

# 'UNB Local 1326 Now Legit'

by Larry Lamont

UNB staff, Canadian Union of Public Employees local 1326, were granted voluntary recognition by the Board of Governors at its January 14 meeting. Local 1326 is now regarded as the legitimate bargaining agent of the UNB maintenance staff, which includes janitors, tradesmen, equipment operators, security police, buildings and grounds personnel, and stationary engineers.

Under the New Brunswick Labour Relations Act, an employee may voluntarily recognize the union of its employees. If the employer does not grant voluntary recognition (they usually do not), the union may apply to the Labour Relations Board for certification as the legal bargaining agent. According to Gordon Dale, CUPE organizer, "voluntary recognition is just as good as cert-

ification."

Apparently the UNB Board of Governors did not make any demands on the union as part of a deal for voluntary recognition. Earlier it was thought that UNB might request the waiving of strike rights for the security police unit, in exchange for voluntary recognition. However, this was not the case. The new local will have all the rights they would normally enjoy as a certified union.

Preparations are already underway to begin negotiations for the first contract. However, not all UNB staff are organized. Local 1326 is still actively signing up technical, clerical, and library staff. According to Dale, an organizational meeting of this unit will take place on Monday, February 1, 8:00 pm, in the Petitcodiac Room of the Beaverbrook Hotel.

Dale is also busy helping the Versaford staff organize their union. The first organizational meeting of the Versaford staff will take place on Tuesday, January 26, 8:00 pm at the Beaverbrook Hotel.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees has not only been busy on the UNB campus; it has also become quite involved in attempting to stop government political firings which have taken place since the election.

It appears that the voluntary recognition is a lucky break for the union. Because the New Brunswick Public Service Labour Relations Act does not allow university-employed personnel the right to organize, it was felt that a lengthy litigation might be involved if the union applied for certification. By voluntary recognition, this has all been avoided.

Fits and rents - remain untouched," the resolution said. "Foreign corporations, particularly American-owned, are allowed to continue to exploit the resources of this country, serving foreign rather than the Canadian interests.

"The sorry record of Trudeau's government makes it quite clear that it represents the interests of big business and foreign corporations rather than the people of this country."

Delegates also agreed to establish a national co-ordinating committee of poor people's groups and to start a national newspaper to link poor people's groups. Delegates were urged to start local poor people's paper as soon as possible.

Other resolutions passed Sunday by delegates included a denunciation of the War Measures Act, a telegram to American President Richard Nixon demanding that Black communist Angela Davis be released from a California prison, a call to the legal profession that has "failed the poor" to help in achieving the same kind of justice for the poor that the rich now receive, and provisions for appeal over the power of welfare administrators to cut off allowances.

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## Poor People's Power

TORONTO (CUP) - Charging that the federal government under Trudeau and Finance Minister Benson has deliberately created unemployment and poverty in a "cold and heartless manner, 500 delegates to the National Poor People's Conference held here, laid plans for a country-wide demonstration Jan. 25.

Welfare recipients and working poor people will demonstrate against "the total failure of the federal and provincial governments to deal with the real cause of unemployment and poverty - the totally unjust distribution of Canada's wealth and power."

The decision for the mass action came Sunday (Jan. 10) at the final session of the four-day conference. The demonstrations will coincide with the start of a meeting in Ottawa of federal and provincial politicians

who are in charge of handing out welfare cheques to those deemed deserving.

Part of the preamble to the resolution approved by the conference delegates said:

"The people of this rich nation must never allow government to deliberately create unemployment and poverty in the cold and heartless manner of Trudeau and Benson."

"We're not talking about the trade union bureaucrats, but the masses of people who are being laid off their jobs all across this country," a spokesman for the conference said.

A resolution dealing with the causes of the current economic crisis said Trudeau and Benson are forcing the working people and the poor of Canada to pay the inhuman costs of their cruel war on inflation.

"Meanwhile, the real causes of inflation - exorbitant pro-

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