

Canadian teachers must take united stand

By Mike Heron, CTF President

The meeting between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and the Federal Government re the Anti-Inflation Program took place on March 3. Whether the meeting accomplished any substantive objective is questionable. However, we explained as clearly as possible, in the time allowed, our objections to the present program and our concerns for the future.

To briefly recapitulate the essence of the meeting:

1. CTF made an initial presentation which highlighted:
(a) the fact that teachers were more highly organized than almost any other occupational group in Canada;
(b) a brief historical analysis of teacher concerns from the inception of Bill C-73 to our present opposition to the program;
(c) the fact that teachers have become more and more opposed to the program because of the types and nature of decisions being rendered by the Anti-Inflation Board;
(d) a brief overview of possible alternatives to the present program, i.e., more responsible fiscal and monetary policies, responsible management of the money supply, broadening of the indexation of taxation, reducing the unemployment rate, etc.;

Representatives of teacher organizations from across Canada met in Winnipeg September 15, a meeting initiated by the BCTF and hosted by the CTF, at which Jurd Kirby, Director of Economic Welfare, was a principal speaker. Following is a report from Mike Heron, CTF president, of a follow-up meeting with the federal government.

(e) serious concerns about portions of the government working paper, *The Way Ahead*, which comments upon the public sector, i.e., 'the development of collective bargaining in the public sector . . . contributed to higher spending by governments and can indirectly increase inflationary pressures by providing high profile settlements which give other workers an inflationary target to aim at. The collective bargaining system is, in many instances, not working as equitably or effectively as it should;'

(f) the desire to see immediately the initiation of the withdrawal of the program;

(g) our total opposition if there was any intent at any time on the part of the government to leave controls on the public sector, but remove them from the private. It was illustrated very strongly that teachers had not been trend setters when it came to negotiated settlements;

(h) our desire to continue to be consulted by the Federal Government and our wish to have comments from them on two pertinent questions:

(i) When will the controls be removed?

(ii) Is the government considering mechanisms whereby the public sector will be treated differently than the private sector?

2. The government responded to our presentation and questions with the following:

(a) serious consideration is being given to leaving controls on the public sector although no decision has been made;

(b) their perception of public opinion is that the public sector must be controlled;

(c) Mr. Macdonald is presently discussing alternatives with the provinces with regard to various means of controlling the public sector — one such being the adoption of guidelines in the form of a comparative occupational group selected from the private sector;

(d) the vast majority of the provinces are quite content to see the guidelines remain for a considerable period of time;

(e) if the controls are removed before December 1978, i.e., October 14, 1977 or January 1, 1978, it will be a de-phasing process based upon termination dates of individual agreements.

The meeting was low-key and the government was not prepared to enter into any debate. Our fears that the public sector would be specially treated were amply reinforced and we indicated that if any federal action could unify the public servants across Canada it would be the unfair treatment of the public sector.

Our great concern now, and the question to which I hope your organization will address itself, is the question of unified action by Canadian teachers if our fears about federal intervention directed toward the public sector come to fruition — as there is every indication that they will. Will we be able to take a united stand against the Federal Government if in the weeks or months to come our collective bargaining remains seriously impaired while the private sector is restored to normal?

newsletter

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION

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Controls are a political game

BC teachers have become so accustomed over the years to settling their salaries at the local level that the shifting of arenas caused by the Anti-Inflation Program may not be fully appreciated. While locals were concentrating their efforts on getting agreements with their boards or failing that going to arbitration, the BCTF was involved in trying to prevent the destruction of local bargaining by the Anti-Inflation Program.

We had two simple but important points to make.

First, the anti-inflation controls may make sense from some political points of view, but they will not change the economic factors that cause inflation. Second, central control of the country's bargaining processes using one simple standard will destroy local bargaining.

Teachers believe the

program should be abolished and the sooner the better.

Since controls are a political game, the BCTF gave this message to every member of parliament and to every member of the legislature. In addition, efforts were made to reach prime decision-makers in government or government service who had authority in the controls area.

So far these efforts have produced little in the way of direct results, but they undoubtedly have added to the growing reaction to controls.

It is significant that as the deadline for remaining in the program another year draws near, one province, Quebec, has withdrawn and four others, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, indicated they may drop out. In addition, the federal government seems to be rather anxious to start what they call the 'decontrol period.'

Trail school district remains in contract dispute

Trail teachers have had three meetings with their school board since the district was placed 'in dispute.' The first meeting was between the Trail District Teachers'

executive and the school board. The second and third meetings were attended by the bargaining teams representing each party.

At the first meeting Peter Moll, president of TDTA, and his executive secured an agreement that both parties would start negotiations with the intention of making a salary contract for 1977.

At the second meeting Roger Plant and his committee presented the case on behalf of the teachers. The third meeting saw Basil McDonnell, the board chairperson, respond with the trustee position. While there are significant differences between the two parties on clauses and on salaries, a further meeting is planned.

Meanwhile the district remains 'in dispute.'

Teachers wishing to apply to Trail should phone the BCTF office about March 24 or 25 to see if the problem has been resolved.

AIB rules by belief, not by law

By Mike Midzain,
Economic Welfare Division

A number of legal actions in defense of 1976 and 1977 contracts are being considered following executive approval of a plan presented by the Agreements Committee.

Actions on 1976 contracts would be mostly to restrain

boards from revising allowance clauses at the request of the AIB, or to prevent or recover unauthorized payback.

The AIB is telling school boards they must completely rewrite allowance clauses to conform to its views of how the \$2400 salary increase limit

should be applied. The AIB is saying that if any one position exceeds the \$2400 limit, all positions must be reduced proportionately. In correspondence with the BCTF, the AIB has admitted that the Anti-Inflation Regulations do not provide it with the power to make such a ruling, but that it is its 'belief' the ruling should be made.

Powell River Teachers' Association has endorsed a request that the BCTF take legal action against such unilateral clause revision. Another action could come in Kettle Valley where the school board has extended two salary scales to 11 increments from a previously negotiated 10-increment grid. Powell River could also have an action against unauthorized payback.

Actions are also being considered in a number of districts to enforce payment in full of negotiated or arbitrated 1977 contracts.

BCTF Commission to investigate Vancouver kindergartens

The BCTF Executive Committee established a Commission to investigate the Vancouver kindergarten situation, focusing on class size, space, supplies and teacher tenure. The creation of the commission came as a result of a request from the Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association, which has been attempting to get the Vancouver School Board to reduce the class size. Many kindergarten classes include more than 25 students, a high percentage of them non-English speaking.

The Commission will gather data through school visits,

interviews with teachers, principals, administrative officials and others, and written and oral submissions at public meetings.

The Commissioners include Ona-Mae Roy from the Home and School Federation, Diane Galasso, Past President of the Preschool Council of Parent Participation, and Bev Phillips, a Sooke teacher and Past President of the Primary Teachers' Provincial Specialist Association.

The Commission will present its report to the BCTF Executive Committee on March 26, 1977.

Have teachers chosen passive acceptance?

By G. R. Kirby
Economic Welfare Division

B.C. teachers no longer have their salaries determined through local decisions.

The virtues of a system geared to rational decision-making that had agreements honored and arbitration awards accepted as law now seems to be part of some utopian concept. After 25 years of growth and development the industrial relations processes used by school boards and teacher associations in this province have been made almost irrelevant. At times the system may not have seemed all that good but it had some facets, now gone or going, that will be sorely missed.

New contracts were made with certainty and were in effect by the first of January each year. This greatly assisted the orderly administration of school districts.

Agreements between school boards and teacher associations were honored by both parties. This avoided the hassle and conflict of having numerous individual grievances.

We are one of the few groups without elaborate grievance machinery. Arbitration awards had the force of law. This allowed a year's cooling-off period for many highly contentious or personality-related differences.

Evidence from the B.C. labor market was accepted for setting wages for B.C. teachers. This helped the parties assess on a regular basis the suitability of increases in wages. The new countrywide statistical base for judgment has little meaning to the parties in terms of their economic community.

Teacher choices seem to be a passive acceptance of decisions made in Ottawa regardless of rationality, integrity and timing — or conflict and agitation. What kind of Pandora's box has our provincial government opened for us?

Members' voice

Teachers duped says Gibbs

I would suggest that you send extra copies of my last letter to Mike Deane. He seems to have read it incorrectly. I said that the Ad the West Vancouver teachers placed was anti-union — not the teachers themselves!

I do believe, however, that they were duped into endorsing a basically rotten ad. To add insult to injury, the BCTF Representative Assembly was then duped into paying for the thing!

Peter Minshull is really an interesting case. In his last letter he retreats from saying there is a 6-5 voting pattern on the BCTF executive, to saying 'the vote was close'. Gosh, Peter, I'm sorry that upsets you. I have just received a letter from Mr. Minshull which says he has ideological reasons for running for first vice-president. He wishes to oppose the trend toward social involvement and feels that the BCTF 'should not be an agent of social change'.

I find this attitude strange for someone who is aligned with forces in our federation which seek fundamental change. Just in case some members have missed the point of much activity lately, allow me to fill them in.

There exists in the province today an association of people headed by right-wing administrators who are trying to take over the BCTF. Yes, folks, an honest-to-God political conspiracy! These people in some centers have used PSA funds to push their ideology and have used PSA meetings as a nucleus of organization. The only PSA involved is the Principals and Vice-Principals' PSA.

This group of conspirators within the ranks of the administrators has gone to the press with distorted versions of internal politics of the federation. Their clear intention being to fight political fights which are internal in the public press, and, to fight with half-truths at best.

I, for one, am opposed to the worst elements among our principals taking over this organization. If this happens, we'll be thrown back to the early 50s, when classroom teachers were out-in-the-cold in any conflict with administrators.

Executive investigates statements

The General Secretary, Bob Buzzza, reported to the BCTF Executive Committee March 4-5 that Vancouver Sun reporter Doug Collins draws no distinction between senior members of the BCTF administration and those in administrative positions within the public school system.

Following the Collins' article, the executive committee directed the general secretary to attempt to determine which BCTF senior administrative staff people apparently communicated to Collins. Buzzza had sent a memo around to members of staff asking each one to file a statement on the matter with him.

At some point one would expect the more reasonable, collegial administrators to start fighting these hard-line ideological reactionaries. Certainly if these anti-democratic, anti-social involvement administrators insist on running the BCTF in the same manner in which they insist on running our schools, there will come a time when teachers will decide that management doesn't belong in the same organization as regular teachers.

I invite any member of the BCTF who wants to know more about our insurgent managers to write me at: 12380 95th Avenue, Surrey, Surrey.

Speak up

I would like to commend Bob Rosen for his letter 'exchange of views' in the February 9 issue.

I feel it time that the membership spoke up against a leadership that continues to back-peddle and side-step when confronted by government meddling in our affairs.

My mind boggles when I realize that our membership houses the notions of people like McConnell and for that matter P. Dyck (Dissension in the same issue) who considers us above a struggle for our rights as educators.

Gail Featherston, Squamish.

Agree with GWB

I read with interest the article by Bill Broadley, BCTF president, written in response to the 'Collins Article.'

I found what he had to say of interest from two points of view. First, as a teacher who has been active in the local association, and for three years was a member of the BCTF Agreements Committee. Secondly, I was interested from the point of view of being an elected alderman in the town of Williams Lake.

I cannot help but agree with Mr. Broadley in his statement that BCTF structures are healthy and democratic. As an alderman, I was certainly pleased to see a forthright and honest statement of facts coming from a person who was democratically elected as president of our federation.

In my short experience as an alderman, I can attest to the fact that elected officials are not often enough willing to make frank statements of policy in public. It is refreshing to see our elected president do so.

I hope all 29,000 of our teachers read his article, think about it, and respond as Mr. Broadley has so wisely encouraged them to do.

Quintin M. Robertson, Williams Lake

Broadley replies

President Bill Broadley replies to Gordon Sanborn's letter which appeared in the last issue of the Newsletter.

I don't know where you get your

'facts' from, Gordon, but I suggest that you need a more reliable source than the one used for your letter to the editor of the BCTF Newsletter published February 24.

By innuendo you suggest that I have claimed '... that the BCTF has become too powerful a vehicle for educational change.' No where in the Collins' article can I find such a statement. I have never made such a statement.

'For the president of the BCTF to seem to agree in committee, and then to disagree in the public press, has been the worst sort of betrayal.'

Had you asked, I could have told you that I have never seemed to agree in committee about the paper, 'Essential Educational Experiences. I believe that you should identify for the benefit of Newsletter readers the source of your information for such a statement.

You state that you '... have the right to expect open discussion and positive leadership.' Absolutely. That is why I didn't duck questions from Mr. Collins.

As chairperson of the provincial learning conditions committee you are one of those leaders. Accuracy is something to be expected from leaders.

I hope that you will set the record straight for the benefit of Newsletter readers in your usual forthright fashion.

I further hope that in future you will follow the usual federation expectation that criticism of an associate be directed to the associate before it is made to others.

G. W. Broadley, President.

Casting doubt

It remains to be seen whether or not the contents of Essential Educational Experiences will be debated in a sensible and constructive manner. What seems clear is that the president of the BCTF has submitted a draft paper to the minister of education before the BCTF membership has debated it. He has also collaborated with a journalist in the production of a newspaper article which sought to sensationalize debate for reasons which seem to be personal and political.

Worse yet, the article attributed to a 'senior member of the BCTF administration' remarks derogatory to the BCTF Executive Committee, casting doubt upon the loyalty of our staff.

I feel that the president owes it both to the staff and the members to go public one more time to make it known that Mr. Collins' statement was inaccurate and that it has not been established that any

organized powerful groups within the federation. These groups of which I speak have conspired with anti-teacher elements outside the federation to discredit the federation.

I believe that the executive should reflect the views of all of the membership but that decisions do not necessarily have to be unanimous, since, obviously, all teachers do not have identical opinions.

The membership must be involved in decision-making regarding such matters as the AIB, CORE and PLAP and the EEE.

The serious problem concerning red-baiting by members within the executive and by other extreme rightist elements of the press is one to which the BCTF must firmly respond.

Members of the BCTF executive must be aware of their responsibility as officers of the federation and their conduct both within and without the federation must be absolutely circumspect.

These are some of the issues which appear to me to have been

BCTF staff member participated in the production of the article.

I respect the president's right to disagree with positions taken in EEE though I think he could have 'fought' more openly for his views by having his position recorded in the executive minutes.

However I do not respect his attempt to use an educational issue in a public forum to discredit those members of the executive committee with whom he has philosophical differences.

Your conduct let us down, Mr. President. As I suspect you now realize. When you take over a page in the Newsletter to justify your actions, I am reminded of Hamlet's mother, who shrewdly observed: 'The lady doth protest too much, methinks.'

John Winstanley, Sooke

The Question

A speaker who addresses a meeting with persuasive oratory and then calls for the Question is out of order.

Any government that campaigned vigorously, then called an immediate election without allowing the opposition parties time to muster would be acting unconstitutionally.

As a democratic people, we disallow such actions because we insist on our right to hear all sides of an issue before making a choice.

And yet, in the BCTF, we are prepared to allow prime time to the Labor Liaison Committee, whose propaganda for affiliation with labor pours forth on a one-sided campaign, just prior to the AGM.

Recommendation 104 of last year's AGM called for 'provision to all locals of information in full' on this topic.

Very well — where is it? Where are the arguments in full, both for and against affiliation with labor? Where is the literature in support of remaining a professional organization?

The fall RA authorized a referendum ballot on the question of participation in the Public Sector Employees' Coordinating Council. It further moved that the budget be amended to allow the cost of the referendum, and provision of information — both pro and cog, we assume — to the membership.

Again — where is it? That was six months ago. Is the purpose to delay the referendum until after the AGM so that it may not be necessary, after all, to poll the membership? Is the Liaison Committee hoping that Resolution 10 will pass, thereby effectively silencing the voices of many?

Gwyn Reilly, Chairperson, Labor Liaison, Courtenay

Edwards announces candidacy

I am writing this letter to announce my candidacy for the position of first vice-president of the BCTF. The Surrey Teachers' Association has nominated me for the position.

Although I can only be officially nominated from the floor, I would like to inform my colleagues all over the province why I have accepted the nomination for the position.

I believe that there should be a person in the executive who is willing to support the social programs upon which the BCTF has embarked in recent years. It would be a serious mistake for us to withdraw from such programs as the fight against racism, sex discrimination and other social injustices.

It has been stated that the BCTF has become 'an agent for social change.' I contend that this is what the business of education is all about.

It appears to me that the BCTF must stand firmly in support of its general membership and not be forced into representing those well-

Membership in the Public Sector Council, or BC Federation of Labor, or CLC, call it what you like, it's still affiliation with labor. For the first time, a body other than a teachers' organization would be speaking for teachers. This constitutes a very large first step, one which all teachers must discuss and vote on.

Let's have none of this oratory followed by a call for the Question. Let's have a fair campaign with all sides of the matter fully aired.

Barbara Dalby, Pouce Coupe

Stand together

The 1973 AGM proposed that the 'BCTF, through the Task Force on Labor Liaison, continue discussions with employee groups in the public sector with a view to establishing a Council of Public Employees in British Columbia.'

This was done. The process was completed by November 1976 when the task force asked the October 1976 RA to approve the required fee of \$1,475 (5c per member). Procedure 21:08, also proposed by the 1973 AGM, was interpreted to mean that a referendum must be held prior to teacher participation in the council.

I attended the 1973 AGM. I also attended the 1977 January RA when the matter of reconsideration of the referendum was discussed. At the RA the original mover of the motion which became Procedure 21:08, confirmed that the intent of this motion was to hold a referendum to decide if we should affiliate with the B.C. Federation of Labor or the Canadian Labor Congress. The AGM chairperson agreed that that was the context in which the motion was considered.

The RA has decided that it is worth \$17,600 to inform all teachers about the issue and give them a direct vote on it. The Labor Liaison Committee welcomes the opportunity to inform all members. A supportive vote from an informed membership will complete the steps through which this initiative has passed — through the task force, the executive committee, the RA and the AGM.

The issue has some urgency; Finance Minister Donald Macdonald, Premier Bill Bennett and AIB Administrator Donald Tansley have said that controls will almost surely be kept on the public sector. Teachers have been singled out for particular attention. We have found support from the public sector in the past. We would do well to stand together in the future.

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organized powerful groups within the federation. These groups of which I speak have conspired with anti-teacher elements outside the federation to discredit the federation.

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Canadian Studies program wins Hilroy

Portraying the lives of Emily Carr and Sir John A. Macdonald; re-trying Louis Riel; canoeing up the river to Fort Langley; searching through archives in Victoria and Ottawa.



By Annette Croucher

Steve Bailey, left, and Charles Hou, right, discuss Louis Riel with their Grade 10 students. Bailey and Hou are two members of the 11-member group of teachers involved with the program at Burnaby's McPherson Park Jr. Secondary School.



Co-ordinators Steve Bailey, English Department Head and Charles Hou, Social Studies Department Head, find the three-year-old program unique in that it involves the participation of other programs — drama, music, industrial education, French, art, home economics, social studies, English and the library and counselling services.

Langley. This involved dramatic reconstruction of history complete with costumes, early Canadian foods, historical-geographical research, creative writing, canoeing, French Voyageur singing and the observation of 19th century wood and metal skills.

An up-coming project requires the students to reenact the trial of Louis Riel. Students will act as prosecutors, lawyers, defense and witnesses.

In some parts of the trial, they must even speak French and translate from archive documents.

Bailey and Hou hope to further the feeling of realism in the Riel project by perhaps obtaining the Burnaby court house. There will be an audience composed of students and parents.

In another project, the students travelled to Fort

to Ottawa in order to obtain primary source materials from the archives.

Administered by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Hilroy awards encourage teachers to develop and use innovative ideas, then make a description of these innovations available to as many teachers as possible.

This year's awards ranged from \$1500 to \$2500.

The other nine teachers involved in the McPherson school project and who share the award are Blair Brown, Gordon Blondahl, Elizabeth Elwood, Andreen Nelson, Marion Hartley, Judy Jones, Leslie Clauson, Varrie Parke and Hans Hiller.

In a write-up, the teachers describe the program saying it was created because 'the study of Canadian culture receives little concentrated, purposeful emphasis in secondary

where the newspaper The

The program endeavors to provide students with learning activities that will involve them in an engaging exploration of their heritage while developing personal, social and literacy skills.'

The write-up also says 'students are generally enthusiastic about the program because they have chosen it as an alternative to the regular grade 10 courses.'

'Each student takes a full year of Social Studies-English Canadian Studies as well as a full year of Industrial Education (C.S.) or French (C.S.)'

'The rest of the program incorporates semestered courses in Home Economics, Art and Music-Drama whose content is integrated with the year long courses.'

'Some students also elect Business Education (C.S.) where the newspaper The

government officials, and that he had asked the general secretary to determine what had happened.

Broadley explained that the process/instrument had been well received by secondary schools in the province. 'I have found in my travels around the province lots of teachers who think it's a super process,' he said. An elementary school, he explained, would be able to determine goals and programs the school was pursuing, then undertake self-evaluation to find strengths and weaknesses using the process/instrument.

Bob Buzzza, general secretary, told the executive that it was common practice to bring to the general secretary and president such letters from the Ministry and that why it had not been followed he could not answer.

John Church said that after 24 hours he had relayed the letter to the PDAC co-chairperson, that he did not realize it should have gone to the president, and that he had replied to McBurney February 24 saying the letter would go to the executive March 5.

He said he found the procedure 'unacceptable' that he had not received a copy of McBurney's letter and that a staff member had responded to the Ministry without consultation. He said it was embarrassing for any elected officer on the executive not to have information when they meet with

Interviewed by the 'Financial Times News Service,' Johnstone admitted that of all the groups affected by the anti-inflation program, organized labor was more profoundly affected by the

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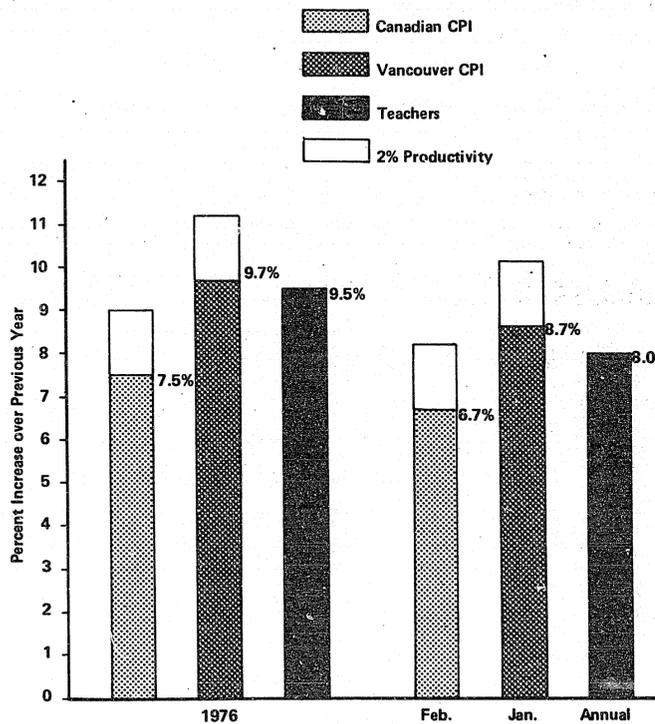
The Executive Director of the AIB, Robert Johnstone, has confirmed what labor has been saying about the AIB since its creation.

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B.C. Teachers Lose!

The anti-inflation program promised workers wage increases to compensate for increases in costs plus 2% for productivity. The measure used by the federal government for cost increases is the Canadian Consumer Price Index, not the Index for the region in which the workers live and work and buy their goods.



Most B.C. teachers lost 2.2% in 1976.

Most B.C. teachers will lose 2.7% in 1977, based on January CPI figures, if guidelines "Arithmetic" is applied.

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

Newsletter

Editor JOHN HARDY
Assistant ANNETTE CROUCHER

Member ADDRESS

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. Articles contained herein reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express official policy of the BCTF.

Two places at once

By DENNIS RANKIN
Professional Development Division

A teacher cannot be in two places at once. Or can he? Apparently in one southern interior school district a teacher attempted to do just that.

Two adjoining classrooms had been converted into a shop facility. The common wall, however, remained and posed safety and supervision problems.

Mr. A., the shop teacher involved, discussed the hazards with his principal. They agreed that something should be done. Mr. A. contacted the learning conditions chairperson.

The local association wrote to the board seeking to hasten a solution. Meanwhile, the principal advised the board that a grievance would be filed.

Following delays and a minor breakdown in communications, it was resolved that the wall would be removed. During the delay Mr. A. — and I might add his students — successfully avoided any serious mishap. He ensured that he could supervise the areas where tools were being used. Nevertheless, he was insistent that the wall be removed since safety and the effectiveness of the program were at stake.

Finally, without a formal grievance or blaring trumpet, the wall came tumbling down.

EFFECTIVENESS:

Trustees have indirectly acknowledged the effect of the grievance procedure. Several boards have refused to discuss 'grievances' but were prepared to examine 'problems.' Does that suggest some sensitivity?

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU:

If you have experienced personally or have information about a grievance situation, why not share it?

Publication of cases would be made to support efforts to improve the quality of education. Confidentiality will be respected where requested. Please write or call Dennis Rankin, c/o B.C. Teachers' Federation.

Labour and Law workshop

Some 50 teachers and students participated in a Labour and the Law Workshop February 18 and 19 at the Sheraton Plaza 500.

A few of the topics were: Labour Legal Rights — Before and After Certification, which explained the basic legal rights of workers and how those rights can be enforced; Teaching About Labour and the Law — Identification of Issues, which identified issues which teachers face in their classrooms when dealing with labor issues and legal issues.

Also discussed were Workers' Compensation and UIC.

The workshop was sponsored by the BCTF Labour Liaison Committee, the BCTF Labour History PSA, the B.C. Federation of Labour, the Public Schools Legal Education Project and the Legal Services Commission.

Monthly basis works

The pension counselling service offered by the Commissioner of Teachers' Pensions to Lower Mainland teachers on a monthly basis has been most successful, based on the statistics to date.

In November through January, 59 teachers were interviewed. In addition numerous others who requested interviews but whose problems could be handled by correspondence have received answers to their questions.

Also all Lower Mainland teachers who are planning to retire this year are advised at the time their pension plan selection papers are forwarded to them of the availability of the counselling service.

These and other Lower Mainland teachers only have to write the Commissioner of Teachers' Pensions, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, V8V 4R5 and ask for an interview. The Commissioner's office will then advise them of the date and place, usually the first Thursday and Friday of each month.

A similar service, but on an annual basis, is offered throughout the rest of the province. Local association presidents in the Okanagan, Kootenay and Northern Interior areas have been advised of the schedule and have been asked to let the Commissioner's office know of persons requesting an interview.

Teachers' Pensions Act Annual Report

Each year the Provincial Secretary is required to file in the legislature an annual report of the business done in pursuance of the Teachers' Pensions Act for the year preceding the previous year. Therefore, the report is always a year behind.

The latest report, filed in January 1977, is for the year ending December 31, 1976. If any member wishes the full report, 'Thirty-Fifth Annual — Teachers' Pensions Act,' a copy may be obtained through the Queen's Printer, Victoria.

For comparative purposes, the 1974 figures also are given.

The following are highlights only.

	1974	1975
Number of current contributors	28,251	29,315
Basic contributions by teacher employees	\$ 18,741,226	\$ 23,493,046
Basic contributions by employer (government) (Note — In 1974 this amount was 70% of the employee contributions. As of January 1, 1975 the employer pays a matched contribution.)	\$ 13,151,247	\$ 23,493,046
Amount paid by government to offset deficit in Employer Reserve Account	\$ 2,679,472	\$ 4,913,519
Amount reimbursed to school boards of Canada Pension Plan employer contributions paid by them in respect of teacher employees	\$ 3,089,240	\$ 3,694,477
Amount received from reciprocal pension plans covering 19 contributors in 1974 and 70 contributors in 1975	\$ 286,944	\$ 459,930
Amount forwarded to reciprocal pension plans covering 30 contributors in 1974 and 35 contributors in 1975	\$ 753,707	\$ 1,321,297
Number of refunds	1,277	1,251
Amount of refunds	\$ 2,213,370	\$ 2,213,796
Actuarial and administrative expenses	\$ 168,932	\$ 245,948
Average yield on securities purchased in 1974 and 1975	9.557%	10.161%
Net rate of interest in 1974 and 1975 on all investments made in 1974 and 1975 and in previous years	6.848%	7.108%
Net increase in fund during 1974 and 1975	\$ 32,306,374	\$ 47,461,380
Fund balance — December 31, 1974 and 1975	\$274,479,934	\$321,941,314
Number of allowances granted during 1974 and 1975:		
Normal retirement age	303	383
Deferred	58	21
Disability	5	12
Death in service	14	24
Resumption of remarried widows' allowances	9	—
	389	440
Of the normal allowances granted:		
— average service	26 years	26 years
— average salary during last 5 years	\$ 12,737	\$ 14,227
— average annual single life allowance	\$ 6,168	\$ 6,756
— average value of allowance	\$ 64,928	\$ 71,460
— average teacher's share	\$ 14,265*	\$ 16,080*
— average government share	\$ 50,663**	\$ 55,380**

* Teacher's average contributions plus interest.

** The difference between average value of allowance (\$71,460) and average teacher's share (\$16,080) of \$55,380 is the government's guarantee to pay the pension. Some of this amount will come from the government's contributions plus interest; the balance will come from general revenue of the province.

EEE costs queried by PDAC

By John Hardy

Life for the Essentials paper took another turn at the executive meeting March 5 when Frances Worledge, PDAC co-chairperson and John Church, staff, asked who gets billed for its publication.

The executive, they said, decided to send out draft 4 with a charge to the PDAC budget but president Bill Broadley countered that it was By-law 6.1 that dictated distribution of the paper — GRs should be provided with all documentation provided to the executive committee.

PDAC asked that the Quality Education Fund take all costs of all drafts of EEE and the CORE pamphlet, but no decision was made on the recommendation.

In other business, PDAC requested the executive to re-establish a committee to hold discussions with superintend-

ents on professional development matters, especially professional days.

Several districts either threatened or succeeded in reducing a number of professional days available to teachers during 1976-77, PDAC reported. However, they noted that the ministry has announced six days for professional development will be available to teachers during 1977-78. Nevertheless, PDAC suggests that each local PD chairperson begin planning immediately school-based and district-based professional development activities for 77-78.

The executive tabled a motion that members of the BCTF not sit on ministerial committees until mutually acceptable communications have been re-established between the federation and the ministry. However, the recommendation from PDAC will be included in *Reports and Resolutions Book 2* without endorsement.

Provision will be made on

the 1977 AGM agenda for discussion of the recommendation.

The executive also agreed, for discussion at the AGM, that the BCTF call upon the minister of education to delay implementation of the core curriculum and cease further provincial learning assessment testing until the major concerns being expressed by the parents, teachers and general public about the educational needs of all children can be effectively satisfied.

CCTE meet

The tenth annual conference of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English will be held August 22 to 26 at the University of Winnipeg.

Conference theme is Manitoba Mosaic and will include informal gatherings of Manitoba writers as well as helpful practical sessions.

Contact registration chairman, Audrey Young, 36 Wordsworth Way, Winnipeg R3K 0J9.

BCSTA stands firm against slide/tape

Correspondence between the BCSTA, the BCTF and the secretary of state in regard to a slide/tape presentation on racism has been sent out to all local school board chairpersons as requested by the winter Representative Assembly.

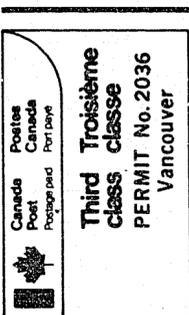
The correspondence concerns the work of the federation's Task Force on Racism and the attempts this task force has made to involve the BCSTA in a search for solutions to the problem of racial and culture discrimination in the schools.

To date, the BCSTA executive has still not viewed the federation's slide/tape presentation nor has the executive director Dr. Henry Armstrong.

Three BCSTA staff members have met with the Task Force on Racism and were shown the presentation.

A letter from the BCSTA to the secretary of state of September 24, 1976 requested all copies of the existing production be destroyed. However, the secretary of state replied that the presentation is the property of the BCTF and 'we have no jurisdiction to order them destroyed.'

BCTF President Bill Broadley had written to BCSTA President Rendina Hamilton in November 1976, expressing shock at the request all copies be destroyed 'such action is more in keeping with a totalitarian society than a democratic society,' Broadley said.



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