

Hospital Guardian

Local 180

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' FEDERAL UNION

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PUBLISHERS NEWS LETTER.

Dear Readers-

Most people can afford to wait until January 1st to make new resolutions, but not us, we must resolve now, to make the coming year a happier and more prosperous one.

Friday, September 16th, at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple, Local 180 will hold a SPECIAL meeting, and the deliberations and decisions made at this meeting will affect our economic welfare throughout the coming year. There will be nothing easy about the forthcoming negotiations, having to contend with a resolute Provincial "freeze order" plus the natural and understandable opposition of our own administration in their efforts to keep operating costs at a minimum.

However, knowing what confronts us, we will be prepared. Our negotiating committee is ready, able and willing to put up a good and complete fight on our behalf. Remember always that our executive look to us for honest co-operation, sincere and responsible direction together with our complete confidence. Let us all demonstrate our support by a full attendance at this special meeting. It is our wellbeing, our standard of living, our security and our happiness that is at stake. If for no other reason than self-interest, we owe it to ourselves to be present. We remain,

Fraternally yours,

Education and Contract Committee.

Chairman- Hugh Duff, Jim Ballard, Jack Brown,

Charlie Steele Jean Robertson,

Eric Thomas, Harold Shultz.

C O M I N G E V E N T S

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Friday 16th, Sept. at the Labor Temple, 307 West Broadway. This will be the BIG meeting of the year.

REGULAR MEETING

The September regular meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, 27th September, at 307 West Broadway. Delegate and progress reports will be given.

FREEZE ORDER

Eric Dowson
(Nanaimo Unit.)

When the freeze order came along	Gathering and burning garbage up,
From the B.C.H.I.S.	They said it gave them pleasure.
The way we kept expenses down	The Matron ran the laundry,
Was phenomenal I guess.	And really made it go,
The whole staff learned to go	With patients picked out by the
around	rule,
All helping one another,	Of eeny, meeny, mo.
Until relationships became	The Doctors helped the orderlies,
Like sister and big brother	For orderlies' jobs abound.
The cooks helped out the boiler	And the Administrator too
men	
Cleaning the sooty flues,	Carried the bed pans around.
The boiler men helped out the	The wardmaids helped with queer
cooks	things
Concocting onion stews.	That the Lab workers do.
The gardener washed the babies	The X-ray staff did their own job
With a little garden hose,	And helped the pharmacist too.
He pinned on all the diapers	Even the week-end visitors
And wiped each little nose.	Managed to do their share,
The Nurses mowed the big front	Moving the dirty laundry out,
lawn	
And sprayed with 2-4-D	With a little muttered swear.
They mopped and polished all the	And that's the way we got around
floors,	
And then they quit for tea.	And kept expenses down.
The Office staff came back at	The Hospital is still the same
night	
To spend their well earned leisure	The busiest place in town.

THE CREDIT UNION and YOU

There is only one excuse for the existence of a credit union - that is to benefit its members by helping them to save money. This does not mean only putting aside so much every week or every payday. It also means saving money on the things members buy, either by borrowing through the credit union to buy for cash, or by financing the balance of purchases through the credit union at moderate interest rates.

A credit union is not a money making organization because it does business only with its members and has no outside stockholders to participate in its earnings. Its capital funds consist wholly and solely of members' deposits. It makes loans only to its members, and whatever it earns from this or any other source is distributed annually to its members in the form of dividends, after setting aside the mandatory legal reserves.

Common sense would seem to suggest, therefore, that credit union members use their organization in every way they can, because in so doing they are contributing to the success of their own business organization.

- Panair C.U.:News,Miami.

The real reason that so many people drink liquor is because they don't know what else to do with it.

LET'S HAVE YOUR OPINION!

When the Guardian makes its monthly visit to your home, what do you do with it? Do you treat it like a soap ad circular, do you peruse it idly looking for a joke or an interesting article on current events in the labor field? Or do you, as we hope, read each article to broaden your knowledge of the activities of your union?

What are your opinions on the articles which you find in this paper? Do you agree with what you read, disagree, or are you just plain indifferent? The Education and Contract Committee is striving to create an interest in union affairs and in this paper, amongst all the members of Local 180.

Your criticisms, constructive or otherwise are heartily welcomed. The more members there are who take an interest in all the activities of the union, the greater and more effective will be the strength of the union, so how about it.

HAROLD SHULTZ

A millionaire was showing a friend his modern "push-button" home. "Now I'll show you the best of the lot," said the millionaire. "After a night out, I sometimes feel I would like to step into a nice hot bath right here without going into the bathroom. I just press the button here--"

He pressed the button and in rolled a bathtub, full of nice hot water----and his wife!

POPE PIUS XII

A news report published in a newspaper in the Province of Alberta, Wednesday, July 6, 1955 under the by-line of G.R. BRUNST, will help to clear up any doubt that might be in the minds of some, as to the Church's feelings in regards to unions.

The report comes from the Vatican City, where His Holiness Pope Pius XII held an audience in St. Peter's Basilica for 10,000 railroad men. The gist of the address by the Pope was that Catholic social teaching fully supports the right of workers to organize unions to defend their just claims and improve their standard of living. Part of what G.R. Brunst reports is the following.

Regarding the workers' right to organize, the Pope said:

"No true Christian can find fault if you unite in strong organizations to defend your rights - while remaining aware of your duties - and to arrive at the improvement of your living conditions.

On the contrary, precisely because the harmonious action of all groups in the state is a Christian duty, no individual citizen ought to become a victim of an arbitrary act or the tyranny of others. You are therefore acting in full conformity with the Church's social teaching when by all means morally permissible, you vindicate your just rights."

In conclusion the Pope urged

Christian workers to think of those outside their ranks - - "deceived by the malicious propaganda - that the Church wishes to obstruct their progress to a just improvement of their lot."

It is certainly very gratifying to have His Holiness Pope Pius XII give the Church's views on such an all-important subject as the rights of workers, and to give the lie to some of the propaganda that may have reached our ears from time to time, particularly in regards to unions and the organizing of such.

JAMES BALLARD.

Discussing his tennis game with a friend, a stout little dumpling of a man explained it this way: "When my opponent hits the ball to me, my brain immediately barks out a command to my body": "Race up to the net", it says, 'slam a blistering drive to the far corner of the court, jump back into position to return the next volley."

"Then what?" asked his friend.

"Then", sighed the stout little man, 'my body says, "Who -- me?"'

A young man, sitting with his jealous wife in a night club the other evening, found he couldn't take his eyes off the cigarette girl's figure - it was pretty good; and when she brought her wares to his table, he asked her for a pair of Players!

CAN HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES STRIKE?

In considering this question, it will help to review the meaning of the term strike.

To strike means that when a group of employees have exhausted all other means for trying to win certain conditions that they consider essential to their work, or that there is undue interference or restraint in their right to bargain freely with the employer, then they shall refuse to work until those conditions are met.

In industry, this usually means a complete stoppage of work with machinery shut down, but in a hospital, there are the patients to be considered, and their essential services must be maintained without interruption.

Hospital workers have always shown such restraint in regard to taking strike action, that many people have reached the conclusion that such action is not possible in a hospital. This could not be farther from the truth as hospital workers have been known to resort to use of varying degrees of their "economic strength" as it is sometimes called, and they usually obtain speedy and favorable results.

In consideration and in the interests of the patients, it may not be possible to obtain 100% strike action, excepting perhaps, in a small hospital, but such would not be necessary, as very effective results may be obtained through limited action such as the slow-down where every employee remains on the job, but performs only the most essential services as directly required by the patients, or the semi-strike, where only a skeleton crew is on duty, or a departmental action where certain departments are called out.

In all cases, the brunt of the work - garbage, cleaning, bed pans, etc., must fall upon the administrative and supervisory staffs, and non-union employees, if any.

It has been said that to administer to the needs of the sick is one of the most noble and satisfying duties that man can perform, and we are proud that we have been able to win the right to perform these duties in an atmosphere of reasonable security and self respect.

As I mentioned above, we hospital employees are slow to resort to strike action, always making certain that we have exhausted all other means at our disposal such as, collective bargaining, grievance procedure, compromise, even though it has meant struggling along on lower than standard wages, long hours, etc.

Now that we have, through persistent plodding and foresight, won a position closer to other occupations in the community, we will resist with fierce jealousy, anything that threatens our hard won rights.

We are proud to be hospital workers, and we are proud of the Union which holds us together. Let us keep it that way.

E.R. THOMAS.

3rd ANNUAL PICNIC.

Brilliant weather in a gorgeous setting - Locarno Park, was the scene last Sunday, 14th August, of Local 180 Hospital Employees' Picnic. The combination of park and beach, as well as the ease of accessibility made it the ideal spot for our picnic.

The banner of Local 180 was prominently displayed at the Park entrance and made it easy for people to find our gathering. The banner, incidently created a lot of public interest.

The Social Committee had provided plenty of ice-cream and pop for the kiddies and coffee or tea for the adults. A fine programme of events took place; one of the highlights was the search for the "Mystery Man". Miss Roberta Forsha won this event when she identified Bro. Jack Brown as the "Mystery Man". A prize was given for the oldest member, Bro. M. Leigh, (62) won, and the youngest attender, Miss Rudich was winner at 2½ months; her father and mother both won prizes in the various races.

There were many novelty events, such as the pick-a-back race in which fathers or friends carried the small fry. The Social Comm. Chairman Charlie Oldham came a valiant second in this event.

After the races most of us went down to the beach for swimming or to just laze around.

St. John's Ambulance was on hand, an ambulance and two young ladies from Unit 297 being on duty. There was only one call from our group, a little girl stepped on a burning cigarette, causing a painful burn but

not too serious.

We feel that all the three hundred people who attended will agree that it was a well organized and most enjoyable picnic.

A hearty vote of thanks is due to the Social Comm. not only for their marvelous organization, but for the strenuous and continuous efforts made throughout the day to keep everyone happy.

Hugh Duff.

One never realizes how the human voice can change until a woman stops scolding her husband to answer the telephone.

She - "Does it make any difference to you on which side I sit?"

He - "No, I'm ambidextrous."

After struggling with a wolf the whole evening, the sweet young thing suggested, "Let's walk home, I'm much too tired to ride in a taxi with you."

Indignant parent (6:00 a.m.) "Young man, what do you mean by bringing my daughter in at this hour?"

Flaming Youth - "Well, I gotta be at work by seven."

WORDS.

It is easy to claim, "I mean what I say," but it is not nearly so easy to say what we mean. The same word may mean something quite different to the person hearing it. We interpret what we hear in accordance with our own experience, and since no two persons have had identical past experiences, no two persons will get exactly the same meaning from what you say.

It is not hard to realize that a member who has just arrived from France will get a different meaning from a sentence than a member from the Ukraine, who has lived in Canada for twenty years, and that neither of them will see the picture which is in the mind of the Canadian born member when he speaks. What is harder to realize is that even when two members have much the same background, their mental pictures will still be quite different.

This is the reason your contract committee spends hours (which they would like to spend with their families) arguing and debating the exact wording and phrasing of the contract and constitution.

In speaking, a good deal of the meaning is conveyed by the tone of voice, expression of eyes, mouth, and hands, and by gestures (a much earlier and more universal means of communication) but in the contract this help to understanding is lost.

In choosing the wording of the contract we must first find out what the members mean, then write it in such a way that it will mean the same thing to the personnel office and supervisors, who interpret it. In case there should be disagreement, we want the meaning clear to anyone who may be called upon to arbitrate the dispute.

It is no use writing something which sounds like what we want if it can mean something quite different to the person under whom we are working. What we intended to say may or may not be understood. We must try as far as we can, to make it say what we intend.

Will you all please try to attend the Special meeting on September 16th, so that you can help us to understand what it is we are trying to say to you, and the best way of saying it?

JEAN ROBERTSON.

COMPLACENCY or PROGRESS - WHICH?

No one will question that members of Local 180 are much better off in every way than we were before our Union came into being. The older members are apt to be satisfied because they know how far we have come, and some of our newer members, from European countries, because they have not as yet become accustomed to our higher standard of living. Let us not become too complacent, but rather let us consider how far we have still to go in order to be in line with the Provincial average.

We are still amongst the lowest paid workers in the Province of B.C., in spite of the fact that our work demands twenty-four hours continuity, seven days a week, throughout the year.

We do not enjoy the benefits of Unemployment Insurance, and our members when they retire, do not receive one years' allowance plus their pension as we would if we were permitted to participate. If for any reason we leave the hospital, again we do not have this coverage.

We do not as yet have any Medical Health plan, so our members, both men and women, must pay their own medical expenses. Children are born, bringing with them children's illnesses and operations. All these too must be paid out of a rapidly shrinking income.

We have a long way to go before we catch up with our fellow workers in the City Hall, or those who work for and with the house of Socred in Victoria, with their Severance Pay, M.S.A., and superannuation.

There is a natural law which says in effect, that unless a thing goes forward, it must of necessity go back; nothing in nature stands still. So once more, let us not be too complacent because unless we continue to progress, we shall surely find ourselves slipping back, and no one would wish to do that.

If we decide to progress, it means we must be alive and active, energetic and resolute. Remember, it takes a live fish to swim up the stream, a dead fish floats down with the stream. We can best help each other and ourselves, by faithful attendance at Union meetings, with a willingness to assume responsibilities, and to give of our time and energy for a common cause - progress. Let us choose wisely.

HUGH DUFF.