

# Lecture Number 1432 IBEW

A big moron and a little moron were sitting on a fence. The big moron fell off. Why didn't the little moron? Because he was a professor.



## We Can No Longer Afford to Separate Beliefs From Duties

Who can separate his faith from actions or his beliefs from his occupation? This for God and this for myself. Your daily life is your temple and your religion. Whenever you enter into it, take with you your all. Take the plow and the forge, the mullet and the lute, the things you have fashioned in necessity or delight... For in adoration you cannot fly higher than their hopes nor humble yourself lower than their despair."

-Kahlil Gibran

At present, we live in a world where people separate their beliefs from their duty. In regards to the current situation pertaining to the ongoing strike, many students, faculty and administrators have betrayed themselves deep down inside. My reason for saying this can be supported by the way the above parties have responded to the Student Union's strike. It is clear that just about everybody I've talked to is in sympathy with the Maintenance workers demands for an equitable wage to insure a

decent standard of living. Moral support however means nil if there is no concrete immediate action to back up what an individual really feels. So, while the grass grows greener during this strike the horses continue to remain starving.

I cannot see the logic of those people who claim to support the Maintenance workers but then go on to work and to class as if they are obligated to teach, administer and be taught. The reason the strike of the Maintenance workers has been prolonged is because of those people who believe it is their duty to do what their job and role dictate rather than comply with their conscience and act honestly and truthfully. To act in this manner is to be extremely hypocritical and in a sense schizophrenic. How can an individual work or perform any other duty properly if their principles do not comply with the work they do? Principles, beliefs and convictions "CANNOT" be separated nor isolated

from the way a person acts whether it be in an office, classroom, or for that matter on a picket line. It is therefore imperative that our principles govern the way we act 24 hours a day. If they don't believe that particular individuals should seriously take a good hard look at themselves and redefine, restructure and formulate a value system where justice, honesty, and love for their fellow man prevails. We all believe that justice should predominate when carefully analyzing the strike by the Maintenance workers, just as we agree that poverty, pollution, starvation and war should be eliminated. How can justice prevail in our society, though, when profit, growth, competition and greed seem to be the primary objectives for many? We must therefore ask ourselves some basic questions that this strike points out! Can a division of labour be justified, i.e. some people

who will not sacrifice and share the abundance of wealth that they have? As well as asking ourselves questions about the strike, let us not forget to exchange roles with the 30 or so people who are getting paid around \$4700.00 and make ends meet!

In essence, let those of us who risk making justice a reality be strong. Let those of us who care about people be true to our convictions and beliefs and recognize how intolerable injustices such as those committed against Maintenance workers have been over the years. Finally, let those of us who have supported Maintenance people be true to ourselves in all that we pursue and continue to act in accordance with our beliefs and principles that gives meaning to life and support to our fellow man.

Sincerely,  
Art Laffin