

The Herald's 'financial problems'

by Valerie Mansour

The results of the union vote at the Chronicle-Herald will not be made public until after the unfair labor charge against the management, the *Gazette* learned this week. Six editors, three reporters and one sports writer were laid off because of "financial restraints" but the people involved claim that the move was an attempt to prevent the editorial staff from joining the International Typographic Union.

A representative from the Labor Relations Board of the Department of Labour said that Friday's union vote is a "pre-hearing" vote where there is a 10 day waiting period, followed by a hearing. He refused to comment on why the fired employees were also allowed to vote.

Betsy Chambers, one of the former staffers, said that they hope to be re-instated as employees with all benefits and back pay. She expects that the hearing will be held in the latter part of December or the first week in January. She feels it is evident that the Herald is not suffering from financial problems. Chambers also commented that some people have cancelled subscriptions to the Herald in protest over the firings.



Indeed the circulation of The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star has this summer reached the highest level in the more than 100-year history of the newspapers.

The student force, whether in the editorial or other departments, had contributed to that accomplishment.

They have demonstrated that young Canadians can do the job.

an editorial August 29:

Thank you, Nova Scotia

Sales of The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star have reached an all-time summer high.

In the face of a generally weak economy, reflected in long unemployment rolls, readership has been increasing day by day.

The management and staff say "Thank you, Nova Scotia," for what is clearly a reflection of deep interest in the economic plight of this province and of confidence that this newspaper will not be swayed from continued efforts to call attention to, and demand correction of, the difficulties that beset our people.

The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star were the only English-language Canadian journals to send a reporter to South America with a recent ministerial level Canadian delegation in search of trade. That action represented a determination that Nova Scotians receive a Nova Scotian viewpoint on issues affecting the people of this province.

In that same approach, however unacceptable it may be to some, reporters have been sent across the world as representatives of an independent voice in Nova Scotia. As reporters have been positioned in the United Kingdom, in Western Canada, in New Brunswick and Newfoundland, so are they routinely assigned to other Canadian provinces and to the northeastern United States.

Such a policy, attempting to respond to the special needs and concerns of Nova Scotia in particular and Atlantic Canada in general, will continue and be extended.

Following are excerpts from summer editions of the Chronicle-Herald illustrating the newspaper's "financial problems."

August 16: Expanded coverage

Because of the concern all Nova Scotians have with economic and inter-governmental relationships in a period of high unemployment and static growth, The Chronicle-Herald and The Mail-Star have taken a series of steps designed to bring to readers more intensive reports from areas of special importance. Further such measures are in planning.

A.M. Savage, Executive Editor, who recently completed a special series in Newfoundland, is now interviewing key public and private sector figures in New England in order to clarify for Nova Scotians such issues as the impact of fishery and boundary relationships and general economic co-operation.

David O'Brien has been assigned to Fredericton, from where he will report to these newspapers on stories of special interest to Nova Scotians from New Brunswick.

Jim Gourlay has been assigned to St. John's, Newfoundland and will keep Nova Scotians informed on developments in that province, particularly those turning upon offshore exploration, forestry and the application of the 200-mile fishery limit.

Gretchen Pierce has been assigned to Edmonton, from where she will interpret to Nova Scotians the Western viewpoint on constitutional, economic and social developments as they affect relationships with Central and Atlantic Canada.

Plans for increasing reports from Prince Edward Island are in progress.

August 27: Staffer named to Ottawa post

Responding to the need of Nova Scotians for maximum reporting in depth on national policies and personalities as they affect the people and future of this province, this newspaper has appointed a second staff member to its Ottawa

Bureau.

Young Canadians do a job

This summer, in recognition of the economic problems facing the province, these newspapers decided to make maximum possible place for students in all departments. At one point 52 students were employed.

Without exception they have done the job.

Many are now preparing to return to their classrooms in Canada and in other lands.

Some will remain with these newspapers.

Those returning to classes go with an increased awareness of the practical tasks of producing a daily newspaper with a rising circulation.

Teacher loses job

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—Marlene Webber, an assistant professor of social work at Memorial University of Newfoundland, has charged that the university will not renew her contract because of her participation in a communist party.

Webber said J.V. Thompson, director of the school of social work, told her the reason her contract will not be renewed is because "her activities in the community were not in the best interests of the school in its attempts to develop its academic program."

Webber claims, in a letter she is circulating on campus, that her situation amounts to a firing and the actions of the school are undemocratic. She pointed out her activities with the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) (CPC ML) are the real reasons for her dismissal.

Thompson said last week it is Webber's privilege to circulate the letter but preferred not to comment on Memorial's position on her contract.

The letter states "my firing is not the first time in the history of this university that the democratic and progressive faculty, staff and students have been attacked", and urges the faculty, staff, and students to oppose the political firings which are occurring at Memorial.

Webber referred to her association with the CPC(M-L), particularly her activities with the People's Front of Chile. Her letter stated, "The reactionary MUN administration has tried to undermine this work, to prevent the presentation of Marxist Leninist ideas." Webber also accused the administration of aiding the RCMP to monitor her activities on campus.

CMHC GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

CMHC announces that up to 100 University Scholarships will be awarded for 1978 / 79 to assist graduate students in their study of the social, physical, economic or management aspects of housing. Scholarship benefits include a stipend to cover personal living expenses, an allowance for dependent children, payment of tuition fees, and reimbursement of the cost of travel from place of residence to place of study. Candidates must be following a graduate program of study directly related to the field of housing.

In addition, up to 25 Open Scholarships will be awarded to assist those wishing to carry out individually-designed programs of study in specific areas of concern to CMHC. Candidates for this award may choose to carry out their work in any setting appropriate to their particular program of study.

For further information, contact your department dealing with scholarships or write to:

Administrative Officer
Scholarships
Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Ottawa, Canada
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