

Government anti-inflation program to be forced

OTTAWA (CPA-CUP) — If there was any question whether the Anti-Inflation Administrator might take a fairer stand on wage settlements than the Anti-Inflation Board, and even reverse AIB decisions, then we now have an answer.

The ruling of AI Administrator Donald Tansley February 13 on the Irving Pulp and Paper contract settlement shows clearly the administrator intends to enforce AIB rulings, not review or question them.

The AIB had ruled on December 17 that the contract concluded by Irving and the Canadian Paperworkers Union and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was in excess of the guidelines.

The union and company arguments supporting the contract, which provided for 23 percent in the first year of a two-year agreement, were rejected without reasons being given. The AIB ruled that any settlement over 14 percent in the first year would be unacceptable.

Both the company and the unions wanted to appeal the decision, but

the appeals tribunal had not yet been appointed and the Anti-Inflation Act itself is misworded. Under the Act, the only way an appeal can be launched is to actually break the law and fail to comply with an AIB ruling.

Irving did just this. The company agreed to pay the rate specified in the contract retroactively to April 30, 1975, the date the old contract expired. But instead of putting the money in the workers' pay envelopes, the increase above the 14 percent level was put in a special "escrow account."

The main reason for this was to have the money available in case the Administrator ordered a fine equal to the amount of the "overpayment", but there was another reason too.

According to NDP MP John Rodriguez, who recently toured the strike-bound pulp and paper industry in the Maritimes, union and company officials thought it might be possible to avoid a non-compliance ruling by means of the account.

The workers' paycheques would not exceed the amount stipulated by the AIB, and the remainder

would be held "in escrow" until the termination of the wage control program or of employment by the employee, when the money would be given back to the workers.

Administrator Tansley's ruling met this possibility head-on. Not only was the \$100,000 escrow account seized, but the Irving company was fined \$25,000 for "having knowingly contravened" the AIB ruling, even though contravention was necessary if an appeal were to be launched.

The message from the administrator is clear: his job is to enforce, not question, AIB rulings; to penalize any employer who provides pay increases in excess of what the AIB feels is justified; and to seize any money which the AIB feels represents "an overpayment."

The reaction from the Canadian Paperworker's Union was swift and pointed, CUP president Henry Lorraine called it "an outrage," said it was "strikebreaking" pure and simple, and threatened to "raise political hell." The CPU would appeal the decision to the Cabinet, he said.

CLC president Joe Morris released a statement calling the decision "vindictive", and said the administrator's action "indicates his commitment to kill whatever was left of the free collective bargaining process."

In response to a question as to whether the CLC would change its historic opposition to the use of strikes as a political weapon, Mr. Morris replied that he may be moving in that direction. A special meeting of the CLC executive committee was called to decide what action to take, he said.

Canadian Director of the United Steelworkers expressed the general outrage of labour at the decision. William Mahoney told reporters: "Now I'm saying to our 180,000 members that if they don't want fascism to take over, they're going to have to confront Trudeau. We may have to shut down some industries."

NDP leader Ed Broadbent issued

a statement which said Irving is facing a large fine for supporting its workers, asking "Is this a preview of Trudeau's 'New Society'?" He said the NDP would press its case in the House for an emergency debate to reverse the

original AIB ruling against the Irving settlement.

As for the Irving company, a spokesperson told reporters the company "regretted" Tansley's decision but intended to comply with the order.

APPLICATIONS ---

Applications for the following Positions are being received by the Applications Committee.

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| 1. SUB Board of Directors 3 full term 2 half term | Honorarium (yr. as of 1976) \$100.00 each \$50.00 each |
| 2. Yearbook - Editor in Chief 2 co-editors Advertising Manager | \$500.00 to be divided as executive decides |
| 3. Campus Police Chief 3 Police Chief Assistants | \$100.00 \$50.00 |
| 4. Winter Carnival Committee 1. Chairman 2) Assistant Chairman | (no set policy) |
| 5. SRC Representative on S.A.A. | none |
| 6. Entertainment Chairman | \$500. in 1976 |

Rules & Regulations

1. Applications deadline March 17, 1976 at 5:00 p.m.
2. Applications must be addressed to Kevin Garland, Chairman Applications Committee, care of SRC Office.
3. All recommendations that the applicant deems necessary must also be in writing and accompany the application.
4. Applications must have full name, address and telephone number and position desired.
5. After deadline date interviews will be arranged with all applicants.

Mock rape trial held

LONDON (CUP) — A mock rape trial, designed to show the merits of proposed new federal rape legislation, played to a capacity crowd at the University of Western Ontario January 31.

The idea of a trial, co-sponsored by the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre and the UWO Women's Law Caucus, grew from bill C-71 presently before the Canadian parliament.

The jury for the mock trial was chosen from the audience and directed not to convict if there remained any doubt in their minds.

The mock judge concluded the session often refusing to allow the complainant's past history to be presented in court. The defense however, had raised reasonable doubt in some juror's minds resulting in a hung jury and no verdict.

The new bill stipulates that if the

defence in a rape trial plans to introduce the victim's past sexual activity into the case they must first give written notice to the court and the prosecution in a reasonable length of time before the trial date. The judge must then decide whether the evidence is necessary to the case, before it is presented to the public or the jury.

Under current legislation the defence may bring the victim's past before the jury, although the judge may at any time strike it from the record and instruct the jury to disregard it.

The reasoning behind the new legislation is to protect the credibility and the reputation of the victim.

In the past, defence attorneys have often used past sexual history to raise questions in the juror's minds as to the validity of the victim's story.

Molson's boycott urged

MONTREAL (CUP) — The McGill Daily has refused to accept advertisements from Molson Breweries and has urged other Quebec newspapers to act accordingly.

The action follows a boycott of Molson products called by striking employees of the Vilas Furniture Plant in Cowansville, Quebec. The workers are in their seventh month of strike activities against the plant owner, Molson Companies Ltd. Wage rates determined on a "piece-work" basis are one of the major grievances of the workers.

In a letter to the Molson company and the agency that handles its advertising account, the editors of the McGill Daily, published by the McGill University Students Association, said they have decided to refuse all advertising of Molson's products until an amicable settlement is reached in the strike.

According to the letter, "the wages and working conditions of this factory ... are reminiscent of the sweat shop conditions of sixty years ago."

"The danger to life and limb

involved in this trade is exacerbated by the company's pay policy which emphasized speed rather than safety," the letter said.

"The strikers are organizing a boycott of Molson beers across the country which we support and we hope that all university papers and other publications will eventually participate in refusing Molson ads", the letter said.

"As for the Molson company, neither the McGill Daily nor Vilas Furniture mean very much to them financially. Beer sales, however, are determined to a great degree by public relations and it is in this sphere that we hope to touch them."

"Just as their advertising with us is good for their image, the public refusal by college papers of their ads will do their image harm", the letter continued.

The editors of the Daily concluded their letter by saying "For all we know the Molson Company is not even fully aware of the situation at Vilas. As owners it is their responsibility to become aware and to correct it. Until that time we still support the boycott."

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