

Representative
Assembly
has met

newsletter

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION

Vol. 16 No. 10

BROADWAY PRINTERS LTD.

FEBRUARY 9, 1977

Submissions to AIB

RA reverses Exec. position

By John Hardy

The most intensive debate of the winter RA took place over a process for the BCTF to deal with the Anti-Inflation Board.

One group argued that to boycott the Anti-Inflation Board was folly; the other group argued that to boycott the Anti-Inflation Board was the only way to insure that a free collective bargaining process was restored to teachers.

An executive motion of January 8 that no local association should make a submission to the AIB or Administrator, a position that flows from a policy taken in October than no teacher group should accept any process that recognizes the present arbitrary wage controls, became a focal point of the debate.

One of the objects in the BCTF constitution, President Bill Broadley reminded delegates, is to promote the welfare of teachers of British Columbia.

Accordingly, Broadley said, he had argued for the need for local associations to make submissions to the AIB, but under protest, because these submissions may result in better salaries for members. 'We will never know unless we try.'

'I believe that all action should be taken to protect the earning power of members,' Broadley said. 'Submissions under protest are a suitable means.' As to nonrecognition of the AIB, Broadley reminded delegates that earlier they had approved a BCTF fee that would be less \$5.50, a clear recognition of AIB actions.

The chairperson of the Provincial Agreements Committee, Kerry Gibbs, argued that the task for the Agreements Committee was to get as high a percentage increase as possible, therefore it was necessary to take whatever steps are open to teachers to retain increases gained through arbitration.

Gibbs said that silence would mean acquiescence to AIB rulings. Other unions were not boycotting the AIB process, thus the BCTF was taking an 'isolated position.'

Gibbs said that he didn't think the federation position would be damaged by going to the AIB under protest. What could be damaged, however, is the method of bargaining that had been built up over the years within the federation because the policy of the Executive Committee is 'dismantling this whole set-up.' Gibbs also warned that 30 districts didn't pay any attention to the Executive Committee this year and predicted that next year it would be as high as 50-60 districts.

He was supported by Rolli Cacchioni, another member of the Provincial Agreements Committee, who argued that the AIB is now a fact of life. 'It's ludicrous not to use all means open to get benefits for the membership.'

He also expressed strong concern for those local associations that had been going to make submissions to the AIB but were unable to get advice from the BCTF because the executive had taken the position of no submissions.

When local agreements chairmen lose faith, Cacchioni argued, it destroys something that has been built up over 20 years, and he warned 'We'll end up with not having any means for bargaining within this federation.'

The members of the executive who had opposed submissions to the AIB said that it was a question of taking a principled position.

Among those executive members speaking against submissions were Don Walmsley, Al Blakey and Julia Goulden.

Don Walmsley, first vice-president, called the AIB a 'big brother,' which is removing teachers' basic democratic rights.

It was not a question of short-term gains, he said, but a loss of the free collective bargaining process when settlements are imposed.

Walmsley also attacked the notion that the Anti-Inflation Board was another level of arbitration. 'This AIB is not listening to both sides of the case.' He said the AIB was never established to serve as an arbitration board but rather to control salaries. 'And how will you sell members on opposition to the AIB when you've been taking part in the process?'

Al Blakey, executive, said that he was concerned about slippage and erosion of teacher bargaining rights. 'The direction we seem to be going is to speed up the decline.'

He suggested that delegates keep an eye on the long-term implications from the erosion of teacher bargaining rights.

Julia Goulden, executive, expressed concern over loss of the democratic right of free collective bargaining, arguing that teachers will have to give up short-run advantages because these will be construed as compliance to the Anti-Inflation Board.

The result of the debate was that the Representative Assembly by an overwhelming motion recommended to the Executive Committee that it rescind its January 8 motion, which will, in turn, enable local associations to make submissions to the AIB although these submissions will be made under protest.

Payback unauthorized from past employees

Salary paybacks do not apply to those teachers who worked for more than one school board in 1976 and/or retired in 1976, according to the BCTF Economic Welfare Division.

It is the opinion of the BCTF that school boards do not have the authority, in the absence of a lawful order, to recover repayment from former employees. Only the Administrator of the Anti-Inflation Program appears to have the authority to issue orders and to the BCTF's knowledge, he has not issued any orders with respect to B.C. teachers and school boards.

The BCTF's advice to teachers receiving a request from their former school board for repayment of alleged overpayments is as follows:

1. acknowledge receipt of the letter;

2. advise the school board that you consider it has no authority to request the money;

3. advise the school board that you will give further consideration to its request if it can supply you with a copy of a lawful order of the Administrator in which he specifies the amount of the money supposedly owed by you, the manner in which he calculates the amount and the method of repayment.

In the event the school board does send you a copy of an order of the Administrator (this is most unlikely), contact the BCTF's Economic Welfare Division prior to any further action on your part.

Four basic arguments

Judgment reserved on BCTF court case

The BCTF's court case to have the federal government's anti-inflation measures declared inoperative in B.C. has had judgment reserved.

The court said it may want to wait until a Manitoba case, which has some similar issues to the B.C. case, has been determined. That case goes before the Supreme Court February 22.

Lawyer Allan Black, of McTaggart Ellis & Co., explained the BCTF's position to delegates at the Representative Assembly Friday, January 28.

He outlined the four basic arguments presented.

1. that the June 23, 1976 Anti-Inflation Memorandum of Agreement and Guidelines are invalid in that they are 'regulations' which have not been filed under the Regulations Act of the Province of B.C.

2. the Memorandum of Agreement and the Guidelines are invalid insofar as they purport to alter the existing law of B.C. and are without domestic force because they have not been expressly ratified by the government (i.e. such as in treaties).

3. the Anti-Inflation Measures Act has no retrospective operation so as to apply to teachers' salaries established by agreement or by arbitration for the calendar year 1976.

4. the Burnaby School Board has reduced salaries of teachers employed by the board without lawful justification.

Named in the action, besides the BCTF, are the Burnaby Teachers' Association and Burnaby teacher, Wayne MacCulloch.

Nominations to Executive

BCTF members who have been nominated for positions on the 1977-78 Executive Committee are listed below. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual General Meeting which will be held March 27 through 30 at the Hotel Vancouver.

For President: Pat Brady (Prince George), Gordon Hutton (Delta), Don Walmsley (Boston Bar);

First Vice-President: Peter

Minshull (West Vancouver);
Second Vice-President: Al Garneau (Vancouver), Ross Regan (Victoria);

Member-at-Large: Marjatta Chapman (Maple Ridge), Dorothy Fast (Dawson Creek), Betty Griffin (Burnaby), Larry Kuehn (Kamloops), Gyan Nath (Vancouver), Les Phillips (Coquitlam), Ellen Scully (Masset), Doug Steinson (Chilliwack), Phil Van Seters (Duncan).



Executive decision on submissions to the AIB proved controversial. Left to right, Kerry Gibbs, Bill Broadley, Len Traboulay, Jurd Kirby, Barbara Marfarlane.

Too bad

A man had a lovely daughter of whom his family was very proud. He noticed one day that she was not eating her dinner so he gave her an Oh Henry bar. When this was repeated the next day, his brother noticed and, out of concern for the girl, snatched the bar away shouting, 'Don't give her that. You will rot her teeth and make a fat ugly girl out of her.' The father was so angry at his brother for his unreasonably hostile interference that he ordered him out of the house never to return and then continued the practice of feeding his daughter Oh Henry bars.

Sure enough, she became a fat ugly girl. When she was older she met her uncle by accident in a nearby village. 'Why do you not come to see us?' she asked. After he explained, the astute young lady asked another question. 'Do you think he might have listened to you if you had said sympathetically, 'Brother, let me help you. You know, nutrition experts suggest that candy is not good for children and they will eat the correct food when their appetite returns!'

'Yes, come to think of it, he probably would have listened,' replied her uncle.

The father is the ministry of education. The uncle is the BCTF. The Oh Henry bars are CORE and PLAP.

Are CORE and PLAP bad for children? 'Yes!' they will say, 'and so was the BCTF and so was the ministry of education. Too bad they couldn't have co-operated.'

Wayne Gately,
Vancouver

CORE/PLAP

As a GR I was disappointed with the three-days of meetings of the BCTF Representative Assembly recently held.

I had hoped that the members would be given sufficient opportunity to prepare at least a preliminary BCTF position on CORE and PLAP and also to share some responses on the BCTF working draft on Essential Education Experiences.

Only one hour out of 21 hours of scheduled agenda was allotted to discuss EEE's and none to CORE and PLAP. In fairness it must be pointed out that the other twenty hours plus were, of course, necessary to attend to federation's business. But, is this leadership?

In my view, the major priorities of the federation, adequately supported by resources, have to be at this time, the economic welfare of the teachers and the development of educational directions.

We have produced five working drafts on EEE's and a pamphlet explaining why CORE and PLAP are bad for children. This is a negative approach. There are a lot of teachers who may indeed prefer some aspects of core curriculum. Similarly, the working draft No. 5 on EEE's has some excellent and refreshing insights.

What is of utmost importance is that as the BCTF we insist that developing educational directions requires true cooperation between the public, teachers and government, if the objective be to meet the needs of every child irrespective of his/her background — rich, poor, non-English speaking, whatever — who lives in this socially complex technological society. We may criticize the government in their attempt to foist a curriculum, concocted by a small group of people perhaps endowed by some 'intuitive' wisdom, without input from public and teachers in determination of goals of education in the waning years of 1970s. The government may also be accused for its attempts to circumvent by subterfuge the democratic process by not allowing sufficient time for the public to respond to the programme.

However, let us be adamant as far as possible in not allowing education to turn into a political football game. Such a step is dysfunctional. Indeed, it is a disservice to the children of this province.

I trust that at the forthcoming AGM there would be specific recommendations and time for the delegates to help develop a BCTF position on educational directions.

Gyan Nath,
G.R.

Recorded votes

In the interests of brevity my analysis of the executive was oversimplified. Since Mr. Gibbs has criticized me for this, I am pleased to take the closer look he asks for.

I do not agree that all recorded votes are on critical issues but to give Mr. Gibbs the benefit of the doubt I have included in this analysis all but one of the recorded votes of this executive from the time it took office until the January 8-9 meeting. (The latest minutes available at the time of this analysis.) I have excluded the recorded vote on whether the smoking rules for the meeting should be changed as I thought even Kerry would concede this was not a critical issue.

The vote may not always have been exactly 6-5. Depending on absence, abstentions, or who broke ranks, the votes vary between 6-5, 6-4, 6-3, 7-4, and 7-3. The exact number does not matter. The point that I was making was that on critical issues the vote is often close and that people consistently vote together in two identifiable groups on these issues.

Of the recorded votes 59% show a block voting pattern similar to the one evident on the October 14 withdrawal of services issue. Nineteen percent of the recorded votes were obviously called only to show that someone was abstaining. The remaining 22% of the recorded votes show substantial disagreement along voting lines not similar to those of the October 14 issue.

Anyone who would like a detailed analysis of the voting pattern should write me at 895 Evelyn Drive, West Vancouver, B.C.

Peter Minshull,
West Vancouver

Public demand

The public is pleading for some substance in our secondary school curriculum. Only 41% of the public, in a recent Gallup poll, felt they were getting their money's worth out of education — well behind postmen and all other publicly employed people.

The government's obligation to satisfy this public demand is being met by Education Minister Pat McGeer and what do influential BCTF leaders do? They form the covered wagons in a circle and go on the defensive. This is no game of cowboys and Indians. This is the public, your neighbors and mine, pleading for substance and quality instead of bullfeathers and baffle-gab in public school education.

The PSA Council show the intelligent approach when they urge their members to participate in these public discussions so that conclusions and recommendations can be reached on the basis of informed opinion. The BCTF executive committee show the ignorant approach when they willfully misinterpret PLAP's purposes and activities by publishing and distributing such classic models of sophistry as 'Are CORE and PLAP Bad for Children?'

I don't think the public is wrong to doubt the value they are getting from the money invested in secondary schools. Students must have an opportunity to succeed at something worthwhile in our schools. The lamentable drift away from teaching middle class values (in some classrooms) is the principal cause of the public's dissatisfaction and for the apparent aimlessness in BCTF educational leadership.

This latest political action program is just one more example of mischievous leadership the teachers in this province can do without.

D. Steinson,
Chilliwack

Mike Deane,
President, WVTA

Last resort

Someone should tell Kerry Gibbs not to hang labels on people on the basis of one ad or one letter with which he happens to disagree.

There are 370 members in West Vancouver who resent being labelled 'fanatical', 'anti-strike', and 'anti-union.'

This local is proud of its record. We believe strike should be used as a last resort; we are not anti-strike. We struck to support the

pension campaign; we picketed the Lions Gate Bridge and the legislature. During the Bill 3 campaign we had a greater per capita turnout at rallies than any other local. We have not forgotten that it was the unions who stood by us in our struggle.

One hundred percent of West Vancouver teachers continued to belong to the BCTF when membership was made voluntary.

One of our reasons for placing the October 14 ad was to explain to our friends in labor that we did support their stand on the AIB even though we felt we could not join the strike. The reaction we have had from labor has not been hostile. One labor leader commented, 'At least you did something. Most teachers did nothing.'

WVTA executives have been well supported by our members because our executives have made an effort to represent the members and have not just expressed their own personal views. Before we make statements on important issues like October 14 or on CORE and PLAP we give all our members a chance to tell us what they want us to say or do.

It is ironic that it is Mr. Minshull whom Mr. Gibbs chose to attack. As president or vice-president, Mr. Minshull led our local through all of the above campaigns. He also led the local in establishing one of the few learning conditions contracts in the province. He is respected in our local as a moderate leader, not fanatical and not anti-union.

Mike Deane,
President, WVTA

Dissension

I am surprised that the Newsletter would devote almost a page to an article which was designed to be divisive and to create endless dissension. I believe the 'workers paradise' type of politics, with its artificially forced class struggle, does not apply to Canada. We are hopefully advanced beyond that point of view.

P. Dyck,
Ganges

Time for re-examining attitude of 'bigger is better' says Broadley

By Annette Croucher

We must rid ourselves of the 'great man approach' to solving problems and instead work together toward a common purpose and 'damn the ideologies.'

This was the message delivered by BCTF President Bill Broadley in his speech to the Representative Assembly held January 27, 28 and 29 at Vancouver's Sheraton Plaza 500.

Broadley told delegates to the RA that he believes society is beginning to realize that the individual has more control of his or her own destiny than it was prepared to admit a few years ago.

'There is growing recognition in American-Canadian society and I believe within this federation that there is no big brother or big sister who can solve our problems. The pace of change has, in fact, caught up with us. It is time for a pause, but without stagnation, for consolidation, for re-examining the "bigger is better attitude."

'People want time to know each other as people, to trust

and rely on each other, to work with each other for a common purpose.'

He said this change in attitude reveals itself in the concern being felt by the BCTF and the public over the Anti-Inflation program. 'No one person in Ottawa can solve the bargaining problems of 28,000 teachers in B.C.'

Broadley warned delegates of the dangers of letting ideologies override constitutional objectives. Any organization with 28,000 members is bound to include people of many ideologies, he said.

'We weaken the thrusts for the achievement of our constitutional objectives when one or another ideology becomes the basis of our actions.'

He reminded teachers that the BCTF is, in constitutional terms, 'a provincial society dedicated to the improvement of the status of teachers and to the betterment of their economic status.'

Broadley said there should be 'no hidden agendas' within the federation. Rather, there should be the same demand for

openness of decision-making that there is in the schools.

Broadley told the RA that teachers must 'continue to seek a greater provincial commitment to the funding of public school education, continue to address themselves to concerns expressed about core curriculum and the provincial learning assessment program, and continue to avoid the emotional almost hysterical response that can come if we become paranoid that "someone is out to get us."

Broadley said he feels it comes as 'no surprise' to delegates that the BCTF is perceived by the public and government as being somewhat 'left of center.' And, if that is where our members want to be, we need apologize to no one for our position, he said.

'Nor should it surprise you that the present government is perceived by us and the public as somewhat right of center,' he added.

Governments are always changing though, said Broadley. 'Regardless of what government holds power, we must

be in a position where our views will be listened to with respect.'

'This cannot occur if we become paranoid about some of the right wing attitudes heard from government.'

Referring to the government's planned province-wide core curriculum program, Broadley maintained that 'our primary concern is children. Together, with their parents, it is them we serve.'

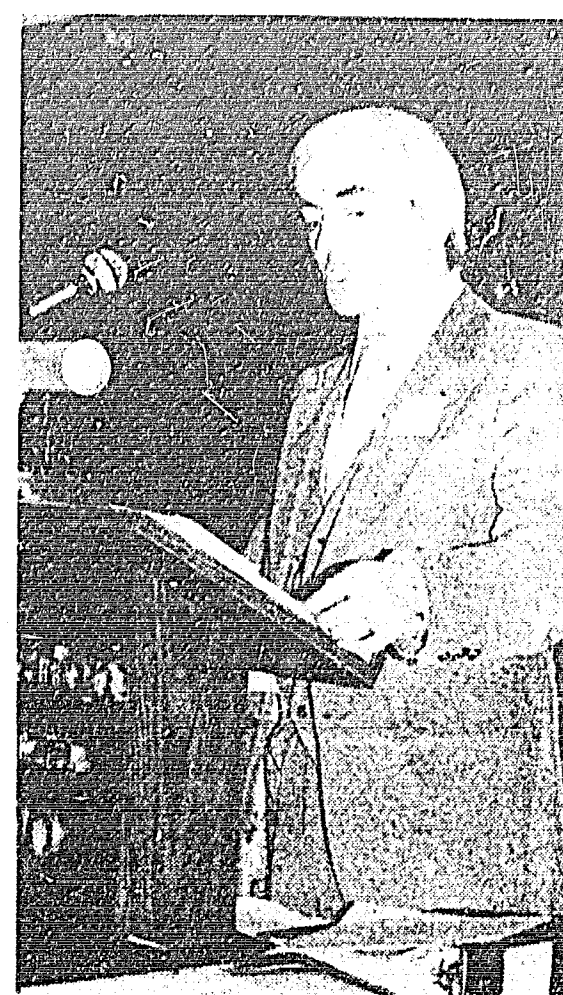
'As long as we attempt to provide a professional quality education for each child, we

Rigid core curriculum? Parents won't stand for it.

need have no fear of a rigid centralized curriculum.

'The parents won't stand for it,' Broadley assured delegates.

'Let's not use our resources to respond to someone else's agenda. Instead, let us use our resources to improve the quality of education for each child



Bill Broadley

by continuing to seek smaller classes, to promote regular in-service opportunities for teachers and to continue to improve teacher education programs so that they reflect the reality of teachers in today's schools.'

Declaration important to LC program—Walmsley

By John Hardy

The Declaration of Basic Learning and Working Conditions Rights, Prerogatives and Obligations has been adopted in principle by 36 local associations, Don Walmsley, BCTF First Vice-President told the Representative Assembly.

The Provincial Learning Conditions Committee sees the Declaration as an important part of local association commitment to the learning conditions program, Walmsley said. The objective is to have all locals deal with the Declaration by March 15, 1977.

The grievance procedure, Walmsley said, is an important part of the Declaration because it seeks to guarantee due process to members. If nothing happens to a grievance, he said, the members think, 'what's the point?' There must be a formalized procedure so that people don't get lost.

Nine grievances have been formally settled and 36 are being processed.

He said that the fall regional learning conditions workshops involved about 225 teachers from 60 districts. The workshops dealt with emergency aid, staffing and budget, grievance resolution, improved school management, equality of educational opportunities, learning conditions contract and more recently the Education '77 Action Program.

Walmsley explained the Education '77 Action Program as a way to open debate on education. 'We have to capitalize on those meetings about core curriculum,' he said.

'We need to enlarge the debate on core curriculum so that our federation philosophy is discussed.'

While no one can say that kids should not learn to read or write, he said, the real issue is on the best ways to teach them. Do we want the structured system of the past or do we want a system which tries to get every student to reach his/her potential?

Walmsley noted that which Education Minister Pat McGeer was saying that the grade 4 provincial language assessment program tests had come out okay, he was also saying that teachers are going to have to improve. 'Does that mean more tests? More control in and regimentations?'

'I am personally very concerned about the back to the basics movement. Back to what? Classes of 40 plus? One-third of a class of grade 7



Don Walmsley

students over age 14? Rigid streaming in grade 8? Higher drop-out rates?'

'Let's open up the debate on education.'

Executive approves S/W program

A comprehensive program to enable teachers and school boards to examine present contracts, employment practices and course offerings to eliminate any sex discrimination has been approved by the Executive Committee.

The Status of Women Task Force reported that 'it is important to take a realistic look at the present composition of our education work force and to find practical ways of ensuring that streaming by sex for both teachers and students is not perpetuated.'

Realizing that any program to equalize learning and working opportunities must be designed at the local level, the

task force emphasized that its proposal is merely a guide to assist local associations.

The report included a sheet of statistics that included the following:

- * 67% of all full-time elementary teachers are female; 33%, male.
- * 69% of all full-time secondary teachers are male; 31%, female.
- * 94.5% of principals are male; 5.5%, female.
- * No secondary principals are female.
- * 95.7% of vice-principals are male; 4.3%, female.
- * No district superintendents are female.

Response to 'exchange of views'

I am writing in response to the 'exchange of views' between Mr. William McConnell and BCTF president Bill Broadley in the December 2 issue of the Newsletter.

In objecting to the Executive Committee's recommendation to 'harass and obstruct' the bureaucratic functioning of the AIB, Mr. McConnell states:

'Harassment and obstruction of governmental operations should not and cannot be a function of any responsible Canadian citizen. To suggest that these actions be engaged in by teachers, who are partly charged with the responsibility of inspiring children and youth to good habits of citizenship and respect for due process of law is unthinkable.'

Although Mr. McConnell may be a 'respected member of the federation,' it seems to me that he is in dire need of a few lessons in history and human ethics. I would like to remind him that only a few decades ago in this country, it was illegal to form any kind of trade union or collective employees association to bargain with the employer. Had it not been for the militant, and usually illegal, activities of the early trade unionists in Canada, the right to collective bargaining which he and other BC teachers take for granted would not exist. The collective bargaining rights of teachers and other workers were not 'given' to us by government; they had to be struggled for bitterly, and were not infrequently paid for by the blood of workers. Perhaps Mr. McConnell and others of his ilk ought to join the Labor History PSA so that they could become better acquainted with the struggles of working people in this country and what 'due process under law' has often meant for the working class.

Even a brief objective perusal of Canadian history would show Mr. McConnell that there have been numerous laws passed and enforced in this country over the years which have served the needs of the rich and powerful and disregarded and overtly violated the most basic rights of large sections of society. Included here is not only the large volume of anti-labor legislation passed by various governments, but also laws infringing on people's basic civil liberties (for example, the infamous

Duplessis 'padlock law' in Quebec) and laws which were overtly racist and discriminatory (the Chinese 'head tax' and anti-East Indian immigration policies in B.C., for example), not to mention the unjust laws governing the lives of Native People, many of which are still on the books.

To suggest that teachers, or any other citizens, are obligated ethically to support unjust laws is a morally bankrupt position, a position which could only lead to perpetuating societal inequities and a position which absolves the individual or group from any ethical obligation to struggle for social justice.

What would Mr. McConnell have done had he been a teacher in Germany in the 1930s? Would he have defied the Nazi laws or would he have instructed his students in 'good habits of citizenship and respect for due process of law,' as required by the fascist state?

Bill Broadley's 'thoughtful' reply was hardly more enlightening. It seems that he is more interested in recruiting Mr. McConnell into his frustrated crusade against the more 'left' individuals on the executive, than in tackling the issues. By harping on the 'inconsistencies' in AIB rollbacks against various groups of workers, he intends to confuse the issue and mask the essential character of the Liberals' Bill C-73. Had the AIB rolled back the salaries of every single Canadian worker to exactly 8%, would BC teachers, or any other group of workers, be any better off? I think not.

The research work of our own BCTF staff has shown very clearly the intent of the 'anti-inflation' measures. The fact is that in the period preceding the government's introduction of the wage controls, unionized sections of the Canadian working class were able to struggle for a slightly higher percentage of the national wealth (all of which they had created through their labor) than in previous years. This was often achieved through hard-fought battles for reasonable wage increases and cost-of-living adjustment clauses. The government's 'anti-inflation' measures were intended to repress the workers' movement in order to secure higher corporate profits

while maintaining the 'competitiveness' of the corporations' products on the world market.

As such, the AIB constitutes a concerted attack by the federal and provincial governments against the working people of this country, including teachers. Workers are perfectly within their rights, not only to 'harass and obstruct' the bureaucratic mechanisms of the AIB (which is really a rather weak and ineffective tactic), but to take whatever mass strike action is necessary to put an end to this unjust law, whether such action is legal or not.

Bob Rosen,
Surrey

Deadline

For Fergusson Memorial

Award

Nominations

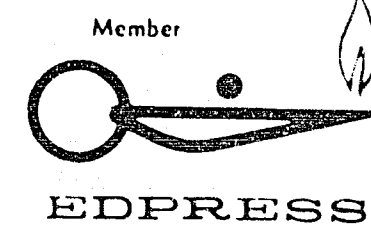
February 20, 1977

(see Members Guide, page 8)

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION
105 - 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

newsletter

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Assistant
ANNETTE CROUCHER



EDPRESS

Letters to the editor must be signed by and bear the address of the writer. The Newsletter may edit letters for brevity, clarity, legality or taste.

Nanaimo wants second GR

A motion proposed by John Secuur, Nanaimo and Phil Van Seters, Cowichan, that the RA recommend to the 1977 AGM an amendment to procedure 29.A.02 to include 'no local association with more than 600 members shall have fewer than two GRs,' was carried.

The argument was that there were a number of medium sized locals that were just under the prescribed number required in order to obtain an additional GR.

It was suggested that either this recommendation be passed or that locals be allowed to establish two or three sub-locals. This suggestion was not met with enthusiasm by John Secuur as his local wants to remain one unified body.

One argument against the motion was that it would mean overcrowding and extra cost.

Joe Pashak, Langley, who spoke in favor of the motion, said he did not think the cost

would be that great and that the Sheraton could hold a few more GRs with no problem.

Pashak said he has found great difficulty in communication in his own local, which is the second worst represented at 600 to one GR and with 45 schools.

Ken Smith, Kamloops, who was against the motion, felt there should be no 'tinkering' with the formula 'because there will always be someone just under the cut-off margin.' Rather, there should be improvements for all locals and not just those few who want changes, he said.

First Vice-President Don Walmsley told the RA that the large and small locals have been taken care of. But, he said, the executive cannot do anything for those locals that are not quite big enough as it is AGM policy and therefore only the AGM can change it.

Walmsley said locals such as Nanaimo, the worst repre-

sented at 719 to one GR, and Langley, with its 600 to one, are being 'shafted' and that they do deserve special consideration. He believes a new formula is needed.

Al Blakey, Vancouver Elementary, also in favor of the motion, said that 'if we are so concerned that the membership know what is going on, I think we have no alternative but to vote in favor of the motion.'

Gordon Sanborn, Nanaimo, who, 'as a member of the worst represented local in B.C.,' feels a second GR would be much more 'democratic,' as the membership would then hear two sides to a story.

Lynne Hampson, Coquitlam, was against the motion as she felt there is already true representation of the locals. She said 29.C.04 determines how many voting cards each GR receives and 'this is what determines representation, not the extra people.'

Brief takes

Newsletter policy

The Representative Assembly defeated a motion to advise the Executive Committee to revoke its decision to establish an editorial board for the BCTF Newsletter, then passed a motion supporting the Executive Committee in the establishment of a board. Discussion of the policy regarding the Newsletter will be placed on the May Representative Assembly meeting.

A motion by Ron MacQueen and Phil Van Seters that would have the Representative Assembly appoint the editorial board as well as approve the terms of reference, was challenged on constitutional grounds that it is the right of the Executive Committee to appoint subcommittees in the federation.

The Chair was not sustained by a vote of 272 to 236, thus the motion was never debated.

Holiday change

The minister of education's recent announcement of a change in the schools' Christmas vacation schedule met with disapproval from the Representative Assembly.

BCTF President Bill Broadley has made contact with the ministry regarding the matter and expects a reply in the near future.

The new schedule will reduce the previous vacation of 10 school days to eight, (Dec. 21 to Jan. 3). It means teachers who had hoped to get away on holidays as of the 17th, will have to wait until the 21st.

Watch your address

Teachers should be careful about passing on the names and addresses of colleagues when approached by anyone from an organization called the Sunshine Mail Services.

The service says it offers a 'confidential mail forwarding service' and that it will 'protect your address' by using their address.

The concern arose from a teacher who was approached by the service. He felt it could mean that any teacher using this service was unwittingly supplying a total stranger with a list of dwellings that may be vacant from time to time.

Labor liaison

The Labor Liaison Committee is sending letters to BCTF local and sub-local presidents to inform them that informational tapes outlining the basis for the Public Sector Employees' Co-ordinating Council will be mailed by February 28.

The purpose of the tapes is to provide school staffs, committees, and interested teacher groups with information for discussion prior to voting on whether to participate in the council.

In addition, committee members and representatives from organizations holding membership in the Public Sector Council are available to locals as speakers or resource persons.

Those wishing to arrange for a speaker are asked to direct their requests through George North, BCTF.

A/V conference

The second annual Symposium of the Audio Visual Communication Association will be held in the Hotel Vancouver, March 9 and 10.

Seminars will cover a wide range of topics, such as the use of audio visual aids to increase communication effectiveness, fresh approaches and techniques in editing and a presentation of experiments in video.

There will also be demonstrations and discussions of sound processing, compression, expansion, equalization, noise reduction and much more.

For further information contact Don Spiegel, 273-2331 or L. W. Phillifant, 666-3997.

Roll call vote taken on control of Quality Education Fund

Control of the Quality Education Fund sparked debate that ended in an unusual recorded vote at the Representative Assembly.

The fund, which amounts to almost a million dollars, was established at last year's Annual General Meeting when fees for the 1976-77 fiscal year were upped from .91% to 1.11% of the estimated mean salary of BCTF members.

The extra money was voted because of a recommendation passed at the AGM that the BCTF condemn the provincial government's 1976 education budget. Reasons given for the condemnation were: it substantially reduces the provincial share of the education budget and imposes a major tax increase on local taxpayers; it attacks the educational opportunities of students at a time when higher stan-

dards are being demanded by the public; it will remove up to 5,000 teachers.

In May 1976, the Executive Committee took \$36 of the membership fee less the 5% allocation to the reserve fund required by AGM policy and allocated the rest to the Quality Education Fund.

Later that month, the May Representative Assembly discussed placing the BCTF fee levied for the Quality Education Fund into the federation's reserve fund until teachers would be given the opportunity to provide suggestions for dispersing this money.

There was no vote on the matter, however, because the Representative Assembly has

no power to act on the matter of BCTF fees.

At the latest RA in January, an attempt was made to have next year's fee reduced by \$36, but rejected.

Owen Corcoran of Prince George who made the attempt then put forward another motion that the RA recommend to the AGM that the balance of the monies in the Quality Education Fund as of June 30, 1977 be transferred into the reserve fund.

A roll call vote was held on the motion which was defeated on a vote of 212 affirmative; 312 negative.

Members can read the RA minutes to find how their representative voted.

Poor product, bad process

By Ralph Sundby
Professional Development
Division

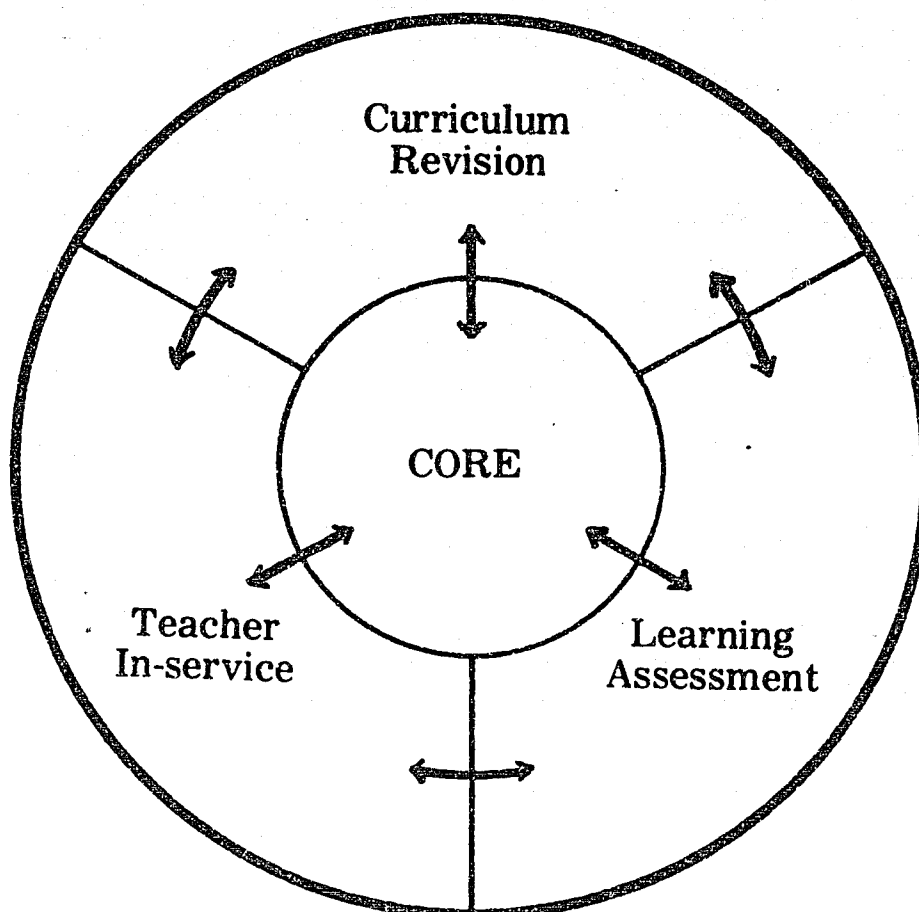
The CORE booklet looks harmless enough at first glance. In fact, even the minister admits that the skills it contains are being taught now. It's the glaring deficiencies of the booklet and the processes surrounding it that are causing concern. What is wrong with the booklet itself?

- It assumes a simple set of needs in the face of vast individual differences.
- It omits a host of essential learning experiences.
- It de-emphasizes areas of the curriculum which are very important.
- It is grossly under-challenging in most areas. (Some elementary children now have the skills listed for secondary.)
- It is an insult to senior secondary teachers and students in its repeated use of the term 'extend and reinforce.'
- It totally ignores the affective domain.
- It is a gross affront in its failure to provide for cultural minorities.

Even with its deficiencies, the booklet seems unthreatening until one considers the processes associated with it.

A department memo to all district superintendents contains some interesting information on suggested processes for using the document.

Few teachers have seen the November 25 memo from J. J. Lowther. (The memo didn't reach the BCTF until January 9.) Although it contains a number of very nice statements about involvement, there are others with serious implications for teachers. Below is a diagram entitled



RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CORE CURRICULUM

'Ramifications of the Core of the Curriculum' which is found in the memo.

Elsewhere, the memo explains that 'core curriculum' is the first of a four-step process.

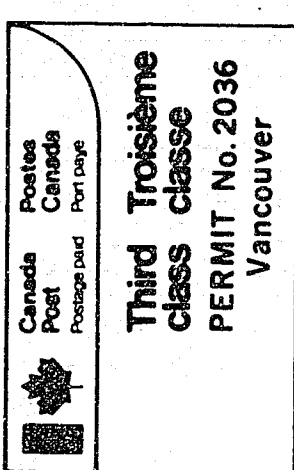
'The other three steps to follow are curriculum revision, learning assessment and teacher in-service.'

Does anyone doubt that the intent is to evaluate teachers on the basis of PLAP scores?

Other statements in the memo suggest that the ministry of education has already decided what the 'core curriculum' will be and that the discussions are merely an exercise.

'Please ensure that discussion is directly related to Goals of the Core Curriculum and give priority to the three items on the reaction sheet. This should ensure that you do not get involved in an 'attack and defend' exercise.'

'We are depending very heavily on superintendents to ensure the success of the important exercise of public discussion and reaction.'



IF UNDELIVERED, return to 2235 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9