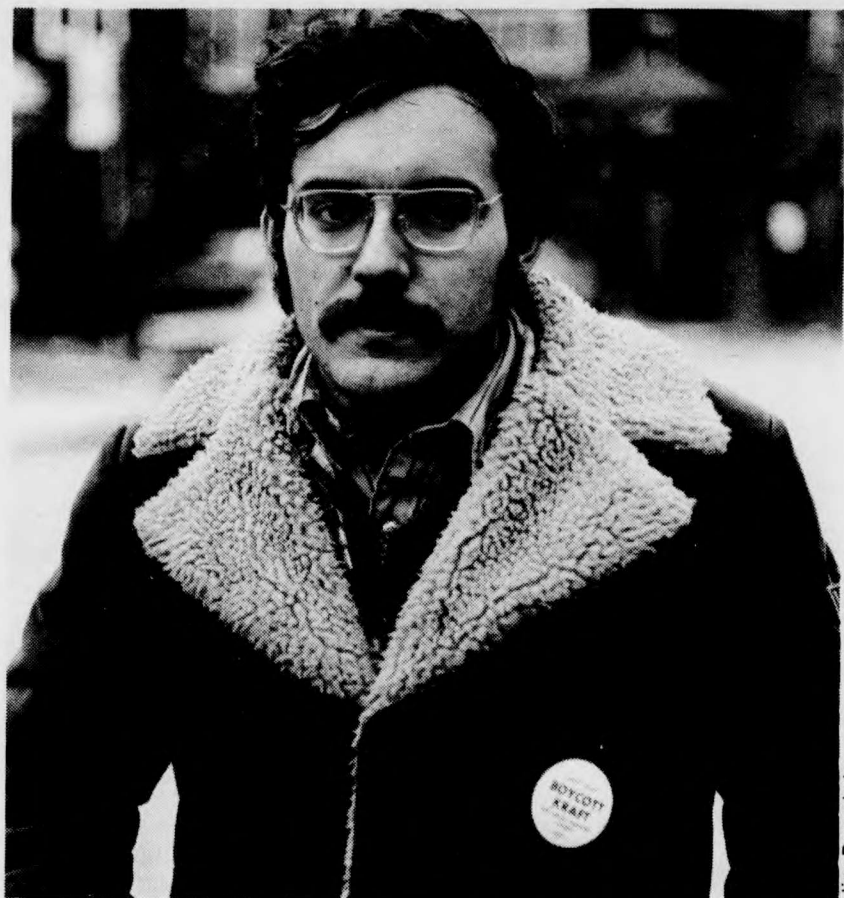


Attempts to block trucks

# Pickers clash with police on Dare line



Jim Daw photo

Dare picket captain Paul Pugh was on the line last Thursday when CN transports were escorted through by CN and municipal police.

About 150 picketers were jostled by police and security guards at the Canadian National Railway yards north of York last Thursday when they attempted to stop trucks entering the yards.

Dare cookie workers, on strike in Kitchener for several months, and a large group of supporters were protesting CN management's recent decision to order their drivers to pick up cookies at the struck plant.

Although five transport trucks driven by sympathetic teamsters turned back when they saw the picket line, CN transports were escorted through by a combined force of York Regional Police and CN's private police force.

The CN truckers' union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers, (CBRT) has not gained a contract provision allowing them to refuse to cross other union picket lines.

Dare workers have been out on a legal strike since May 29, 1972 and have mounted a nation-wide boycott of Dare products to protest the Dare management's constant attempts to destroy Local 173 of the United Brewery Workers.

After months of relative neutrality in the strike, CN management has ordered its drivers in Kitchener to carry cookies produced by scab

labour from the struck plant. The CN trucks have been loading Dare cookies from the receiving entrance of the plant, because a court injunction forbids the Dare strikers from picketing the receiving entrance.

CN management in Kitchener has dispatched foremen with their truck drivers to ensure that the drivers have no hesitation about entering the Dare premises.

CN drivers in Kitchener belong to the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers, and because they are under the jurisdiction of the Rail Act, they are not able to refuse to cross picket lines or carry "hot cargo" without fear of losing their jobs." The Dare strikers and their supporters hope to be able to have a meaningful effect on C.N truck operations in Toronto because the CN drivers in Toronto are teamsters, and thus have more freedom to refuse to cross a line than the CBRTGW in Kitchener. The Dare strikers hope that this show of strength will convince the CN management that its recent prejudicial decision is more trouble than it is worth.

The arbitrary decision to carry scab-produced cookies has augmented a recent "offensive" by the Dare management. Discussions between Dare management and the management of Dominion stores may soon lead to the restoration of Dare cookies to the shelves of that food chain, over the wishes of the Dominion store employee's union.

Steps such as these could have a serious effect on the boycott, which is the union's major weapon in its attempts to achieve a reasonable settlement.

The Dare strike has proven to be a microcosm of labour dispute, as it has included almost all possible aspects of a union's struggle against an intransigent employer and hostile local news media.

The union's original moderate demands for less oppressive

working conditions, a forty-hour week and an equal pay scale for men and women employees (women are 75 per cent of the work force at Dare) were met by a management decision to attempt to smash the union by calling in the Canadian Driver Pool goon squads.

The use of professional strike-breakers and then scabs led to acrimony and sporadic violence throughout the early summer until the company was able to obtain an injunction greatly limiting union activities around the Dare plant.

Court charges were laid by both sides in the dispute, and several strikers were convicted because of incidents on the line. The Union was also given the green light to prosecute Dare management (under the Labour Relations Act) for failing to bargain in good faith — the proceedings have been put over until March 27.

The most recent management "offer" has been rejected as an insult by the union, as it constitutes an invitation for the union to destroy itself.

Among other things, management has demanded: that there be no union shop, and that there be no check-off of union dues; that there be no retroactive pay from the time of expiry of the last contract; that it have the right to discipline or discharge any employees convicted of offenses (a perfect example of double jeopardy); that the union agree to dismissal or suspension of 20 employees before their names are released; and that a scab worker represent the employees on the new "relationship committee".

The only concession that the management has made is that men and women will receive more equitable pay (equally low wages).

Union members freely admit that their fight will never gain them back their lost wages, but they are no longer fighting merely for themselves, but also "to protect other unions in the area".

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