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Worker mobility problem

Money issue resolved

by Alan Adams

Sessions throughout Tuesday evening and into the early morning hours of Wednesday between the Minister of Labour and representatives of his department, CUPE officials and the Dalhousie negotiating team have resolved but one issue in the contract talks. The question of worker mobility remains as the last hurdle to end the 12 week old dispute.

According to Vice-President Vagianos, "we want management to be able to move people from one building to another, not shift to shift" as CUPE believes. He added that

"management wants the right to manage" and "to make savings in cleaning we think this makes sense." Vagianos explained that the "85c increase in the time frame asked for was settled", and included, "we are prepared to review our decision on sub-contracting out to Modern."

CUPE representative Al Cunningham stated the question of worker mobility is a new issue in his eyes. He explained placement and movement of CUPE cleaners "has been operating fine for the last two years" and sees no reason to change past

policy. He accused management of demanding "wide open measures" to deal with the cleaners.

The Minister of Labour, Kenneth Streach, said he could not comment on the situation with CUPE and Dal because of his position in the negotiations. Streach did say negotiations reached a head with the late night talks and the adjournment to him "indicates the lines of communication are still open." He added "hopefully things will be resolved in the very near future," but he couldn't give a date.

CUPE's day

by Gazette Staff

The day of protest for CUPE Local 1392 brought the university to a near standstill yesterday as over 800 CUPE supporters picketed the campus.

Picketers began to block university entrances at 7 a.m. and continued to patrol campus throughout the day. A mass rally was held on the steps of the Killam Library at 12:30. Students, faculty and various union members from across the province joined the workers in the rally, which attracted national media coverage.

Buddy MacEachern, NDP MLA for Cape Breton Centre, spoke to the crowd, promising to call on Nova Scotia Labour Minister Ken Streach to draw up legislation amending the Labour Relations Act to "make sure the precedent of legally striking workers having their work contracted out never happens again."

He also said, "I will personally introduce a bill to the legislature asking that the government of Nova Scotia do everything in its power to demand the immediate dismissal of Dr. Henry Hicks and Dr. Louis Vagianos, Vice-president (administration) for behaviour unbecoming the human ideals of the university in sub-contracting out the workers engaged in a legal strike."

If this is unsuccessful, MacEachern said he would suggest to the legislature that \$20,000 be taken from the salaries of Hicks and Vagianos. "I will go to the wall with this one for you!" he said.

Grace Hartman, national president of CUPE and an executive member of the CLC, said, "I usually stand on the steps of the provincial and federal legislature condemning the actions of the government. Now the universities are doing the same things."

In the face of cutbacks labour is coming under attack across the country, she said. "Government attacks are affecting students as well as organized labour. With university budgets being cut the government is calling for increased tuition."

"As CUPE president I can pledge that we will fight with 392 until this thing comes to

a successful conclusion," Hartman said.

After the speeches, the crowd marched to the Arts and Administration building, shouting "We want Hicks". Protesters stood outside President Hicks' office for twenty minutes, shouting "Hicks out — cleaners in" and clapping and stomping their feet as they waited for Hicks to come out. Vice-Presidents Vagianos, MacKay and MacLean guarded the door to the President's office. Hicks was at the Lieutenant Governor's residence for a Board of Governors' meeting. The marchers broke up, returned to their stations to continue picket duty.

The aim of the protest was to close down the university for a day. Although a complete shutdown proved impossible, deliveries were prevented except for a mail truck which broke through the lines in mid-morning. Classes in the Dunn building and the Life Sciences went on almost as usual, classes in the A and A had suffered from both student and faculty absenteeism while classes in the Arts Centre had about 20% attendance. The Weldon Law building was nearly empty. A spokesperson there said that about half of faculty were expected to come in during the day. Sociology, History and Economics departments faculty ranks were depleted while most science departments and the Political Science department were almost fully staffed. There were few

see centre for more protest pics.

faculty and students on the Carleton campus.

Picketers succeeded in keeping many students and most deliveries from crossing lines but Henry Hicks managed to make it to his office around 9:30. Picketers' attempts to keep him out were unsuccessful. "He said 'good morning' and kept on going," one observer said.

Other incidents involved individual attempts to cross the heavy picket line in front of the library, confrontations between car drivers and picketers blocking entrances and at least one known instance of car damage.

Labour role

Organized labour was out in force for yesterday's Day of Protest. Groups and individuals ranged from CUPE national president Grace Hartman to the North End Community Health Association. Others that lent their support were Dalhousie Faculty Association, Saint Mary's University Faculty Association, CUPW-Nova local, IBEW (electrical workers local 1133), Public Service Alliance of Canada, Union of Rubber Workers local 1028 (Pictou County), Halifax School Board Maintenance local 449, Acadia University students, Dockyard workers, Steelworkers from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia Technical College students, Dalhousie Staff Association, students from the college of Cape Breton, Gay Alliance for Equality, Coalition for Full Employment, and local breweries workers.