

Rank And File Worker Role Is Pondered At Convention

By GORDON GRANT
TORONTO (CP)—The role of today's rank and file worker went under the microscope at a National Industrial Conference board meeting Thursday. F. K. Rician, director of industrial relations at Philips Electronics Industries Ltd., outlined a plan undertaken by Philips Honeywell Controls Ltd. and Sangamo Co. Ltd. in Toronto which gave workers time off to broaden their education.

These workers took grade basic and 10 courses in such basic subjects as English, mathematics and science.

They ranged in age from the early 20s to early 60s. In talking the course, two dropped out and one changed his job. Of the remaining 27, 25 passed the subjects. Later 29 people took grade 11 and 25 passed.

It is concluded from these results that, given an opportunity, there will be no lack of suitable candidates for courses.

Mr. Rician said it is important that industry provide the initial impetus for opportunities. Employees will take it from there, he said.

George Lach, assistant vice-president of personnel and labor relations, CNR, found the main problem to be one of labor immobility.

He outlined his company's problems in closing his Stratford, Ont. shops which employed more than 1,000 men.

"Many company jobs, available to Stratford employees in other towns, were refused... several sociological and physiological factors may prevent a man or his family from following his work to another city. But this immobility can be a serious problem for any company interested in long-range manpower planning, since it may hinder the most efficient utilization of personnel of the current and future labor force."

W. R. Dymond, assistant federal deputy labor, said the government is actively encouraging and assisting financially in programs of retraining for employed people as well as unemployed people whose basic skills are inadequate for demands of today's labor market.

In a review of the pulp and paper industry, C. H. Foster, vice-president of Abitibi Power and Paper Co. Ltd., said segments of the industry which depend on domestic markets can look forward to a five-percent sales gain while exports can look for a seven-per-cent gain.

Robinson Ord, president of Chemcel (1983) Ltd., said the chemical industry will grow in Fibres, plastics, agricultural chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

He estimated a 1964 sales increase of 8% per cent to \$1,800,000,000.

R. M. Robinson, vice-president of Canadian Electric Co. Ltd., said the electronics industry will depend on the introduction of new products for growth in the future.

Thatcher Point Called Valid

REGINA (CP)—A statement by Premier Ross Thatcher that Saskatchewan would have to consider joining the United States if Quebec seceded from Canada made a valid point, a former CCF cabinet minister said here.

A. E. Blakene, a Regina member of the Saskatchewan legislature and former CCF provincial health minister, said Mr. Thatcher's comment in Montreal Tuesday was "colorful and extreme."

"But the point which he makes, that if Quebec seceded from Canada it is essential for Saskatchewan prosperity, is a valid point," he said.

Saskatchewan's Progressive Conservative leader, Martin Pedersen, said the premier's statement was intemperate and "on a par with extreme statements made by many people in the separatist movement in Quebec."

Sask. Threatens To Join U.S. If Que. Leaves

MONTREAL (CP)—Premier W. Ross Thatcher of Saskatchewan warned here his province would consider union with the United States if Quebec ever left Confederation.

But he added Saskatchewan can flourish if Quebec continues as part of the Confederation and that his province is out to improve its position through the establishment of new industries.

Mr. Thatcher, in Montreal for talks with potential investors, told a press conference.

"So long as Quebec is in Confederation, Canada is a fine economic unit."

"But if it ever left—and I hope to God it won't—we'd have to give consideration to joining the United States."

He said he has been visiting various Canadian cities with the message that "the war on business is over in Saskatchewan."

Brisk and cheerful after a luncheon with Montreal businessmen, the Liberal premier said he has been "reasonably successful in tying down some industries" for his province, where he took over power from the CCF earlier this year.

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