



association of university and college employees

April 9, 1981

Trade Union Research Bureau
138 East Cordova Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Friends:

Last week I attended a conference in Ottawa on Microelectronics and the Work Environment sponsored by the Women's Bureau, Federal Department of Labour.

One of the speakers at the conference was Dr. Wassily Leontief, the nobel prize winning economist. Dr. Leontief advanced the idea that one way to combat drastic reduction in jobs was to reduce working hours and have no annual increase in wages.

I am curious and would appreciate the assistance of the Bureau to know how one equates reduction in working hours with no wage increase with no loss of jobs. It would seem that a specific formula would have to be worked out for each work situation. That is, number of employees involved, type of work, type of technological change. Contingent on this would be, in our case, the union knowing well in advance what plans our employer had to introduce technological change at the University and the effects they foresaw it having. I can tell you that our employer will not be willing to share their future plans with the union.

Any ideas you can provide me with with respect to the above question will be most appreciated.

Yours truly,

Carole Cameron
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