

Union negotiations bog down at Dal.

by Patrick J. McManus

Management is acting as if it wants the International Union of Operating Engineers off campus, says Union Negotiator, Reg Fenerty.

In an interview Tuesday, Fenerty cited cases of maintenance workers being intimidated or fired, and said that outside contractors are being brought in to do work that regular workers could handle. He said that, "bringing in outside help costs the university more".

Over sixty of Dalhousie's maintenance workers have been without a contract since February. The Union claims that an attitude problem on the part of Management hinders the settlement of a new one.

Fenerty says that management is taking two different approaches. "At the negotiating table they say they definitely want to negotiate and reach an agreement," said Fenerty. "However, their actions away from the negotiating table, at work, indicate to us that they don't want to reach an agreement."

Three issues are still holding settlement. The workers are asking for a Dental plan, a Vacation Clause and a Holiday Clause that would grant them more time off between Christmas and New Year. One final demand is the reconciliation of two grievances. The union wants the hiring of outside contractors stopped and management to discontinue any further harassment of workers.

Negotiations had broken down in October. The workers held a general meeting and voted 90% in favour of strike action. In response, the Dalhousie Board of Governors called on the Minister of Labour to appoint a mediation officer. As of yet, this has not happened.

A meeting Sunday with the newly appointed Management spokesmen, Eric Durnford, ended before it had a chance to get started. Management refused to discuss the three issues or grievances and Union representatives walked out. Durnford could not be reached for comment.

Fenerty says that they have a mandate to strike but cannot



Dalhousie is being charged with plowing into the Union of Operating Engineers

decide when until another membership meeting is held.

And he adds "If management doesn't change its attitude

soon, we will have no choice but to strike."

King's prof says maybe better red than dead.

by Paul Creelman

Better Red than Dead? Professor Arthur Andrews of the King's College of Journalism suggests that we look at the alternatives. In an interview held with Mike Wile of CKDU radio Andrews stated that in the worst of circumstances, Canada should consider capitulating to the USSR rather than suffer the ravages of nuclear war.

"I don't exactly think we should cave in to Russia, just look at the alternatives," said

Andrews.

"The alternative may be better red than dead. The real question is exactly what happens if we don't fight, and I think that the result would be much the same as if we lost the war."

"I think we have to rethink our war aims. There isn't going to be a war fought on the same basis as the previous wars. I don't think that our leaders would want to put a soldier on patrol in Moscow in the same way we

put our soldiers on patrol in Berlin in the last war. Similarly, the Russians probably wouldn't want to occupy Washington. It's a whole new game."

Andrews stated that the most probable goal of such a war would be to change our government to one that the USSR would find acceptable. Pointing to the effectiveness of the trade unions of Poland in bargaining with the Moscow-oriented regime of that country, Andrews said

that we probably wouldn't even have such a difficult government to deal with even in the worst case of capitulation to the USSR.

However, an efficient defence policy is still a priority for Canada, according to Andrews. "We have to be a little hard-shelled, even if we know in our heart-of-hearts that we don't want to watch anybody, say, wipe out Prince Albert. We have to be able to say well if you're going to pull that sort of stuff, you're going to pay too. At least, we should be able to fight a conventional war, which is horrible enough, but at least doesn't result in your population getting wiped out."

When asked about the possible problems concerning Canada's geographic location between the US and USSR, Andrews stated that he didn't think we could capitulate unless the Americans did.

"Actually, there are only two situations in which we could—if the Americans were basically in the same position as us, that is facing a threat they could not match. Or if the Americans made their own arrangement with the USSR. This is a prospect that is frightening a lot of Europeans. The Americans and Russians could cut up the world into their respective spheres of influence. It is quite conceivable that Canada could be cast into the role of Finland, needing to be on friendly terms with both

countries."

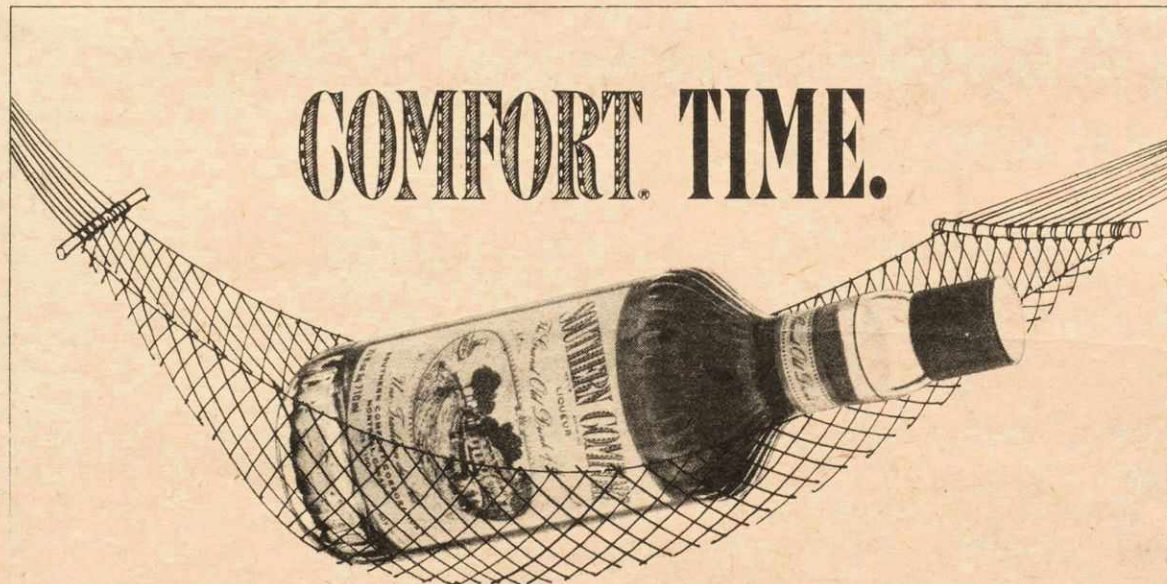
"Without any consultation at all on our part, we could be cast into the role of a buffer. Historically, of course, this has been the only justification for spheres of influence."

Professor Andrews adds that he thinks many Canadians haven't realized, or have ignored, the fact that there is not too much morality at the international level.

"The modern democratic state, even the modern democratic state, is not a very moral organization. Governments exist basically to protect and advance their interests. Now, mind you I'm not saying that morality might not be one of these interests as it very well may be."

Professor Dennis Stairs, from the Political Science department at Dalhousie, stated that he could not comment directly about the concept of capitulation.

"Professor Andrews is well known as both a diplomat and an expert on International affairs," said Stairs. "Without a better understanding of the comments he actually made, I wouldn't want to be quoted, however, I think what he may be trying to do is provoke second thoughts, since the nuclear threat has proliferated so far that it is no longer a valid instrument of foreign policy. The actual situation with regards to such a confrontation is much more complex and subtle, however."



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