Election Candidates Questioned On These Labor Issues

Candidates in the coming provincial election will be asked to make clear their stand on issues affecting labor.

The Trades and Labor Council legislative committee has come up with a nine-point questionnaire that will go out to all party candidates shortly.

Report submitted by committee chairman Jack Henderson was approved unanimously by council meeting last week.

The questionnaire, aimed to gain information for trade union members on labor issues—issues that have been pressed by the Trades Council in briefs before the government for several years with no success—asks the following:

1. Do you agree that all workers should have the right of legal collective bargaining and that civil servants should not be barred from the benefit of the government's own legislation?

2. Do you agree that 51 percent of union membership shall guarantee the union shop?

3. Are you in favor of restoring to unions the right to conduct their own strike vote according to union constitution?

4. Are you in favor of amending the Compensation Act to give coverage to all workers for all industrial accidents and occupational diseases and increasing pensions to meet present day living standards?

5. Do you believe in the complete abolition of hospital co-insurance in any form, and that the premium be reduced to $33?

6. Are you in favor of amending the Holiday Act to increase annual vacation to two weeks and the inauguration of a stamp book system of collecting holiday pay from employers?

7. Are you in favor of amending the Hours of Work Act making a mandatory five-day, 40-hour week for all workers?

8. Do you believe the intent of the Minimum Wage Act should be sustained by adjusting minimum wages in relation to the wage index?

9. Do you believe that the Labor Relations Board should rule on the interpretation of the union constitution?

Request for the questionnaire originally came from Street Railwaymen's Syd Wybourn who declared that "it's most important that we endeavor to elect members to the legislature who will support labor's demands."

There was some division in council meeting on value of the questionnaire. Secretary R. K. Gervin declared "we did a lot of sweating over this same thing last year and it didn't mean a thing."

He declared "the answers given were all just what we wanted, but what did we get after the election was over?"

But those in favor carried the majority.

"It gives labor a chance of bringing before every candidate just what it wants," said Meat Cutters George Johnston.

Bakery Workers' delegate Mel Kemmis declared: "We were fooled once before, but this time we will put them squarely on record."

The Labor Statesman will carry record of replies from candidates in the May issue.

Selection of issues for the nine-point questionnaire were taken from briefs presented to provincial cabinets in the past by the Trades and Labor Council.

MAY 3 1953
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THE LABOR STATESMAN

OWNED BY THE VANCOUVER, NEW WESTMINSTER AND DISTRICT TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

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CMA Behind Wage Freeze, Claims SRU

Bus Drivers Justified In Asking Wage Boost

Street Railwaymen's union today declared that the position taken by B.C. Electric in current wage negotiations for 2800 transit workers in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria is based on the general Canadian Manufacturers' Association "hold the line" policy.

As report of the conciliation board was awaited, SRU business manager Charles Stewart told The Labor Statesman that the company took this stand "instead of basing their position on a consideration of the union's substantiated argumentation for a wage increase and sorely needed improvements in working conditions."

"On wages, during earlier talks, the company offered only a three-cent an hour increase. We had no alternative but to reject this as a basis for settlement," he said.

COMPANY RESPONSIBLE

"One thing every trade unionist can be sure of is that if the B.C. Electric will not give us the kind of increase in wages and improved working conditions that our members require and rightfully deserve. This company will have to bear the full responsibility for a transit strike because of its irresponsible actions in refusing to bargain in good faith."

In SRU's case before the conciliation board the union showed that BCE transit operators are among the lowest paid workers in B.C. considering the onerous and responsible job they have, he said.

"No fair-minded person would deny that a bus operator today has a very onerous and responsible job, made even more onerous due to increased vehicular traffic and the responsibility for the safety of the most valuable cargo in the world—people."

LOW WAGES, LONG HOURS

SRU pointed out the transit conversion from two to one-man equipment increased the work of operators; that nearly 50 percent of operators take from 9 to 12 hours to get in a day's work due to split shifts; over 250 members have been forced off work with illness in last two years, with a marked increase in those off because of stomach ulcers, heart trouble and nervous disorders due to increased tension caused by introduction of trolleys and tight schedules.

"Is it any wonder, that about 550 of our members quit the BCE in the same period?"

They said truck drivers, tradesmen's helpers, unskilled labor all receive more than the bus operator who gets $1.51 an hour.

—Photo by Hux Lovely

THE BEAUTIFUL TRUTH that unions get along with other unions is shown by this trio from Office Employees Local 15. From left, Billie McKenzie, Trades Council office; Marion Simpson, Milk Drivers Union office, and Local 15 recording secretary; and Retail Clerks' steno Edith Maxwell brought out the feminine hurrahs for the new agreement with most of the ALF-TLC union offices. The minimum rate for first-class stenographer is $60 a week.

Strike Ballot Taken On Coastal Steamships

Negotiating committee of Seafarers' International Union has rejected a federal conciliation board report and union members this week are voting in a referendum ballot.

A "no" vote among close to 1000 SIU members working on Canadian Pacific, Canadian National and Union Steamship vessels will give the union negotiating committee authorization to set a strike deadline in the pay dispute.

The secret ballot is expected to be completed by early next week.

Rejection of the report came on four major issues: amount of wage increase, retroactivity of increase, hours of work and pay for cargo time.

The wage negotiations cover both 1952 and 1953 contracts and SIU declared its original demand for $50 increase is not out of line "considering it is for two years."

The conciliation board report recommended:

Majority report on wages: $30 monthly increase across-the-board, except for stewards on Union S.S. who would get 7 per cent plus seven cents an hour.

(See Page 4—Strike Vote)

Thieves Almost Strike Out On Third Try

Someone must have the false impression that Retail Clerks are "loaded."

For the third time in a year, the Labor Temple office of Local 1518 was robbed last weekend. The thief, or thieves, got away with $20 from the counter till.

Vancouver Carpenters Win Seven-cent Boost

Free Board Clause Retained in New Pact; Meeting Accepts New 1953 Rate of $2.17

Carpenters voted this week to accept a seven-cent hourly boost to bring the journeyman rate to $2.17 an hour.

Membership meeting held in the Labor Temple Monday voted by a good majority to accept the offer from Vancouver General Contractors Association. The new rate will go into effect as soon as the contract is signed.

Negotiations will now continue with independent contractors for the 1953 contract and settlement with General Contractors is expected to set the pattern for the independent group.

In the third round of negotiations this year, Vancouver Carpenters Local 452 are in conciliation with the "big-five" contractors — Marwell, Northern, General, B.C. Bridge, and Dawson Wade.

FREE BOARD REMAINS

The new contract with contractors of the General Contractors Association will run for one year to March 31, 1954. No other changes were made from last year's agreement, and the free room and board clause won last year remains untouched.

The settlement applies to areas in jurisdiction of Vancouver and New Westminster local unions.

In talks with the "big five," contractors have offered a 10-cent increase provided a board clause be inserted with a charge of $2 a day to carpenters on out-of-town jobs.

Commenting on the settlement with GCA and the deadlock with the "big five", Local 452 business agent Jack Stevenson said: "There'll be no surrendering of the free room and board clause to any contractor."

WON AFTER STRIKE

The free board clause was won last year after a 73-day strike.

There are about 2500 members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in the lower mainland area.

Meanwhile, in other building trades negotiations, painters are meeting with painting contractors' section of the Building Industries Exchange before a conciliation officer. There has been no offer from contractors.

Five-cent offer from General Contractors has been rejected by Building and General Laborers Union Local 602. Talks now are referred to conciliation officer.

Contractors offer did not include provision for job classification as asked by Local 602 this year.

Laborers are asking a 10-cent boost this year.

EDUCATIONAL committee chairman of the Trades and Labor Council is Dave Wade, Retail Clerks Local 1518. He was elected to the new post this month.

Strike Vote Pending In Richmond

(Special to Labor Statesman)

RICHMOND. — Building Service Employees Union Local 244 has applied for a government supervised strike vote to back up a unanimous conciliation board award of $20 a month.

Business agent Ben Morely said application for the vote was made to the Labor Relations Board when the Richmond School Board rejected the conciliation recommendations. Union members had accepted the award.

Affected are maintenance workers employed by the school district.

The board award which recommended the pay boost from March 1 was signed by chairman T. H. Wilkinson, Eric Low for the School Board and Melvin Kemmis for the union.

It also recommended the six-hour day be retained for six school bus drivers and that $2 an hour should be paid for overtime beyond six hours.

Valley Workers Net 5-Cent Boost Plus Holidays

(Special to Labor Statesman)

ABBOTSFORD.—A five-cent hourly wage increase, three additional paid statutory holidays, and a continuation of the 50-50 contributory medical plan are included in a new agreement for about 117 workers of United Brick and Clay Workers Local 629.

Union president Hugh D. Smith said the new agreement is effective April 1. He said it brings the starting rate at Clayburn Brick Company's plant to $1.37½, with an average rate of about $1.56.

The two-year agreement has a one-year wage re-opening clause.

Trades Council Names Delegates To City Groups

Indicative of the active interest taken in community affairs by members of organized labor is the appointment of Trades and Labor Council delegates to important meetings of the Children's Jubilee Summer Camp Association and the Community Chest and Council of Greater Vancouver.

At last week's meeting of council delegates Jack Henderson and S. T. Wybourn were appointed as representatives to the Jubilee Summer Camp annual convention set for May 31.

Store Clerks Seek Five-Day Work Week

A five-day 40-hour work week plus a wage increase is the aim of Retail Grocery and Food Clerks Union Local 1518 in negotiations with major food chain stores this year.

The clerks also are asking that any time worked after 6 p.m. on any working day shall be paid for at time-and-one-half rate and that compensating time off shall not be given in lieu of overtime pay.

Weekly rates asked for male food clerks range from $44.80 for a 40-hour week for first six months, to $67.20 with over 24 months experience. For female clerks the range is $42.40 to $56.

Three weeks vacation after five years service, and a welfare plan to include provision for sick pay, surgical and medical coverage are included in demands.

Taxi Men Deadlocked

Taxi Drivers Local 151 have applied for a conciliation officer in negotiations for a higher daily guarantee for drivers of Black Top Cabs and Yellow Cabs.

The move to conciliate came when membership meetings of cab drivers turned down an offer from companies. Drivers want a $6.80 daily guarantee for 8 hours or 45 percent of the take.

WIND UP ONE YEAR – NOW AT IT AGAIN

40-Hour Week Aim For Hospitals

Drive for 40-hour week in all hospitals under contract in B.C. will be one of the main goals of Hospital Employees Federal Union Local 180 when bargaining opens this fall.

The busy hospital union, which just wound up the last of its 22 contracts, already is setting plans for 1954 contract talks. The union has set May 22, 23 and 24 for its annual convention, business manager William Black told The Labor Statesman.

The convention will review this year's prolonged negotiations when most of the contract renewals were carried through conciliation or arbitration boards, and study policy and strategy for the next year.

To tie in with the provincial hospital finance structure under which hospital budgets must be drawn up by Nov. 30, Local 180 negotiations for the 1954 contracts get underway in early September.

Local 180 this year pioneered the shorter work week in hospitals, establishing the 40-hour working period in five hospitals, marking a lead in the Canadian labor picture.

Close to 2000 hospital workers were brought under the shorter work hours in contracts signed with the large Vancouver General, Royal Columbian in New Westminster, Grace Hospital, North Vancouver General, and Powel River General.

Employees in these units also won increases of 3 percent for male and 2 percent for female.

In most other hospitals under contract the 44-hour work week remains in effect while a 7 percent salary increase was negotiated. These include Duncan, Nanaimo, Pt. Alberni, Queen Alexandra Solarium, Ladysmith, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, Nelson and Penticton. A 4 percent increase was settlement at Chilliwack.

Panel discussion speakers will include: Joseph Roberts, personnel director of VGH, whose topic will be labor relations as it affects hospitals; C. Holcomb, Royal Columbian personnel director, who will lead discussion on personnel relations; and Ken Martin, labor consultant, who will talk on job classifications and specifications.

A banquet will be held in Hotel Georgia.

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Vancouver, Canada, April, 1953

THOSE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Prominently displayed on page one of this issue are nine questions which candidates in the forthcoming provincial election will be expected to answer.

The questions cover subjects which should be of burning interest to every union member. In all probability most candidates will answer—and these answers should be interesting in themselves.

However, we would throw out some words of friendly caution to both union members and candidates.

Union members should keep in mind that the attitudes revealed in the answers will to some degree at least hold the key to the labor policy of the next government.

The answers will be published in this newspaper, if not elsewhere. Clip them. Study them. Interpret them as you will, but keep them in mind when election day arrives.

Now for the politicians. We know that to win elections you must woo the public, of which members affiliated with this congress compose a healthy segment. But this reminder—when the campaign tumult dies, your answers will be on record.

Too often in the past the glowing words uttered from the speaker's platform have faded when the critical test is applied in Victoria.

Labor has asked for your views in good faith. Your views will be respected whether or not they fall in line with labor's wishes. We shall study them, and write them down for future reference.

And we shall not forget.

ROOT OF ALL EVIL

A respected leader of the Jewish people told us last week to look deep into our own homes and the hearts of our children if we wish to stamp out the evil of racial discrimination.

The speaker was Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, who delivered the keynote address to the third annual joint labor Institute on Race Relations, of which this trade council is co-sponsor.

Rabbi Goldenberg told his audience: "No one is born with prejudice. The home plays the most crucial role in eliminating it."

Labor has played a proud and vital part in the fight against race prejudice, and continues to do so through its Joint Labor Committee. Individuals in the labor movement do their part every day.

But discrimination still exists, and we must take care to see that it does not grow and flourish in the minds of our children, fed by unthinking neighbors or the sinister gossip of the street.

As the Rabbi said: "If parents won't allow the evil of prejudice to take root we will not only have a basis on which to build a better world, but we will have a better world."

THIS IS YOUR PAPER

The Labor Statesman has for years been the authoritative voice of trade unionism in B. C.

In recent months certain changes have been made in format, news coverage, and general policy. We hope those changes meet with the approval of our readers. We shall strive for improvement.

But it takes more than an alert press committee and staff to keep a paper edging towards the top. We need to know what the unions are thinking about and working towards. Each union should appoint one of its members to feed material to the Statesman.

In that way the Statesman can pass the views of all sections of labor along to the entire province. It's your paper. Use it.

From This Angle . . .

Concrete moves to establish better relations within the labor movement — both internationally and between the great union organizations themselves — dominated the labor scene in North America this month.

Trades and Labor Congress president Percy Bengough and general secretary-treasurer Gordon C. Cushing travelled down to Washington to confer with American Federation of Labor president George Meany and other top-ranking U.S. labor men, and later this month Mr. Meany came to Canada as guest of honor at a dinner in Montreal.

Organization and general trade union matters of particular concern to Canadians occupied the attention of the TLC chiefs while in Washington. Organization of textile workers and office workers, one of the toughest problems for labor on both sides of the border, was one of the chief topics.

Big news in the U.S. was the apparent good start to labor unity negotiations between AFL and CIO committees.

AFL president George Meany and CIO president Walter Reuther, were named to head a six-man sub-committee which will study basic problems involved and make a report to the next full meeting scheduled for early in June. Elimination of raiding was described as the most important single problem before the committee.

Said President Meany: "We recognize that if we're going to have unity we have got to create the proper atmosphere for unity, and one important way to create the proper atmosphere is to eliminate raiding. If we can't agree not to raid, obviously we can't agree to get together."

* * *

Also from the U.S. came word of the beginning of a new big fight and a happy ending to an old one.

AFL president Meany sent out a memorandum to all organizations in the AFL to fight legislative proposals for compulsory arbitration of labor management disputes. Meany denounced compulsory arbitration as a solution for even "national emergency strikes" declaring such a policy "unworkable, unconstitutional and dangerous to the maintenance of a free economy."

Happy ending to a union fight came in Dallas, Texas, where ironworker Grady Ivey, is back with his pretty wife and family after serving four months of a one-year sentence imposed on him under the discriminatory O'Daniel Law.

Ivey was sent to jail because the O'Daniel law makes it a felony, punishable by imprisonment, for a union man to engage in "violence" on a picket line. Strangely enough, a similar offence by a non-union man is classed as a "misdemeanor" and punished by a $5 to $25 fine.

Texas State Federation of Labor fought the case all the way to the Supreme Court, and this month Ivey was granted a conditional pardon by the governor of his state. The Federation also looked after the Ivey family during the breadwinner's four-month absence.

* * *

Back in Ottawa, echoes of the TLC visit to the government in March are still floating about, but they are none too complimentary to the government.

President Bengough summed up the official attitude of the congress when he remarked that the brief presented the well-considered views of more than half a million wage and salary earners who "have a right to expect more consideration of their needs than is apparently forthcoming from their government."

Mr. Bengough said that twelve noon was the time set for the appointment, "an hour too close to lunch and return to government duties to allow anything more than a non-stop read through of the brief."

"There are many items in the brief which should have been enlarged upon in order to more fully explain the effects of omissions of particular items and the how and why such requests were being advanced."

* * *

International Confederation of Free Trade Unionists has delivered a blast to the Franco government of Spain for instituting what it calls "a new wave of repressions" directed against workers affiliated with the Spanish General Workers' Union.

ICFTU emphasized that it would fight proposed admission of the Franco regime into the "community of free peoples represented by the United Nations."

Charges against Franco and his security police centered on reports of the death because of maltreatment of an active union man and the arrest of numerous others whose "sole crime" was activity in trade union movement.

* * *

Much more is now being heard around Ottawa from labor men and organizations in Newfoundland—our newest province.

Newfoundland Federation of Labor has released a 19-point legislative program demanding full-scale government subsidized National Health insurance covering every citizen in Canada. The same group has also issued its first call to the seventeenth annual convention, which will open in Grand Falls on July 20.

* * *

Going back to the original theme about labor unity, dispatches from Chicago bring welcome news that AFL Meat Cutters and CIO Packinghouse workers, both of whom have headquarters in the windy city, are once again on speaking terms.

Now under discussion are plans to bring about unity in negotiations with packing companies, joint action on other problems, and formation of a "no raiding" pact. The two big unions have been on the warpath for about a year and a half because of bitterness arising out of acceptance of pay raise and contract offers made by pattern-setting companies to one union or the other.

Joint Labor Group Will Probe 'Exploitation' of New Canadians

Joint Labor Committee to Combat Racial Discrimination is studying a complaint that many newly arrived immigrants are being exploited by payment of low wage rates.

Protest lodged by Division 101, Street Railwaymen's Union was referred to the joint labor committee by the Trades and Labor Council this month.

SRU President Stan Wilcox told council that many newly-arrived Canadians—especially in the domestic servant class—are being "exploited to a degree that no self-respecting citizen could tolerate."

He asked council to request that foreign language newspapers in Vancouver advise newly-arrived immigrants where they can get information governing employment and wage rates.

Trade Unions Want Fair Share Of Higher Production -- Cushing

Union workers want a "fair share" of the national production of Canada and will continue their drive for higher wages despite the general hold-the-line policy among employers.

That is the opinion of Gordon Cushing, national secretary of the Trades and Labor Congress, who visited Vancouver during a tour of Western Canada.

In an interview with the Labor Statesman, Secretary Cushing said: "Negotiating on the basis of cost-of-living is no longer valid but I believe the trade union movement wants a fair share of the national production of our country which has been on the increase."

He declared that workers today are not saving any money.

"It still takes the entire pay cheque to meet his expenses."

Bank savings may be up, but "look at the number of loan and finance companies opening up new branches each day," he said.

"There is a great hue and cry that a number of businesses are going under each year, but that's not serious when you look at it closely. An analysis will show that those firms going under are only speculative types, the kind that want to make a lot of money in a short time. The basic industries are doing all right."

He reported that the Trades and Labor Congress membership had now hit an all-time record at about 560,000.

Consumer Index Drops Again

The consumer price index moved down slightly more than half of one percent during February to reach 114.8 at March 2, the lowest level recorded since August, 1951.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics experts said the decrease was due almost entirely to drops in food prices, with a reduction in the price of cigarettes. The price index is computed on the basis of 1949 prices equalling 100.

The food index moved down to the lowest point recorded in two years. Decreases were registered for tea, oranges, potatoes, beef and fresh pork, outweighing increases in prices of butter, eggs, tomatoes, ham, bacon and chicken.

There were fractional increases in clothing and household operations, but a decline of 15 percent in price of cigarettes sent the section marked "other commodities and services" down 1.3 percent.

The "old" cost of living index, based on 1935-39 prices equal 100, also dropped half of one percent to 184.2.

It Ended Happily Despite Fuss

Labor Relations Board got only the thorns of a bouquet handed out by a Vancouver union organizer.

John Wilson of Department, Specialty and Variety Store Employees Local 1671, had good words for the board when his union earlier this year was certified to bargain for employees of S. S. Kresge Co. New Westminster store.

But when the company opposed the certification and the L.R.B. granted a vote of employees, Wilson took back his bouquet.

For the record, all turned out well. Wilson reports that the vote had not changed the situation since, in spite of pressure applied by the employer, the employees voted overwhelmingly in favor of the union.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TECHNICIANS SPEAK UP

Dear Sir:

With another provincial election approaching, a great many people are wondering just what our next government is going to do about the deplorable conditions that exist in the dental laboratory profession.

The Technicians Union, Local 511, will be giving its full support to an act that will be presented to the next legislature, in the sincere hope that the government will give its approval to this Act; and that by its application, the general public will at long last receive the type of denture service that it deserves, at a price that it can afford to pay.

This proposed Act will take the control of dental technicians away from the College of Dental Surgeons, and place it where it belongs, with the technicians themselves.

But more important than that, it will allow the public legally to deal with a qualified dental technician for repair service, and will give the technician the right to work in conjunction with a dentist in the construction of dental appliances. Disregarding the fact that this will mean substantial savings to the public, the most important factor is that it will be a major step towards better dentistry.

Naturally, in the meanwhile, our local union is working diligently to organize the whole dental laboratory industry so that the employer and the employee will be able to deal more forcibly with the dental profession, and through the help of the union will be able to put our trade on the respected and recognized plane that it should be.

A. BUTTRESS,
International Chemical Workers,
Local 511.

CONVERTERS STRIKE

Dear Sir:

Members of Vancouver Converters Local 433 at Bonar & Bemis Ltd., voted 97 per cent in favor of strike action in a government supervised strike vote on April 16. The vote came as results of negotiations and conciliation proceedings which started in December, 1952. The union is asking a 3½ per cent general wage increase for all workers; that the work week be reduced from 42 hours to 40 hours in textile with no reduction in take-home pay; that employees with 15 years' service be granted three weeks vacation with pay (only two men involved). In other words, the union is asking for the general settlement already signed with four other major converting plants in this city.

It was the hope of the union upon conclusion of the strike vote that further talks with management would be forthcoming. However, the company tried to ship goods with the aid of their office staff, and a meeting was held between the company and the union on this question, at which time the union was assured there would be no further shipping.

Approximately two hours later the company again called in trucks and started to load with the help of the office and supervisory staff. This prompted the union to take immediate strike action, and pickets are now being maintained on a 24-hour basis.

O. Braaten, business agent,
Local 433, Pulp, Sulphite and
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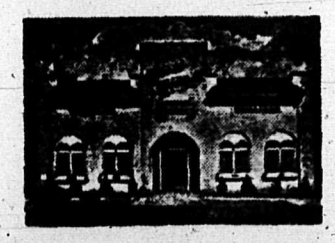
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YOUR LOCAL TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES . . .

Vancouver Fire Fighters Win 3.5 Per cent Wage Boost

Wage increase of 3.5 per cent awarded Vancouver Fire Fighters Union by a conciliation board has broken the city's wage-freeze policy.

The majority report of the conciliation board — binding on both the union and the city—was signed by chairman Percy Gomery and union representative H. I. Hansen and awarded the 600 city firemen:

Wage increase of 3.5 per cent retroactive to March 1, boosting the rate for first-class firemen to $329 a month.

A 50-50 split on medical plan payments. Where the city paid $2.50 a month for a married man previously, it will now contribute about $3.50.

Vacation concessions giving three weeks holidays after 10 years service and four weeks after 25 years.

The settlement will put another $67,000 in pockets of city firemen this year.

The conciliation award marks the first settlement in civic wage negotiations in Vancouver this year. Firemen had asked an eight per cent increase.

Store Negotiations To Conciliation Board

Negotiations for the first contract between Department, Specialty and Variety Store Employees Local 1671 and S. S. Kresge Co., probably will go to a conciliation board.

Little headway is reported in opening talks or before a conciliation officer. Union organizer John Wilson said the union is aiming at a general scale, with $32.50 weekly starting rate and increase every six months to a maximum of $40, with $1 an hour for part-time help, union security, sick leave and three weeks vacation after five years.

He said present wages range from $25 to $31 a week. Talks affect both Vancouver and New Westminster stores and about 60 retail clerks.

Dental Tech Union Making Good Strides

With organizational work in good swing, dental technicians of International Chemical Workers Local 511 hope to start negotiations with laboratory operators "in the very near future."

A. Buttress, publicity chairman for Local 511 declared "we are hoping in the very near future we will have the necessary number of workers in the industry to start negotiations with dental laboratory operators.

"This is a major step towards straightening up our industry, and securing proper working conditions with the commensurate wage scale our craftmanship deserves."

Brother Buttress said the membership is steadily increasing and progress since formation a short time ago has been good.

"What is most gratifying is that all of the members are taking such a keen interest in our activities.

"It is well known that union makes strength and more and more workers in our field are realizing that the answer to our problems lies in a concerted and co-operative effort through our union," he said.

Jewelry Workers Need Financial Aid

Strike of Jewelry Workers Local 42 is now five months old and the union is continuing its appeal for financial aid to help win the long struggle for better wages and conditions.

Delegate F. Popowich said the financial position makes the situation difficult, and more money is needed now. He said assistance was good until two weeks ago, and pointed out that the striking grain workers were no doubt getting a lot of assistance that would have been turned to jewelry workers.

Another Legion Branch Organized by Barmen

Another veterans' club has taken on the union look. Beverage Dispensers' Union Local 676 has been certified to bargain for Collingwood Branch 48, Canadian Legion and with six members in the branch, a bar card contract has been signed. Local 676 has contracts in six other veterans' clubs.

On employment, business agent Bob Beddome reports business as "fair" but says employment in beverage rooms should take the usual seasonal upward swing shortly.

Brother Beddome, along with international vice - president Archie Johnstone, J. Galloway and J. Morrison attended the thirty-third annual convention of Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International in Atlantic City this month.

Duncan Man Elected Teachers' President

Thirty-fourth annual convention of B.C. Teachers' Federation chose 32-year-old Duncan elementary principal W. V. "Bill" Allester to head their organization for the next year. Allester is the youngest president in B.C.T.F. history.

Other officers elected were Miss H. L. Cryderman, Vernon, first vice-president; Joseph Phillipson, Williams Lake, second vice-president, and E .L. Jenks, New Westminster, secretary-treasurer.

B.C.T.F. Co-operative Association named R. R. Smith, Vancouver, president; Ian Boyd, Vancouver, vice-president; John Wilde, Abbotsford, secretary-treasurer; and C. D. Ovans, Vancouver, and Ed Regier, New Westminster, executive members.

Negotiations Open For Bakery Workers

Little headway is reported in opening negotiations between Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 468 and major companies and a conciliation officer stepped into the talks this week.

The union is asking a 15-cent hourly increase, a cut-back in the work week from 40 to 35 hours, and a health and welfare plan.

Talks cover about 450 workers in Canadian Bakeries, McGavins, Westons, Old World, Mother Hubbard, General Bakeries, Fairfax Bread and Mrs. Willman's Cake shop.

Pacific Metal Trades Pick Vancouver

Vancouver has been chosen convention city for the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council 14th annual convention in 1954.

Resolution passed at the P.C.D. M.T.C. executive board meeting in Portland recently approved our city for next year's meet of delegates from Washington, Oregon, California and B.C.

Vancouver must be popular with the U.S. union men. The executive board resolution declared: "The conference city for 1954 will be Vancouver, B.C., under the proposition that we always have a good turnout there."

Substandard Wages For European Workers?

From Vancouver Island, the Victoria Building Trades Council reports that Europeans arriving in this country are taking jobs and receiving under the standard rate of pay. They said this situation will create a serious problem in the future if it is not dealt with right away.

Victoria Trades and Labor Council will follow the Vancouver lead and draw up a questionnaire on labor matters to be submitted to candidates in the upcoming provincial election.

Unions of the Vancouver Metal Trades Council at mid-month reported: Work slow for machinists and molders. Plumbers reported work fair with some unemployed but prospects good for summer. Sheet-metal work was fair with possibility of shortage later for Alcan job. Painters reported work is picking up some but still quite a number unemployed.

Fishermen Return Payne, Stevens

Results of the referendum ballot for three top offices of United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union returned president Reg. Payne, secretary Homer Stevens, and business agent Alex Gordon for the next year.

Tabulation released by the union central elections committee gave the following ballot results:

For president: Reg Payne 1035, Kurt Larson 941, spoiled 54.

For secretary-treasurer: Homer Stevens 1360, William Herlihy 634, spoiled 36.

For business agent: Alex Gordon 1384, William Goddard 598, spoiled 48.

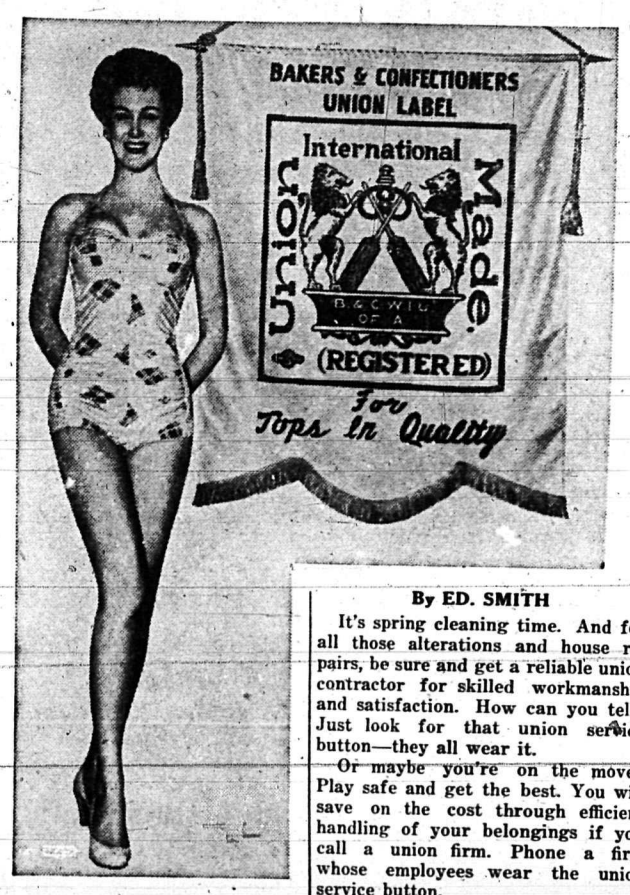
Ballots cast—2030. Absentee ballots disqualified because members were in arrears of dues or assessments—78.

Annual convention of Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will be held in Ottawa commencing week of August 10.

From a Knuckle Rap To a 15-cent Boost

IN A NUTSHELL — G. W. "Red" Faulkner, business agent of Club and Cabaret Workers' Local 740 thinks that unions should keep a sharper eye out for clubs with union agreements when planning banquets and dances. He said his union holds an agreement with the Cave and Commodore clubs but not with the Palomar . . . George McCulloch of Milk Salesmen Local 464 reports that Shannon Dairies do not employ union help . . . Esquimalt Municipal Employees Federal Union Local 333 has won increases of $14 a month for fire department, $15 for police department and from $4 to $14 for outside maintenance staff . . . Building Service Employees Local 244 has settled contract with Hall Building on basis of five percent wage increase . . . Adjustment in wage classification and union security clause is included in new pact between Office Employees Local 15 and Finning Tractor . . . Refrigeration Workers Local 516 have gained certification for Canadian Ice Machine Co. . . . Local 835 Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers now bargain for Park Coffee Bar, Maillardville . . . Operating Engineers Local 115 signed an agreement with B.C. Bridge and Dredging Co., covering 75 workers on hydraulic dredges with a 15-cent hourly Boost.

UNION LABEL CORNER



By ED. SMITH

It's spring cleaning time. And for all those alterations and house repairs, be sure and get a reliable union contractor for skilled workmanship and satisfaction. How can you tell? Just look for that union service button—they all wear it.

Or maybe you're on the move? Play safe and get the best. You will save on the cost through efficient handling of your belongings if you call a union firm. Phone a firm whose employees wear the union service button.

Are you on the union label bandwagon? The Victoria Trades and Labor Council has now affiliated with the Congress Union Label Trades Department. Just a note for other T.L. Councils in B.C.

We're getting all set for the 1953 "union buying week campaign" so all affiliated unions are reminded to co-operate with our council in getting that list of union goods and products made by their members.

This list will be used to boost the union label and union produced goods during the 1953 "union buying week" campaign.

To help our striking jewelry workers, patronize only union firms for all your needs in jewelry.

NEW JEWELRY LABEL

Incidentally, Jewelry Workers Local 42, have just signed an agreement with Lions Gate Jewelry Manufacturing and the union label will be on all goods made by this firm.

Down Tacoma way, the card and label council also is compiling a master list of products of union firms, their products, union made goods they handle, or the services they render.

Just in case you've been in suspense, the lovely young lady atop our column this month is Jan Sterling, star of Paramount's "Pony Express." Top performers both are Miss Sterling and the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' label.

Tax Exemptions Sought By Building Trades

Income tax exemption of $300 to cover cost of transportation and clothing for building trades workers is being urged by Vancouver Local 207 of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International.

Resolution passed by Local 207 declared that in view of other exemptions granted certain groups, the income tax department should be approached to press for clothing and transportation allowances for workers in the building industry.

M. G. Finlayson, union secretary, reports that the resolution states that "the income tax department has seen fit to exempt a Winnipeg citizen recently for musical instruments to the extent of $800; certain civic employees, namely firemen and policemen, receive their working clothes and transportation free of charge with no income tax paid on same; and employers are granted exemptions on transportation and other concessions."

TRADES UNION DIRECTORY

LABOR TEMPLE, 307 BROADWAY WEST

Amalgamated Meat Cutters and B.W., Local 212—Representative, Geo. Johnston, 203 Labor Temple; FA. 9477.

Auto Workers' Union, Lodge No. 1857, I. A. of M.—Business Agent, Gordon Webb, 2414 Main St. FAirmont 0203.

Bakery Salesmen, Local 189, I. B. T. C. and H.—Business Agent, E. Holmes, 206 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

Barbers — International Journeymen of America, No. 120—Secretary, C. E. Herrett, 115 Labor Temple; FA. 8762.

Beverage Dispensers Union, No. 676—Business Manager, Robt. G. Beddome, 440 West Pender St. MA. 3923-4948.

Building Material and Fuel Truck Drivers' Union, Local 213—Business Agent, H. Bonnell and J. Whiteford, 529 Beatty St.; MArine 1928.

Building Service Employees, Local 244—Business Agent, Ben Morley, Room 206, 144 West Hastings, MArine 9452.

Building Trades Council — Secretary, Ed Kennedy, 102 Labor Temple. Phone FAirmont 4787.

Carpenters' Union, No. 452—Recording Secretary, H. P. Hamilton; Fin. Sec., P. J. Deplissy; Business Agents: J. Stevenson and R. E. Worthington. Labor Temple, Fairmont 2396.

Carpenters' Union (Courtenay), No. 1638—John Hansen, Pres.; Robert Hamilton, Secretary. Box 515 Courtenay.

Cement Masons, Local 919, OP & CM—R. R. Baker, 271 Beta, GL. 0067R; J. P. Lloyd, 1836 Grant, HA. 7046R; Dispatcher, FA. 4787.

Club, Cabaret, Construction Camp, Culinary and Service Employees, Local 740—Business agent, G. W. Faulkner, 440 W. Pender, MA. 9828.

Distillery Workers' Union, No. 92 — (U.D.L.) — Secretary Ray Lawton, 2078 Waverley. FR. 7484.

Electrical Workers' Union, Local 213—Business Manager, George Gee, 111 Dunsmuir St.; PAcific 7381-2.

Engineers, Hoisting and Portable, Local 115—Business Agent, A. W. Scott, 111 Dunsmuir St; MA. 2849, MA. 2056.

Engineers, School and Caretakers, Local 963—Secretary, George Zailo, 380 East 15th Avenue. FA. 0380.

Engineers' Union (Stationary Operating), Local No. 882—Business Agent, Harry Berger, 111 Dunsmuir St.; MA. 2849.

Fire Fighters (Burnaby), Local 323—Secretary, L. H. Buckley, 4337 Triumph, GL. 3186R.

Government Employees' Association (B.C.)—E. P. O'Connor, general secretary; A. C. Bennett, assistant general secretary. 902 Helmcken, TA. 8441-2.

International Ladies' Garment Workers, Locals 276 and 287—Business Agent, Anne Marshall, 119 West Pender, phone TA. 5514; Home, HA. 5916-M.

Ironworkers, Local 97—Business Agent, E. G. Cook, 110 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9126.

Laundry Workers, No. 292 — Business Agent, J. H. Irving, 208 Labor Temple; FAirmont 9612.

Motion Picture Projectionists, Local 348—Business Manager, L. Walker. Secretary, Geo. Thrift, 295 East Broadway; FA. 6862.

Molders' Union, Local 281—Business Agent, W. M. Green, 119 Labor Temple, FAirmont 9712.

Musicians' Union, Local 145 — Business Manager, Geo. E. Leach, 402 West Pender, Room 808; PAcific 7842.

Painters, Local 138—Business Manager, Jack Eaves, 103 Labor Temple; phone FA. 9771.

Pile Drivers and Wooden Bridgemen, Local 2404—Business Agent, S. Allen, 111 Dunsmuir St.; PAcific 4046.

Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 170—Business Manager, Norman Uphill; Ass't. B.M., James Barton.. 109 Labor Temple. FA. 9766.

Pulp and Sulphite Workers, Local 312, Ocean Falls, B.C. — John Mathieson, secretary. Drawer 190, Ocean Falls, B.C.

Retail Grocery and Food Clerks, Local No. 1518 — Secretary, D. A. Wade, 205 Labor Temple; FA. 8242.

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 280—Business Manager, James Walker, 207 Labor Temple; FA. 7636.

Shipwrights, Boatbuilders, Joiners and Caulkers, Local No. 506 — Business Agent, J. T. Best, 411A West Cordova St.; Phone TA. 3725.

Shoreworkers' Local of the U. P. & A. W. U. — Business Agent, Alex Gordon, 138 E. Cordova; Phone TA. 3255.

Street Railwaymen's Union, Div. 101 — Business Agent, C. Stewart, Street Rly. Building, 125 E. 8th; FAir. 4262.

Street Railwaymen's Union, No. 134—Business Agent, K. M. Armstrong, 59 Alexander, New Westminster, Phone 1342.

Taxi Drivers, Local 151 — Secretary, C. Gower, 204 Labor Temple; FA. 8716.

Truck Drivers' Union, Local No. 31 — Business Agents, Reg. Lenfesty and C. Solem, 222 W. Broadway, FA. 8251.

Typographical Union, Local 226—Secretary, Harry Neelands, 212 Labor Temple; FA. 2608.

Union Label Trades Council—Secretary, Ed. Smith, 209 Labor Temple, BA. 2550.

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CARPENTERS' REPORT . . .

Alcan Local Fighting For Free Board, Wages

By GEORGE R. BENGOUGH

Carpenters' Union Local 1735 went into two conciliation boards this month, demanding contract changes on the Alcan project which would bring journeyman wages to $2.50 an hour, full payment of board and room by the employer, and double time for all overtime worked.

Local 1735's demands were made to two of the largest B.C. contractors—Morrison-Knudsen of the Kemano project and Kitimat Constructors on the Kitimat townsite.

Alternate offers were made by the companies and findings of the board were expected as the Labor Statesmen went to press.

The boards were held at Prince Rupert and provincial secretary Alf Staley presented the union's case.

The union brief presented to Morrison-Knudsen pointed out that although only one local union of carpenters was involved in this particular dispute, the entire membership of the carpenter's union through B. C. was concerned with the board's findings.

ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE

When Morrison-Knudsen first came into B.C., the brief said, wages were written into the agreement which were entirely acceptable. Carpenter foremen were paid $2.15 an hour, and carpenters $1.90, increasing to $2.00 on October 1, 1951.

The contract called for semi-monthly payment of wages, 40-hour week, time-and-a-half for overtime, double time on Sundays, and return transportation to be paid by the company after 60 days on the job.

Union shop conditions were to prevail on the job and board of $2.50 a day was to be paid by the carpenters.

"These wages and conditions as outlined were better or comparable with those prevailing elsewhere in the province at that time."

FIVE YEARS

That agreement was for five years or until end of Alcan project with the exception of wage clauses set forth in special appendices, meaning neither the company or the union can terminate the agreement within that time.

"Having started out on agreement and wage level that was entirely satisfactory to Local 1735, their membership looked forward to working for the Morrison-Knudsen Company for the life of the agreement, believing that each year, on the anniversary date as provided, they should be able to receive as good or better wages and conditions as they might receive from other contractors in B.C."

"In a short time the carpenters of B.C. have been able to enter the agreements with other contractors that are better both for wages and conditions. One of the most important conditions so established is for full room and board to be paid for by the employer.

"Other conditions in the province now better than in the original agreement with the Morrison-Knudsen Company are better wages ($2.10 scale), better rates for overtime pay (in place of time and one-half other agreements provide for double time)."

UNDER-GROUND WORK

"While both parties entered into this five-year agreement in good faith, believing that all normal conditions of employment had been taken into consideration, it was overlooked that a considerable amount of the carpentry work had to be carried out under-ground and should have provided that carpenters working underground receive a premium rate or bonus pay.

"This project has in our opinion a larger turnover of carpenters than any other project in the province. We believe that this would be lessened if the wages and conditions were again brought to a level equal to or comparable with the rest of the province.

"The Local Union is asking for $2.50 per hour wages and full room and board to be paid for by the employer. Also that all overtime be paid on the basis of double-time rate.

"We are well aware that the point of reference to the Conciliation Board is one point only, and that is wages. Therefore we take the following position: that the agreement is not negotiable other than the part provided for, nevertheless in order to have as good a working agreement as possible it is imperative that the company not only pay a wage that the carpenters receive from their other employers, but that they also be given proper consideration for room and board.

"We would suggest that this can be done in one of two ways. That an adenda be added or a letter of understanding be given to read: 'that full room and board will be paid for by the employer or that an out-of-town allowance be paid over and above the wages. This out-of-town allowance to be equal to the $2.50 new being paid per diem."

OVERTIME PROVISIONS

"We are of the opinion that the difference in the overtime provisions at present prevailing on this project, and other construction projects throughout the province, should also be given consideration by this Board.

"The carpenters in the province, for the last six months, have received a wage scale of $2.10 per hour or 10 cents above that paid on this project. Negotiations are now under way for a further increase throughout the province and no doubt an increase will be forthcoming. We feel the board should give this consideration when making their recommendation and recommend a substantial increase retroactive to the 1st day of January, 1953."

The Morrison-Knudsen representative here produced a detailed graph showing wage schedules and increases in four classes of tradesmen in 1951—carpenters, operating engineers, teamsters and laborer.

CARPENTERS ALONE

"The carpenters were given an increase of 22 cents per hour in June, 1951. The remaining three basic trades wage scales did not rise. It is noteworthy to point out that in October, 1951, the carpenters were the only one of four basic trades that received a further increase and that increase was 10 cents per hour to $2.

"This wage schedule of the four basic trades prevailed until December 31, 1952. It is significant to emphasize that from October, 1951, to January, 1953, the carpenters have received the highest wage scale of the four basic trades. At the present time the carpenters are still in the preferential wage position.

"To further substantiate our willingness to promote harmony and peace, we offer an increase of 15 cents per hour; making the carpenters rate $2.15 per hour. Please observe that this rate of $2.15 is 9 cents per hour higher than the operating engineer, 20 cents higher than teamsters and 65 cents higher than laborers."

KITIMAT SIMILAR

Carpenters' argument in the conciliation board dealing with Kitimat Constructors was similar.

The 5-year agreement called for $2 for carpenters, joiners and millwrights, time-and-a-half for first four hours of overtime, then double time, with double-time for Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays.

Under the board and room clause, a maximum of $2 per day was to be charged when camp is maintained and the employer was to pay $2 per day when no camp is maintained.

The companies then offered an increase of 15 cents an hour, bringing journeyman to $2.15 and millrights to $2.25 an hour.

Free board and increased overtime proposals were turned down by the company.

"I'm so glad you joined the Union, dear, and got that nice paid-vacation check—wasn't it?"

Strike Vote

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Unanimous report: Vacation—one week after 12 months service, two weeks after 24 months. Statutory holidays—three additional holidays. Pay for cargo handling—no change. Hours of work—no change, continued eight hours within a spread of 16 hours. Overtime pay—present rate of $1 be increased by same percentage as recommended wage increase. Date of contract — effective March 1, 1953, excepting for wages which would be retroactive to September 1, 1952.

In calling for the referendum vote, the SIU said: "It is quite obvious the board did not give reasonable consideration to the evidence submitted. The recommended retroactive date of September 1, 1952, is not satisfactory and as far as the committee is concerned, the date must be from the date of re-opening, March 1, 1952.

During the board hearings, SIU submitted that average rate now in effect is about $1.16 an hour and the request for a monthly boost of $50 would bring the rate to about $1.45, including the value of free board.

"The companies have at no time stated they are not able to pay the increase requested.

Home Bakery Ltd. Faces Charges

Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 468 this week pressed charges against Home Bakery Ltd., North Vancouver, before the Labor Relations Board.

As the tussle to organize the north shore plant continues, the union appeared before the L.R.B. with claims of unfair labor practices under provincial labor law.

The union earlier this month was restrained by court injunction from placarding the company's premises.

BUILDING TRADES STYMIED

Gregg Refuses To Alter UIC Rules

Federal Labor Minister Milton F. Gregg has declined to make any immediate change in U.I.C. regulations which disqualify some workers from unemployment benefits if they have received holiday pay.

Building Trades Council had asked the provincial government to press the issue in Ottawa. Mr. Gregg's reply was:

The matter raised in your letter of March 25 has been a source of some difficulty to the Unemployment Insurance Commission ever since it began operations. It is not the purpose of the Act, as you know, to pay benefit to a person who is still receiving remuneration or compensation for the loss of his employment which can be considered equivalent to remuneration for a specific period. Hence there has been some difficulty in determining whether a worker is entitled to benefit when he has been separated from his employment but at the time of separation receives money in respect either of holidays commencing immediately upon separation, or in respect of holidays to which he became entitled during his evployment but which he did not take at the time.

The matter has been further complicated by the fact that many other types of payment are received by employees at separation; for example a bonus in consideration of long service, or pay given to an employee following the separation but prior to his going on pension and so on.

Further Problem

A further problem has been the growing practice of shutting down an entire plant for a period of annual vacation. This does not create any hardship for employees who are entitled, by virtue of seniority, to holiday pay for such period. However, employees not so entitled have complained that a compulsory lay-off under these circumstances amount to involuntary unemployment for them, for which they ought to be allowed benefit.

Recent changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act and Regulations have therefore been designed to deal with these various aspects of the problem. As regards a plant shutdown for holidays a worker who is not entitled to holiday pay can now be paid benefit if the shut-down lasts for a full working week or more, whereas formerly he could not receive benefit for such a holiday period, whether or not he received holiday pay, until the third week of the holiday.

Study Situation

The former provisions regarding receipt of pay at termination of employment have also been modified with the object of treating all types of payment alike and thus overcoming the anomalies tha tformerly arose as regards different individuals, depending on the particular circomstances under which they received payments at termination. The present rule is that payments for overtime o rin respect of a pension are disregarded and an employee receiving such payments may be paid benefit. All other types of payment is disqualified for the number of days represented by the value of such payments.

These regulations have been in effect only since last September and the Unemployment Insurance Commission is keeping an eye on the situation with a view to seeing whether any further modifications or improvements can be made.

Yours sincerely,
MILTON F. GREGG.

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