing domination of the Ontario dairy farmers by a few large corporations, the largest being Kraft.

Kraft is the largest processor of dairy products in North America. In 1969 its sales topped \$2.6 billion. Its profits are three times those of the next largest corporation in the food business.

But while has been growing, the income of dairy farmers has been declining. In the last few years several thousand Ontario dairy farmers have been forced out of business.

The farmers are not allowed to set their own prices. These are established by a marketing board, which tells farmers where they must deliver their milk. Increasingly, it is to Kraft.

The NFU is using the boycott to force Kraft and the other corporate interests to grant farmers collective bargaining rights. Farmers will then be able to negotiate for better prices and other conditions.

Meanwhile, food service officials at several other Canadian universities have been lukewarm in their support of the Kraft Boycott.

Lynn Brooks, Versafood manager at York, said while he didn't like the word "boycott", Versafood had stopped using virtually all Kraft products — except individually wrapped cheese products and the Swiss cheese used in submarine sandwiches.

Representatives from Kraft have been in touch with Brooks who informed them that his "customers are for the boycott and using Kraft might have ramifications on my service."

But Brooks said the boycott had created increased costs for Versafood, although he didn't have specific figures.

"Kraft has just got into servicing cafeterias and financially they're very competitive. They offer good prices and good service," Brooks said.

Most Kraft products have already been banned from cafeterias at the university of Lethbridge, University of Saskatchewan and University of Manitoba.

Union signs pact in eleventh hour management gains

Workers at York Sunday night backed down in their demands and narrowly accepted a new two-year contract just 18 hours before they were due to go on strike.

The workers, 238 cleaners, housemaids, tradesmen and groundsmen, voted 112-91 to accept a contract that gives them a few improvements, but basically accepts management's wage-benefit offer.

The negotiating committee recommended that the membership accept the proposal. "We squeezed as much as we could get out of them" said Jack Bird, national representative for the Canadian Union of Public Employees, who represent York's Local 1356.

The new wage package is \$4.04 for male cleaners, up from \$3.50 an hour; and \$3.48 for women, up from \$3 an hour. Tradespeople will get between \$5.91 to \$6.66 an hour, up from between \$4 to \$5.90 an hour. All wage increases are to be spread over a two year period. The union had originally asked for \$1 across the board increases.

WOMEN GET LESS

With its offer, management is giving male cleaners 54 cents an hour increase and only 48 cents an hour more to women cleaners. The increases are based on job categories — an issue of contention that wasn't negotiated by union officials and management.

In benefits, management agreed to pay 75 per cent of all benefits, up from 66 2/3 per cent now paid by the university, but down from the 100 per cent demand made by the union.

The union gained an extra quarter day per month for sick leave; five cents extra shift premium for afternoon and evening shifts; and an optional yearly cash return for five unused sick days. They will also get free tuition, a privilege now enjoyed by faculty and staff.

Issues of job security through plant-wide seniority; the hiring of non-union labour for new campus buildings; and the status of overtime — whether compulsory or voluntary, were not resolved in favour of the union.

Job seniority is now defined through the most junior people in a particular job, not by plant-wide seniority as in the past. Overtime is not mentioned in the agreement, but there seems to be a "gentleman's agreement" that it'll be on a voluntary basis if requested by management. And if the university decides to contract out, they must open their books three months in advance.

There have been problems this year with moves to hire non-union labour, suspensions over refusals to work overtime, and lay-offs because of budget cuts.

The question of male-female parity was also raised at the membership meeting Sunday night. One angry woman complained that she had been doing a cleaner's job at Glendon for three years and was still classified as a housemaid. Bird and the negotiations committee claimed they had not known of her situation.

Many of the workers at the meeting were dissatisfied with the split vote. Ron Beaton, acting Local president said; "Money wasn't the issue, We were after the security clause for the protection of the workers. I'm not happy with it all". He said he expected further problems over this issue.

Don Mitchell, head of York's personnel, said; "you have to report it as you see it, but the union backed down completely. But I don't want to see their nose rubbed in it."

LITTLE COST RISE

Mitchell said the combined wage-benefit settlement would cost the university little more than its original six per cent offer. The total cost of union benefits is now under \$2 million, he said, and the increase over two years will raise that cost by less than one per cent.

Bird denied this. He claimed management had come up "substantially" from its original offer and that the overall wage-benefit raise was near eight per cent.

"There are some improvements and I don't think we could have gotten any more by going out on strike. Any wage gains we might have gotten would have been lost in missed salaries," he said.

York faces an \$845,000 deficit for this year, and this is expected to climb to more than \$1 million by 1974-75 season.

Faculty, and staff have also been told they wouldn't get more than a six per cent increase this year. Mitchell said he thought the workers had been "appreciative" of the university's position in agreeing to settle.

But he said he'd been surprised by the settlement all the same. It came at 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning after 37 hours of negotiating since Thursday by union officials and management.

In preparation for the strike, Mitchell admitted secretaries had been offered a 37½ hour four-day week if they stayed after hours to empty waste baskets and tidy offices and classrooms.

Students had not been approached to scab, but would have been welcome to stay on the job if there had been a strike, he said.

Help choose the president

Students interested in applying for a position on the search committee for a new York president are invited to submit written briefs describing their academic status, experience and other pertinent information.

The briefs must be submitted along with your name, address, telephone number and student number by 5 p.m. March 7 to Jamie

Laws, chairman, senate student caucus, c/o secretary of senate, rm. S945, Ross. For further information contact Jamie Laws at 661-2056 or 667-2201.

The senate meets Friday in the senate chambers on the ninth floor of the Ross building to discuss search procedures.