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Facts

Chronology

Previous wages for maintenance workers : \$4700 - \$ 8300
 Administration's last offer : \$6260 - \$ 9860
 Union's last offer (excluding Friday's): \$7300 - \$10900
 N.B. Both the administration's and the union's last offers are for the period July 1, 1975 to July 1, 1976. The last contract ran from January 1, 1974 to July 1, 1975

Salaries of equivalent provincial civil servants as of March 1, 1974: \$5,900 base pay and as of Oct. 1, 1975: \$6,500 and after March 1, 1976: \$7,200 at minimum

Salaries of professors at U.P.E.I: \$11,500 - \$29,000
 N.B. In all cases, salaries tend toward the lower end of the scale although this is somewhat less true for profs than the other groups.

Total number of workers in I.B.E.W. local 1432: 45
 Total number of workers under contract : 63

Total wages earned by workers at U.P.E.I. and Civil Servants for the period March 1, 1974 to March 1, 1976. The figures below are base wages.

U.P.E.I. workers (Union offer): \$11,350
 U.P.E.I. workers (Admin offer): \$10,150
 Provincial Civil Servants : \$12,100

Enter One Strike—No More Apathy

It is perhaps worthwhile to compare the events of the past week with those of the now forgotten senate elections and General Meeting of the week before.

For weeks before those events we heard student union execs, the radio station, The Cadre promoting them in a tone which amounted almost to ranting. Posters were spread everywhere; lectures were given in almost every manner possible. How many turned out? Two hundred ninety for the election and fifty for the meeting.

Immediately afterwards the execs and others became highly disillusioned with the student population. Apathy is rampant at U.P.E.I. Nothing can be done to change that; they're all hopeless.

And yet just one week later, the students turned out for a referendum voting in greater numbers than ever

before and for a series of four meetings—each one was larger than any previous meeting.

Obviously, it is not true that students are so erratic that they one minute ignore something and the next are willing to shut the university down.

The average student does not tend to regard hanging around the student

union offices and looking busy doing such things as organizing a drunk ... searching for a fridge ... backbiting ... as sufficient vital activities to be worth the headaches involved. Perhaps s/he's right. Obviously I don't agree or you wouldn't be reading this but there is at least something to be said for an attitude like that. Certainly it is more fun to go to a Pig & Whistle than to find a band for one.

Perhaps more important though, is that the average student realizes that s/he is having an effect upon the most important things in life, what s/he is doing here and what s/he will do afterwards, and that further s/he has little or no say in how s/he will not have effect. If that sounds a little confusing, what it means is that s/he has little or no power in the decision making process. 'Woozy' MacDonald, not to suggest that he is a power monger, decides which band will play and s/he pays admission.

For the first time in our lives we are doing something that will have a significant

Jul 1 : previous - and first - contract between IBEW local 1432 and UPEI expires.

Fri Sep 19: talks between union and university begin.

Sun Sep 28: Student Council votes to support workers in any action they may take.

Fri Oct 3 : University makes new offer of 75¢ per hour over the contract's term. This amounts to an increase of 4.9¢.

Fri. Oct. 10: Workers vote 100% to strike. Date unnamed to be decided at a meeting set for Oct. 17.

Fri Oct 17: Workers vote to strike immediately; Baker leaves town; Faculty Association votes to support both

the wage demands of the workers and the strike action. Students realize this, at least unconsciously, and so come out in greater numbers than ever before. They understand the justice and their cause and also understand that to support a worker in trying to earn a living wage is of more importance than the two or three marks which (may) be lost.

At least as important it is the fact that, once again, for the first time decisions are being made collectively rather than being handed down from the executive. Even if the execs would rather that the students as a whole make decisions, the structures within which they must work dictate that they make the decisions rather than the general student body.

During this strike action, all decisions were made collectively. Whether made at general meetings or at or in a referendum, students are decided directly, what, when, why, and how we would support this action.

This type of decision making is one which enables all students to participate. Possibly if the student union attempted to find ways to initiate it on a grander scale, then we find far less 'apathy' on this campus. Unless a person knows that s/he is having a significant effect on the world as a whole and is given a say in the decision making process, then s/he will continue to be apathetic. Could it ever be otherwise?

the wage demands of the workers and the strike action.

Sun Oct 19: Student Council votes to have a referendum Wednesday on the question of what nature its support should take to be preceded by two study sessions on Monday and Tuesday on the question.

Mon Oct 20: First study session takes place, 200 students, some faculty, some workers attend. Little gets done. A group of about 35 leave to attempt to form a referendum committee.

Tue Oct 21: Second study session takes place student vote on items to be placed on the referendum; Union meeting held with two students in attendance. A split develops between international IBEW rep Meldey LeBlanc and the workers. The former wishes students to hold off for a week or ten days, the latter for them to strike immediately.

Wed Oct 22: Referendum held with the highest turnout ever. Students vote 2-1 to support the union's action by shutting down the campus, boycotting classes, raising money for a strike fund, etc. S.U. holds referendum meeting with over three hundred students in attendance to decide how to implement the recommendations and vote to shut down the campus for two days and to hold a mass rally Sunday to decide further action.

Thu Oct 23: University shuts (almost) down; about two hundred students join workers on picket line; a soup kitchen is organized for the picketers; only about 10% of classes are held with attendance of about 10%; Pig 'N' Whistle cancelled; S.U. organizes benefit concert.

Fri Oct 24: Students again man pickets with workers; classes again almost stop; Faculty Association votes \$1000 for strike fund; Baker interrupts his trip to return to campus; workers and university return to bargaining table with two students, Rick Huyck and Morris Rogerson, acting as mediators at which the union offers a new figure (not revealed). Sun Oct. 26

Students hold meeting in Duffy at 6P.M. 327 students vote, :strike. To be Continued with increased organization; dance in Barn, proceedings go to support striking Maintenance workers. Bomb scare in Duffy. Baker shits pants!

Students:

Support Your Student Union

COME TO THE

MASS RALLY

TUESDAY OCT 28, 1975
 IN THE BARN AT 7:00

AND

SIGN UP TO TAKE

ACTION at the BARN