

# Most of provincial labor federation to walk out?

By GERRY LASKEY

The Fredericton District Labour Council held a meeting Tuesday night at the Union Brotherhood Hall in Devon to discuss plans for the October 14th Day of Protest.

After the meeting a press conference was held by the following five labour leaders: Greg Murphy of Moncton, the provincial co-ordinator for the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC); Phil Booker of local CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees); Terry Carter of the Dominion Stores employees' local and a member of the FDLC Day of Protest co-ordinating committee; Paul Young of CPU (Canadian Paperworkers' Union); and Jim Aucoin, president of the New Brunswick New Democratic Party and member of the co-ordinating committee.

CLC co-ordinator, Greg Murphy, said he was "really pleased with the meeting." The fact that only twenty locals of ninety-two invited showed up was explained by the absence of those who had publicly announced that they will abstain from the protest, by the lack of adequate notice for the meeting and by the distance some locals had to travel to get to Fredericton by 7:30 p.m. (The Fredericton district extends as far as Minto.) Murphy stated, that during the meeting, "There wasn't one negative response in regards to the national day of protest."

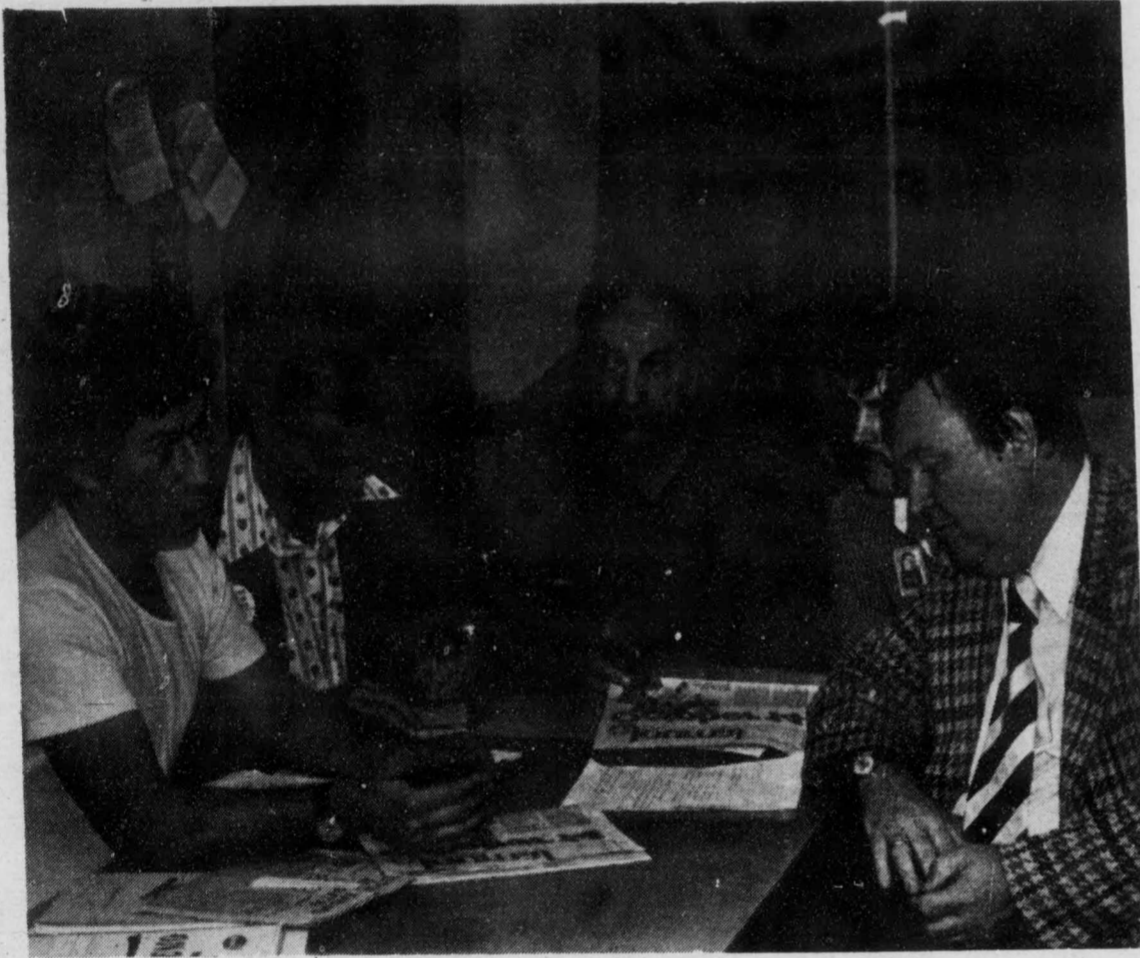
The leaders said they expect the majority of the 43,000 member New Brunswick Federation of Labour (NBFL) to walk off the job on October 14.

When asked what to expect in Fredericton on that day they responded that approximately 3,000 workers should be withholding services. Phil Booker of CUPE added that the protest may have "more support than we even realize" because "the momentum of the people going out will carry the people who haven't decided." He also said that he didn't think either the city or provincial governments "expected to do business" on October 14.

The leaders explained that those provincial employees who are expected to participate are: liquor store workers, general trades people and labourers, school board employees, court stenographers, as well as office workers. Provincial court judges will also be invited to participate.

When asked about essential employees the leaders responded that many of them were "outside organized labour people as we know them." They gave as examples teachers and nurses who do not belong to NBFL. They added that nurses and teachers may participate anyway but that all essential duties would be carried out in hospitals.

They said the present plan is for strikers to meet at the Exhibition grounds and march to King and Queen streets, where they will converge on the Federal and Phil Booker said that everyday "there is less and less negative response and more and more positive response." He added that the only negative response being received was that the one day duration was not long enough to effect any change. In response to the refusal of the Public Service



The National Day of Protest co-ordinating committee of the Fredericton District Labour Council met Tuesday to make plans for October 14. Pictured, left to right are: Jim Aucoin, Greg Murphy, Phil Booker, Terry Carter, and Paul Young.

Photo by Ron Ward

Alliance of Canada (PSAC) to join the day of protest Booker said, "The components (of PSAC) have said to hell with PSAC" and that many non-essential PSAC locals will be going out.

Paul Young of CPU said he expects all paper mills in the Atlantic region to be shut down on October 14.

Questions then turned to the CLC's position on the anti-inflation program and their protest strategy. Greg Murphy stated that labour is protesting through every channel open to people in a democratic society and that the Day of Protest was the first in a series of actions ratified by the CLC convention last May.

When asked by the Brunswickan what the possibility of an national general strike to bring down the AIB was Phil Booker said "It's good." He said that Protest Day failed then he hoped that organised labour would come to

the point where it would "say enough" and demand either the lifting of the controls or the calling of an election. He also said he had no doubt that the government would fall in such a case.

Phil Booker's counter comments on the political reasons for wage controls were "When corporate profits were jumping by leaps and bounds and the NDP was pointing it out the government was not concerned but when labour started to make some gains the government introduced controls."

Greg Murphy said that if controls are removed it wouldn't affect inflation much because "seventy cents of every dollar a worker spends today is not controlled anyway."

When asked if they were afraid the Day of Protest would antagonize voters against labour Booker answered, "Not a bit," and added "the Trudeau Liberal government is finished." In response to who labour would

increase and that workers would be by the Liberals in fear of Conservative controls would return to New Democratic folds.

Booker, when asked what he expected the government to do after October 14, said "I doubt if anyone in the Dominion of Canada can second guess Trudeau." He added he expected "the government will try to build a new platform to woo the electorate." In response to the final question Booker said that there would be "no compromise by labour, with controls of the present nature."

The next meeting of the co-ordinating committee will be held Monday Oct. 4 in the Union Hall at 7:30 p.m.

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454-2322; stage manager Bob Wade, phone number 453-4925; technical director Jim Nason, phone number 453-4930; music director Sean Mullaly, phone number 455-3762; pit band organizer Mike Lee, phone number 472-4539; skits co-ordinator Gary Wood, phone number 453-4955 or 472-2517; skits co-ordinator Allan Patrick, phone number 454-2694, kickline director Mary Ellen Arnold, phone number 453-4955, and Debbie Acarn in charge of make-up, whose phone number is 453-4941.