

# Watkins claims U.S. hoods aid Texpack strikebreakers

By MARK ALTER

Mel Watkins, a leading member of the New Democrat Party's radical Waffle group, said in an interview that the Brantford Texpack strike is "an effort to put people before profits."

"They have sought the aid of the police for dismissing a legal strike and scab labor has been brought in to resume production. In addition, goons from Chicago have come up and are believed to carry guns but definitely carry chains," he said. All this has only provoked the legal strikers.

With over 100 Canadian workers laid off, the University of Toronto professor said the violent nature of the strike can be attributed solely to the Texpack company.

"The police," he claims, "are acting as the private force of the company." The bus driver who ran over York professor John Lang is not being held by the police.

At least 60 people were charged with intimidation, causing wilful damage, obstruction and arson. More than 100 charges were laid against strikers and their supporters in the last 10 weeks.

The Texpack strike at first glance is a bread and butter conflict between workers and management over the issue of wages. Other serious implications include the distribution of bandages falsely marked "Made in Canada".

Union officials revealed that the bandages put out by Texpack were in fact 20-year-old U.S. army surplus bandages packaged in new boxes. One company manager suggested there had been a printing error which should have read "Made for Canada."

Texpack, a branch plant of the 14th fastest growing industry (American Hospital Supply Corporation), is phasing out production at the Brantford plant to make it into a warehouse for packaging hospital and first-aid material produced in the U.S.

The police have indicated that they can no longer insure the safety of the scabs. The police action has caused the plant to cease operations which have continued sporadically since the strike.

In an effort to end the violence of the two-month strike, Kent Rowley, president of the striking Canadian

Textile and Chemical Union, conferred with Attorney General Allan Lawrence earlier this week. The discussion lasted 45 minutes.

During a peaceful demonstration at Queen's Park last Friday, Rowley told the gathering he had requested Premier William Davis to attend the rally but learned he had "other engagements." Both labor minister Gordon Carton and health minister Bert Lawrence agreed to meet with union officials.

Texpack workers struck for higher pay: An increase of 65 cents an hour over a three-year period from their present hourly pay of \$1.93. Since the strike, Texpack has brought in busloads of non-union scab labor to the area. The company has withdrawn them because picketers in Hamilton have prevented scabs from boarding the buses.

In Hamilton last week, Ian Lumsden and John Lang, two York professors, were injured when they tried to stop one of the buses. Both suffered bruises and fractures and are recuperating in a Hamilton hospital.

## York briefs

### Mitchell's list a secret

Personnel director Don Mitchell has refused to make public a list of union personnel hired after May 1 even though such information should be available to the public. Mitchell said the list would "affect negotiations with CUPE (The Canadian Union of Public Employees)." When asked if he could release the list after a union settlement, he said "No, because this would be 'negotiating with a splinter group' and going around union representatives. Several workers have charged that Mitchell hired his and other administrators' sons for summer jobs without advertising the job vacancies."

### Three college by-elections Oct. 7

Oct. 7 is the by-election date for the three available positions on college councils. Winters, Calumet and McLaughlin each need one councillor to fill out their council ranks. Any member of a college may run for office in his college.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Council of York Students Federation offices, N108 in the Ross Humanities building. Any two members from a particular college can endorse a candidate to run for office in their college. Nominations close Sept. 29.

The campaign will run from Sept. 30 until Oct. 6 under the direction of elections officer John Payne.

The polling stations will be at the Winters-McLaughlin ramp and in the Junior Common Room of Calumet college from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Oct. 7.

### Student builds pad

Tired of residence life — or is it simply too expensive? One second year student found the solution by building his own room under a stair in the Ross Humanities Building. Complete with bed, wash basin and a direct hook-up to a 300 plus volt line, the student found his new life cheaper than the residence rates he couldn't afford. Chief of safety and security, George Dunn thought the homebuilder "showed a lot of commendable enterprise when he wanted to make sure he got suitable accommodation." This is not the first such case at York, said Dunn. Several years ago, York's tunnels provided a student with a free home until it was discovered.

### Registrar flees to Paris

It's nice to know in these hectic days that the registrar's job is so well organized that he can leave for a two weeks' stay in Paris. Paid by the Canadian Association of University Registrars, Milton Bider is updating the CAUR's information on European high school and university certificates.

He is accompanied by University of Ottawa and various Quebec university officials. While he is away, his secretary says the staff can handle any problem that comes up.

### Brief complains of snubbery

Ron Dash of the Academic Affairs Committee of Osgoode Hall's faculty council has complained of the "official snubbery of socio-legal consciousness" in Osgoode's courses. In a submitted brief, Dash said the committee should evaluate the performance of the professors as well as the students. Another student on the committee, Neil Robertson, claimed several of the sociologically oriented courses "seem to be neither desired nor required by a substantial majority of students and the legal profession itself." Dash felt a pass-fail system is needed to end "cut throat competition" and said alternatives to exams should be found.

### Crowbar concert loses \$2200

Last Friday's Crowbar concert lost about \$2,200 when only 600 of an expected 1,300 people showed up. McLaughlin's social affairs commissioner, Grant Corbett, blamed bad weather and changed orientation schedules for the poor turnout. Although backed by Founders, Winters, Stong, MacLaughlin and Calumet colleges, Corbett has yet to get co-operation from Vanier or College G. The concert was favorably received by those who went and by local reviewers.

# Keely releases 16 point guideline to ease College budget problems

Stuart Keeley, assistant to the vice president and student liaison officer John Becker, has issued a 16-point memorandum dealing with student council finances.

The recommendations are "a guideline of duties that can be carried out by the financial officer in order to minimize future difficulties." Councils have had

problems in their bookkeeping and account auditing.

The council budgets for Founders, Vanier, Winters, McLaughlin and Stong are for \$23,545 apiece. These figures are exclusive of the \$100,000 cash flow from the colleges' coffee shops. Calumet has \$8,500 and College F, \$15,980.

The report suggests that each council and ancillary organization operate on a set fiscal year and make year end audit reports.

All clubs, societies and dance committees should present satisfying budget and expenditure documents. In addition, he adds, each council should prepare a council budget, and keep to it, making periodic reviews and changes if they become necessary.

To keep tighter control of the budget, Keeley recommends that the duties of the council treasurers be set down in the council constitutions with the financial obligations of all ancillary organizations. Then, not more than three council members should be permitted to sign cheques, and each cheque should require two signatures, one of them being that of the treasurer.

Keeley offers his services to any council wishing to discuss their bookkeeping methods and asks that due audit reports be completed privately or through the student liaison office.

when another company took over the vending machines and charge the Students Union with discrimination against women.

The Board of Industrial Relations stated the Students Union workers were justified in applying as a certified bargaining group since the Students Union is a self-governing body not affected by the same legislation as the rest of the university, and because the Students Union Staff Association was not established by a collective agreement.

The Students Union president claimed the workers acted in bad faith by demanding an increase of \$44 a month only three months after a 20 percent retroactive wage increase had been granted for the previous year.

The president of the union local, Percy Wickman, said that since McKenzie's term began as SU president, "the only salary increases have been for management."

# U of A students on wrong end of CUPE labor dispute

EDMONTON (CUP) — Students at the University of Alberta have suddenly found themselves in the unlikely role of an employer appealing against union certification.

The provincial board of Industrial Relations granted employees at the Student Union Building the right to form a union and engage in collective bargaining with their employers, the U of A students. Students Union president Don McKenzie has decided to appeal the board's decision to the Supreme Court of Alberta.

Certified in July as Local 1368 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the SUB workers say Students Union executive will suspend their union rights by engaging in lengthy court action.

Grievances concern the wide salary differential between the general manager, who earns about \$16,000 yearly and the workers who get between \$3,500 and \$8,500 a year. Workers lost their jobs last year

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