

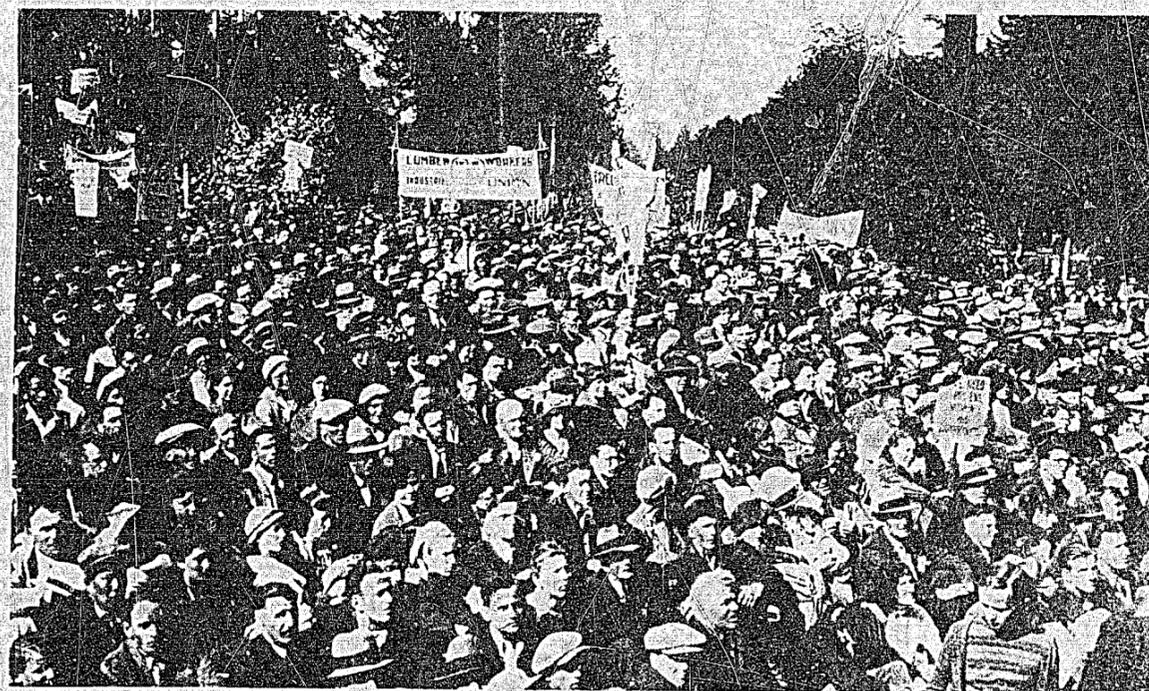
LABOUR HISTORY P S A

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 1 March 1977

## **FEATURING: THE I.W.A.**

*by Denis Ottewill*



**RETURN ADDRESS:** 2235 Burrard  
Vancouver, B. C.



FRANK FULLER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The formation of the Labour History PSA can be classed as a historic event, not only in B. C. but in Canada itself. To my knowledge, this is the first time that so large a group of teachers in any federation has associated themselves together for the purpose of making labour's history an integral part of the educational system in B.C.

For too long a majority of youth in B. C. have gone forth to working on the ferries, in the mills, logging camps, restaurants and offices without any knowledge of the rich heritage of social and economic justice won for them by the women and the men who have occupied those work places in the past. The eight hour day, grievance procedures, workers' compensation are now an accepted part of our society. The struggle that was undertaken to place them in that context is the "hidden" heritage which the educational system has too long neglected.

To redress this imbalance and promote an understanding of the valuable contribution of working people and their trade unions to the development of B. C. represents both a challenge to and a responsibility for the Labour History PSA.

Probably one of our most encouraging accomplishments to date in this respect has been the negotiation of a grant from the Law in the Schools Project of the Legal Services Commission for the purpose of developing teaching materials on labour and the law. The PSA has hired a team of three specialists on a three month contract basis to complete this task. They are Howie Smith, Patti Werj and Ian Crawford. All have extensive experience in the field of audio-visual presentation, research and writing. They will be working with a curriculum committee composed of Cheryl Seaman, Tom Morton, Denis Ottewell and myself.

In addition to this major project, the PSA during the past few months has been involved in the following activities:

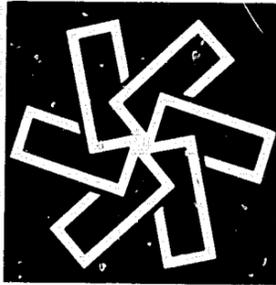
Organized and presented a display of teaching material and books on labour history at the Fall Representative Assembly.

Involved itself in the planning of a workshop on Labour and the Law jointly sponsored by the Law in the Schools Project of the Legal Services Commission, the Labour History PSA, the B.C. Federation of Labour and the BCTF Labour Liaison Committee.

Produced a brochure outlining the objectives of the association to be distributed to teachers and interested citizens.

Produced this first newsletter.

The PSA executive will be meeting soon to plan for our Annual General Meeting during the AGM. Hopefully, we will be able to present a major "event" for that date.



# GLOSSARY

As a regular feature of this Newsletter, we are presenting a glossary of labour terms prepared by the Canadian Labour Congress. This glossary is a handy pull out for a lesson aid. Watch future Newsletters for more exciting definitions.

**AGENCY SHOP** - A clause in a collective agreement similar to the Rand Formula.

**AGREEMENT, COLLECTIVE** - A contract (agreement and contract are used interchangeably) between one or more unions acting as bargaining agent, and one or more employers, covering wages, hours, working conditions, fringe benefits, rights of workers and union, and procedures to be followed in settling disputes and grievances. (Convention collective).

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR - CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS (AFL-CIO)** - A federation of craft and industrial unions, as well as unions of a mixed structure in the U.S.; the U.S. counterpart of the Canadian Labour Congress.

**ARBITRATION** - A method of settling disputes through the intervention of a third party whose decision is final and binding. Such a third party can be either a single arbitrator, or a board consisting of a chairman and one or more representatives. Arbitration is often used to settle major grievances and for settling contract interpretation disputes. Voluntary arbitration is that agreed to by the parties without statutory compulsion. Compulsory arbitration is that imposed by law. Governments sometimes impose it to avoid a strike or to end one.

**BARGAINING AGENT** - Union designated by a labour relations board or similar government agency as the exclusive representative of all employees in a bargaining unit for the purpose of collective bargaining.

**BARGAINING UNIT** - Group of workers in a craft, department, plant, firm, industry or occupation, determined by a labour relations board or similar body as appropriate for representation by a union for purposes of collective bargaining.

**BASE RATE** - The lowest rate of pay, expressed in hourly terms, for the lowest paid qualified worker classification in the bargaining unit. Not to be confused with basic rate, which is the straight-time rate of pay per hour, job or unit, excluding premiums, incentive bonuses, etc.

**BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS** - Production and maintenance workers as contrasted to office and professional personnel.

**CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC)** - Canada's national labour body representing over 70 per cent of organized labour in the country.

**CERTIFICATION** - Official designation by a labour relations board or similar government agency of a union as sole and exclusive bargaining agent, following proof of majority support among employees in a bargaining unit.

**CHECKOFF** - A clause in a collective agreement authorizing an employer to deduct union dues and, sometimes, other assessments, and transmit these funds to the union. There are four main types; the first three apply to union members only: (1) Voluntary revocable; (2) Voluntary Irrevocable; (3) Compulsory; (4) Rand Formula - dues deducted from union and non-union employees.

**CLOSED SHOP** - A provision in a collective agreement whereby all employees in a bargaining unit must be union members in good standing before being hired, and new employees hired through the union.

**CODE OF ETHICAL PRACTICES** - A declaration of principle adopted by the Canadian Labour Congress, requiring unions to try to ensure maximum attendance at meetings and general participation by membership. Under this code, no one engaging in corrupt practices may hold office in the union or in the CLC.

**COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT** - See Agreement.

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING** - Method of determining wages, hours and other conditions of employment through direct negotiations between the union and employer. Normally the result of collective bargaining is a written contract which covers all employees in the bargaining unit, both union members and non-members.

**COMPANY UNION** - A one-company group of employees, frequently organized or inspired by management and usually dominated by the employer.

# SONGS OF THE WORKERS



Way up the Uclelaw  
D A7 D

1. Come, all you bull-necked loggers, And hear me sing my song. For  
G D E7 A  
it is very short, And it will not keep you long.

Chorus: G D G D  
We had blankets for to travel, Biscuits for to chew. We  
D A7 D  
were in search of pitchbacks, 'Way up the Uclelaw.

2. We're leaving Vancouver  
With sorrow, grief and woe,  
Heading up the country  
A hundred miles or so.
3. We hired fourteen loggers,  
And we hired a man to saw.  
We had a greenhorn cook,  
And he run the hotcakes raw.

From the P.J. Thomas Collection  
Adaptation and Arrangement  
© by P.J. Thomas

DAWN LARSEN /76  
ARCYLE

# WAY UP THE UCLETAW

"Way up the Ucletaw" is a little song dating back to the 1890's. It was sung for me by Ed Dalby who spent his last days in a cabin a few miles north of Campbell River. Born in Vancouver in the 1880's, he went to the woods when he'd just entered his teens. He remembered this and other songs from his early days in logging before the turn of the century.

The men in the song are hand-loggers, men who logged the foreshore of the islands and inlets of the southern B. C. coast, using their muscles, a few simple tools, and gravity to turn standing Douglas firs into floating logs ready for towing to a mill. Their use of axes, saws, wedges, jacks and pulleys drew on their ingenuity since the large movement of the logs depended on the slope to the water and the rising tide.

When demand for logs was high, hand loggers could make a kind of living, but they were the first to suffer when the market was slow. In the economic depression of the 1890's there was (according to Ed Dalby) a tent town of hand loggers on the north side of Vancouver's False Creek; they were waiting for the demand for logs to give them work. In the song the words "sorrow, grief, and woe" suggest the men were caught in such a market squeeze.

As logging has spread to the more remote parts of the coast, hand loggers have continued to operate but in diminishing numbers. In a time of Forest Management Licences, Public Working Circles, and a changing technology, the hand logger with his pride and independence has almost disappeared.

The "pitch backs" in the song are Douglas Firs, so called because these trees often accumulate great amounts of the thick amber-coloured substance near their butts. "The Ucletaw" in the song refers to the Yucultaw Rapids, the name given to the part of the Seymour Narrows found between Quadra and Sonora Islands. "Ucletaw" is spelled here as it sounds (yuk-lē-taw). In the original, "greenhorn cook" was "chinese cook" reflecting racist attitudes which prevailed at the time.

Prepared by Phil Thomas,  
Vancouver Folk Society.

# THE I.W.A.



What were the circumstances and conditions that fostered the birth and growth of the I.W.A. (International Woodworkers of America)? Who were the people who organized and worked to build this industrial union into the largest union in B.C.? How did the I.W.A. combat such issues as: intolerable working and living conditions, obstinate employers, court orders and injunctions, and the questions of union affiliations both national and international.

Before the people who logged the trees and worked the mills won the rights to union membership, to collective agreements and some legislative guarantees for a better standard of living, they had experienced: seventy to eighty hour work weeks, low pay and cuts in pay, unsanitary camp conditions, poor 'grub', high board rates, no compensation for lay-offs or injury; and where, too often the end was skid row.

Prior to the organization of the industrial unions and the formation of the C.I.O. (Committee for Industrial Organization), trade union leadership had been provided by the A.F.L. (American Federation of Labour) and its Canadian affiliate, the T.L.C. (Trades and Labour Congress of Canada). These craft union based organizations had made little effort to organize or improve the life of workers outside their jurisdiction.

After years of struggle the formation of industrial unions had become a reality, when during the 1930's and early 40's (the war years) a number of industrial unions had risen to prominence (including those in steel and autos, electrical goods, textiles, mining and lumber). The I.W.A., formed in 1937, had its beginning in these early struggles.

The development of the industrial unions coincided with the growth of left wing industrial unionism in B. C. Within the I.W.A. the political ideology of its District One officers was to precipitate a violent split in 1948.

Earlier unions involving sections of lumber workers had existed, but it was in the I.W. W. (Industrial Workers of the World) better known as "the Wobblies", that the lumber and millworkers were to find their roots. Under constant attack and persecution by employers, police and "aroused citizenry", the I.W.W. organizers nevertheless made their way into the numerous and isolated camps throughout the Pacific Northwest. Their militant methods and occasional successes in winning improved conditions and wages caught the interest of many. A spirit of unionism and a number of experienced organizers were to be the Wobblies' legacy to lumberworkers. As for the I.W.W., after nearly two decades of relative prominence on the labour scene, it declined rapidly after 1919 (partially due to its policies related to World War I, the impact of the Bolshevik victory in Russia, and internal dissension) and by the end of the 1920's 'had disappeared' from the B. C. lumber scene.

The year 1919 was to be turbulent for labour. Following the war years of profiteering and wage freezes were to come the years of soaring prices, large scale unemployment and declining union membership. The "roaring twenties" were in fact "lean years" for many. The year 1919, a year of

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world wide strikes (in Canada alone there were 69 strikes involving 80,000 workers, including the Winnipeg General Strike), also the year of the formation of the O.B.U. (One Big Union); of the B.C. Loggers' Union which with a membership of close to 15,000 was the keystone to the O.B.U.; and of the L.W.I.U. (Lumber Workers' Industrial Union). When the B. C. Loggers' Union withdrew from the O.B.U. to form the L.W.I.U. the O.B.U. went into decline.

An active, militant union with a membership of about 23,000, the L.W.I.U. became affiliated with the W.U.L. (Workers' Unity League), which was affiliated to the R.I.L.U. (Red International of Labour Unions) also known as the Third International. The success of the Revolution in Russia had inspired and revitalized the energies of the Communist supporters and organizers, many of whom were to remain active in the labour movement for the next thirty years.

However, the ideological differences between the Communists and non-Communists were intensified. The question as to whether labour should align itself with the Communist movement or should be supportive of the socialist movement of the C.C.F. (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) in opposition to the "old line" parties, was to greatly influence the development and direction of the future I.W.A.

The 1920's were years that marked the decline in membership and power of the trade union movement. By 1926 the L.W.I.U. in B. C. had folded. The years of depression following 1929 were years of mass unemployment, of deteriorating living conditions, of an endless migration of people looking for work, of a weakened trade union movement.

With the introduction of capital and machinery into an expanding lumber industry, and the establishment of more communities closer to the lumber camps, many lumber workers now sought a more permanent place in which to live and work. However the possibilities of job security, safe working conditions and decent wages were not as yet realized. Confronted by a well organized employers group, the lumber workers once again began to organize. The W.U.L. had been active in the Vancouver area, organizing loggers and sawmill workers and had assisted in the formation of the L.S.W.U. (Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union) in 1930, which elected as its first president, Harold Pritchett. Hourly wages in some of the mills were 10¢ for Chinese and Japanese, 12¢ for East Indians, 22¢ for single whites and 25¢ for married. (Bergren, p.31) Under the "Tyee" system, Orientals were paid the lowest wages.

During 1931 and 1932 sawmill workers struck three mills (Fraser Mills, Sterling Shingle Mills and Timberland Mills) to protest wage cuts which had dropped from about 40¢ per hour to as low as 12¢

or 14¢, from 1929 to 1932. (Bergren, p.30). There were other strikes, including the 1934 strike on Vancouver Island, but strikes in the early 1930's were largely unsuccessful in improving conditions.

By the mid 1930's there had emerged forces and circumstances which were to change the outlook of the North American trade unions and aid in the formation of the I.W.A. The U.B.C.J. (United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners) an A.F.L. affiliate, had attempted to extend its jurisdiction throughout the wood industry, and by 1935 had gained control of the L.S.W.U. which was to become a non-beneficial subsidiary of the U.B.C.J. (paid a portion of the dues and denied the rights to speak or vote).

The struggle between the craft unions and industrial unions had reached a showdown, when at the 1935 A.F.L. convention a number of unions stormed out and established the C.I.O., under the leadership of John L. Lewis (of the United Mine Workers). The C.C.L. (Canadian Congress of Labour) was formed as the Canadian counterpart of the C.I.O. The split between the A.F.L. and C.I.O. increased the friction between the L.S.W.U. and the U.B.C.J. Finally, in September, 1936, representatives from ten District Councils of the L.S.W.U. met in Portland and formed the Federation of Woodworkers, with A. Hartung as chairman and H. Pritchett as president. Next year, in July 1937, at its convention in Tacoma, the woodworkers voted to affiliate with the C.I.O. and change the name of their organization to the International Woodworkers of America, thus founding the present I.W.A.

Though hostilities continued between the A.F.L. and C.I.O. based unions, these in time diminished. Eventually these organizations were to form a merger in 1955, while their Canadian counterparts, the T.L.C. and C.C.L. merged in 1956 to form the C.L.C. (Canadian Labour Congress).

Following its birth in 1937 the I.W.A. continued its fight for union recognition, a task made somewhat easier when the B.C. Legislature responding to a campaign by the trade unions and the C.C.F. M.L.A.'s, enacted the first Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act (I.C.A. Act) of 1938 which established the right of a union to organize and bargain.

The I.W.A. soon established its own hiring halls to break the grip of private employment agencies whose collusion with companies in the use of the blacklist, in the employment of scabs or spies when needed, and in general anti-union practices, had

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proven so detrimental to the union and its supporters.

Blubber Bay, on Texada Island, was to be the scene for the I.W.A.'s first bitter strike. Protesting the working conditions and related hazards, about 150 quarry workers (affiliated to the I.W.A.) struck the Pacific Lime Co. in July of 1937, in the first of several strikes which were to last until the spring of 1939. This strike had many facets. Here, in a province with a history of racial strife, the Chinese and white workers stuck together. The company which had refused to abide by any conciliation agreements, had made use of stooges, scabs, goons and police to an almost unprecedented degree. Evictions, terrorist tactics and police beatings were the order of the day. One man (Bob Gardner) and possibly a second (Bill McDonald) died as a result of these beatings. Support in food, monies and other necessities was forwarded to the strikers and their families, coming from unions and the general public. Through the efforts of Colin Cameron and Harold Winch (C.C.F.-M.L.A.'s) and Grant MacNeil (C.C.F.-M.P.) the provincial and federal governments were informed as to the circumstances, illegalities and brutalities of the strike. Against this concerted force of the company and police, low in funds and with about 15 of its supporters arrested (and later imprisoned), the I.W.A. was forced to concede the strike.

Recognizing the need for a boat capable of visiting the numerous logging camps that dotted the coast up to the Queen Charlotte Islands, the woodworkers in August 1936 had acquired an old, but sea-worthy 44 foot cabin cruiser named the Laura-Wayne. This boat, the first in the Loggers' Navy, was assigned to Local 1-71. It was invaluable during the Blubber Bay strike. The Laura-Wayne and subsequent members of the Loggers' Navy were to greatly assist the I.W.A. in servicing its coastal camps.

The war years (1939 to 1945) saw the I.W.A. continuing in its drive to win its demands pertaining to: improved wage scales, the 8 hour day, recognition of union agreements, union shop and dues check off, seniority, leave of absence provisions, holidays and paid overtime, improved safety and working conditions, medical health programmes, better board and commissary rates, and hiring practices.

In spite of war time regulations freezing wages and prices, the I.W.A. did negotiate wage increases and improved working conditions, though these demands were directed more at the government's War Labour Board than at the employers. Several strikes did occur: one which resulted in the large mill at Chemainus coming under I.W.A. jurisdiction in 1942; and the strike of 1943 in the Queen Charlotte's against the lumber companies which had a virtual monopoly on the Sitka spruce industry, which was vital to the airplane industry (Mosquito bombers and other planes). Public and government pressure forced the companies involved to settle the strike

on terms more favourable to the I.W.A. During the war years, I.W.A. membership increased and a number of new locals were granted charters. Efforts were made to submit a master agreement, which would result in an industry-wide contract, to R. V. Stuart Research Ltd. which represented the organized employers.

In August 1945 World War II had ended, but the battle between the large unions and the large corporations was to resume in intensity. Like most unions the I.W.A. turned its attention from the "Win the War" effort towards maintaining and improving the welfare of its members. Even through the War Regulations controlling wages and prices remained in effect, it soon became evident that the wages were being controlled and that prices were left to spiral. Confronted with this inflationary situation the I.W.A. sought to win: an hourly increase of 25¢, a 40 hour week, union security and dues check-off. Negotiation and conciliation having failed to achieve an agreement, the I.W.A. went on strike in May 1946, a strike which lasted 37 days. This first ever industry-wide strike resulted in the I.W.A. being awarded its first master agreement, 15¢ an hour, a 40 to 44 hour week and dues check-off. Equally important was the recruiting of 10,000 new members during the strike period, giving the B. C. District a paid up membership of 27,000 members.

The Cold War, and its drive to remove Communists or suspected Communists from the unions, increased in intensity after the war. From the founding of the I.W.A., differences were apparent. D. Helmick and A. Hartung of the Columbia River District Council in Oregon were to direct the effort to remove "the reds" from the I.W.A. International. H. Pritchett the elected president of the I.W.A. was unsuccessful in obtaining citizenship (U.S.A.) and had to rely on immigration visas in order to visit and carry out his duties at the International head office in Portland. Finally, on July 20, 1940, Pritchett was denied further visas making it impossible for him to retain the presidency on the International. He resigned and later was elected president of District One in B. C.

The A.F.L. had always maintained an anti-Communist position and was influential in aiding any groups that sought to oust the "reds" from their organizations. At its 1941 convention, the C.I.O. passed legislation barring Communists from membership. Though this step had an immediate impact with the U.S.A., it didn't directly affect the I.W.A. in B. C., but only served to isolate it from other unions in B. C. and

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Canada and from the international trade union organizations. Ironically, the C.I.O. action meant that a number of the organizers and officers of industrial unions, who had supported the founding of the C.I.O., now found themselves being forced out of the trade union movement.

In Canada, the A.C.C.L. (All Canadian Congress of Labour) and several C.I.O. unions formed the C.C.L. in 1940, which also adopted the anti-communism policy. Later in 1948 the C.C.L. was to send Mahoney to B. C. as its western director of organization, where he was to assist in the efforts which weakened the leftist influence in the B.C. Federation, and where he aided the "white bloc" in its fight against the "red bloc" in the I.W.A.

On the Canadian political scene the split between the L.P.P. (Labour Progressive Party-Communist) and the C.C.F. was further aggravated when the C.C.L. affiliated itself with the C.C.F. and its anti-communist policy.

The dismissal in 1945 by the International of M. Freylinger and H. Gergren as organizers of District One, and the suspension in 1947 of trustee J. Greenall, for refusing to sign a non-Communist affidavit as required by the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, were incidents which further isolated District One from the International.

Pressured by these outside forces, the officers of District One were also being challenged from within the union, by the so-called "white bloc". The white bloc may be identified as taking an anti-Communist position and favoring the policies of the International. Its initial strength lay in the New Westminster Local 217, and its spokesmen were: Stewart Alsbury, George Mitchell and Fred Fieber.

The "red bloc" were those who favored more Canadian autonomy and opposed increased American influence in the Canadian union movement. They tended to support more militant and Communist policies. Its spokesmen were H. Pritchett, N. Morgan and E. Dalskog.

This internal political split was further aggravated because many of District One's leaders and long term organizers were Communists, whereas the rank and file members were not. Though it was possible to achieve agreement on organizational policies which were effective and progressive (ie. the recent success of the 1946 strike), the leadership and the membership were being divided politically. Dissension within the union increased during this Cold War period of red-baiting and international tension. The districts within the I.W.A. soon precipitated a split, while on the world scene the Korean War was approaching and North America would be caught up in the hysteria of the McCarthy period.

Early in the war (W.W.II) the white bloc had questioned the loyalty of the red bloc, which in 1939 had called for the defense of Canada, but had opposed the conscription of men, without the conscription of wealth. Then in 1941 following the

Nazi invasion of Russia, the Communist Party reversed its war-time policy and the officers of District One, in 1942, adopted a policy of "Production for Victory". In 1944, the policy was "Win the War", and a no strike, no wage demand position was taken. The white bloc leaders had capitalized on these shifting policies during the war; but not until March and April 1948 when they were able to charge the executive with mishandling funds (over \$100,000) were they able to effectively gain the attention of the membership. Suggestions that some of the money had been siphoned off for use by the Communist Party further inflamed the membership. An investigating committee from the International conducted an audit, completed its report in October 1948, and accused the District One officers of gross mishandling of funds (juggling of funds, some instances of misappropriation, and loans to District Officers), but found no proof of criminal activity. Rather the controversy seemed to stem from the lack of vouchers, about \$9,000 worth from the 1946 strike, which had remained in Local Offices, instead of being filed in the District Office.

However, this last incident had served its purpose of separating the District leadership from the majority support of the membership. To further add to the confusion or clarification, the white bloc, which was receiving financial and advisory support from the International and the C.C.L. (ie. Mahoney) had established a rival publication, 'The Voice of the I.W.A.' and a rival radio programme on C.J.O.R., in opposition to the official newspaper, 'The B.C. Lumberworker', and the Green Gold radio programme, also on C.J.O.R.

The anti-red feeling which had been sweeping the North American trade union movement, proved to be strong in B. C., with its supporters gaining control of the B. C. Federation and maintaining control of the Vancouver Labour Council. Assured of considerable support from outside the union, the white bloc increased its drive to oust the red bloc from control of the I.W.A. The District One officers, from March 1948, had been wrestling with the problem of whether to secede, or to remain within the International. Pritchett had favoured remaining within the International-C.C.L. structure, but the majority supported secession. On October 3, 1948, the officers of the District Council announced their secession from the I.W.A. and the formation of the W.I.U.C. (Woodworkers' Industrial Union of Canada).

The W.I.U.C. lasted but a few years; having generally failed to receive certification  
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rights from the government, having won few bargaining rights from employers, and having lost the support of the majority of the rank and file members. In retrospect it would appear that though the membership may have felt some loyalty to the red bloc organizers, many who had proven themselves in the struggle to build their union, it recognized the need for maintaining a strong united front when bargaining with the employer and government groups. It had been a long struggle to build the I.W.A. and the membership wasn't prepared to abandon it. In time many of the woodworkers who had supported the W.I.U.C. returned to the I.W.A. However, the bitterness between the red and white blocs was such that the red bloc leaders were barred from membership in the I.W.A.

Immediately following the secession by the W.I.U.C., the International Officers Jim Fadling and Al Hartung arranged that provisional officers be installed: including Stewart Alsbury as District President, and Joe Morris, later to become District President of the I.W.A. and presently President of the C.L.C., as a trustee.

The provisional officers faced a formidable task. Lacking the I.W.A. records, which were never recovered and not yet having recovered the union funds, they nevertheless pledged themselves: to assist all B. C. Locals to transact the business of the Union and overcome the split; to build up the bargaining strength and improve wages and working conditions; to install strict accounting of finances; to restore democratic control of Union affairs to the membership; to call a convention at the earliest date enabling delegates to elect their district officers and determine district policy. By 1950, through a series of complicated court actions, the I.W.A. had recovered most of its assets and funds from the W.I.U.C.

From 1950 on, the I.W.A. has continued to grow and take action in support of its membership. Some strikes include: 1952, coastal lumber workers for 45 days; 1959, longest industry wide coast strike of 70 days involving 27,000; 1967-68, Southern Interior workers for 7½ months. Today, there is wage parity for Coastal and Interior workers, and the I.W.A. with a membership of about 46,000 (1976) is B.C.'s largest union.

NOTE: Refer to The I.W.A. in British Columbia, for more detailed information on contractual gains from 1950 to 1971.



# Lesson Plan

**OBJECTIVE:** to instill in the students an understanding and appreciation of the role and contribution of unions and working people to our society.

**THEMES AND ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED.**

1. Why have unions? collective action & agreement, strength in numbers, unity.
2. The formation of a union. The I.W.A. went through a complicated growth period with numerous affiliations.  
Develop a time line.
3. (a) What is meant by, and what were the similarities and differences between "craft unions" and "industrial unions"?  
(b) Consider developing a unit on the formation of a union which is important or of interest in your school district.
4. Study the interaction of different unions—their growth, affiliation, and decline, including AFL and CIO members.
5. The development of unions and the growth of political parties claiming to be reformist or leftist was an integral part of the B. C. trade union movement.  
(a) Consider the points of view of the 'red bloc' or 'white bloc'.  
(b) Study the formation of such unions as the Mine Mill, Fishermen, Steel Workers, Shipyard (Boilermakers) Workers, Longshoremen.
6. The roles and influence of "International Unions". Discuss Canadian autonomy vs internationalism.
7. Labour's alignment with political parties. Does labour really support any one Canadian party?
8. What were the living and working conditions of the men, women and children, prior to 1900 or to 1920, or to 1940? Initiate a photograph collection pertaining to this period.
9. The Depression — (more material is readily available now). Utilize the available resources and get first hand accounts from the "grand-parent generation".
10. (a) Imagine (or simulate) the life in a small coastal lumber camp before (or after) the mid 1930's.  
(b) Contact the "old-timers" for personal recollections.
11. Strikes — What is a strike? legal? illegal?  
Why strike?  
What is the role of: pickets, scabs, stoolies, goons, the police, the courts, the government, the community?
12. What were the gains made by the I.W.A. or trade union movement?  
Obtain a copy of a union agreement.
13. What indications were there of racial prejudice? (ie. the Tyee system, denial of citizenship East Indians, etc.).
14. Study the job names (The I.W.A. in British Columbia, pp. 16, 19) and the terminology (Tough Timber, pp. 252 to 254) used by woodworkers.
15. What is the present day attitude towards trade unions?
16. How many parents belong to unions, or have served as elected officers in their union?

## ABBREVIATIONS

ACCL	All Canadian Congress of Labour
AFL	American Federation of Labour
BCLU	B. C. Loggers' Union
CCL	Canadian Congress of Labour
CLC	Canadian Labour Congress
CIO	Committee for Industrial Organization
CCF	Co-operative Commonwealth Federation
IWW	Industrial Workers of the World
LPP	Labour Progressive Party
LSWU	Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union
LWIU	Lumber Worker's Industrial Union
OBU	One Big Union
RILU	Red International of Labour Unions
TLC	Trades and Labour Congress of Canada
UBCJ	United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners

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# Lesson Plans

As a regular feature of this Newsletter, lesson plan outlines will be produced in a format which is intended to encourage teachers at all levels to develop lessons which will provide students with a better understanding of the importance of the contribution of workers to our society. These lesson plans are easily "convertible" in that they can be adapted for use at different grade levels. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the general ideas presented to suit their own students.

## WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY

A lesson plan for Primary grades.

GOAL - To create an awareness of the roles of parents in the community as part of the labour force.

OBJECTIVES - To enable students:

1. to become aware of the employer-employee relationship in the labour force.
2. to understand that different jobs have different working conditions, eg. job environment, job responsibilities, remuneration or no remuneration.
3. to learn about the interdependency of different jobs including job to job relationship as well as the collective benefits to members of the community.
4. to understand changes which are taking place in traditional and non-traditional male-female roles in the community.
5. to appreciate the contribution to the community which every job makes.
6. to understand the importance of the jobs which their parents have.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Wall display of pictures of men and women in many kinds of working situations, including the home.
2. Book display of people working, women at work, individuals working, groups working.
3. Introductory Questions and Discussion:
  - a) Do your parents work at home or in the community?
  - b) What kinds of work can people do
    - (i) at home?
    - (ii) in the community?
  - c) Do you know anyone who does any kinds of these jobs?
  - d) What kinds of work do your parents do?
  - e) What kinds of clothes do your parents wear when they work?
  - f) What kinds of things do your parents use in their work (note similarities and differences).

ACTIVITIES:

1. Bring to school one item for each parent that your parent uses at work (eg. a boot, a power saw, a drill, a broom, stethoscope, window cleaner, shovel, etc.).
2. Begin to prepare wall charts showing parent occupations, items used by parents (some suggested classification, depends on area: outside/inside, works with hands, with machines, for service; products: wood, metal, foods, clothes, etc.; or works for self, works for others;). Categorizations are dependent on area served by school.
3. Mapping of places where parents work. This can become complicated in larger urban areas, but can be very dramatic in one-industry towns, for example.
4. Field trips to work sites. These should be planned to relate to specific, understandable jobs rather than a complex overall "tour".
5. Interviews and discussions with parents. It is a good idea to set up criteria for interviews. Interviews can be done by inviting parents to the classroom, during visits to work sites or at home. For higher grades, tape recorders could be used with interview questions worked out beforehand.
6. For older students, take or collect a display of photographs of parents at work. Categorize pictures and add to wall displays or item display.
7. Role playing for different types of jobs (discourage sex stereotyping).
8. Murals, drawings, models, posters, charts.

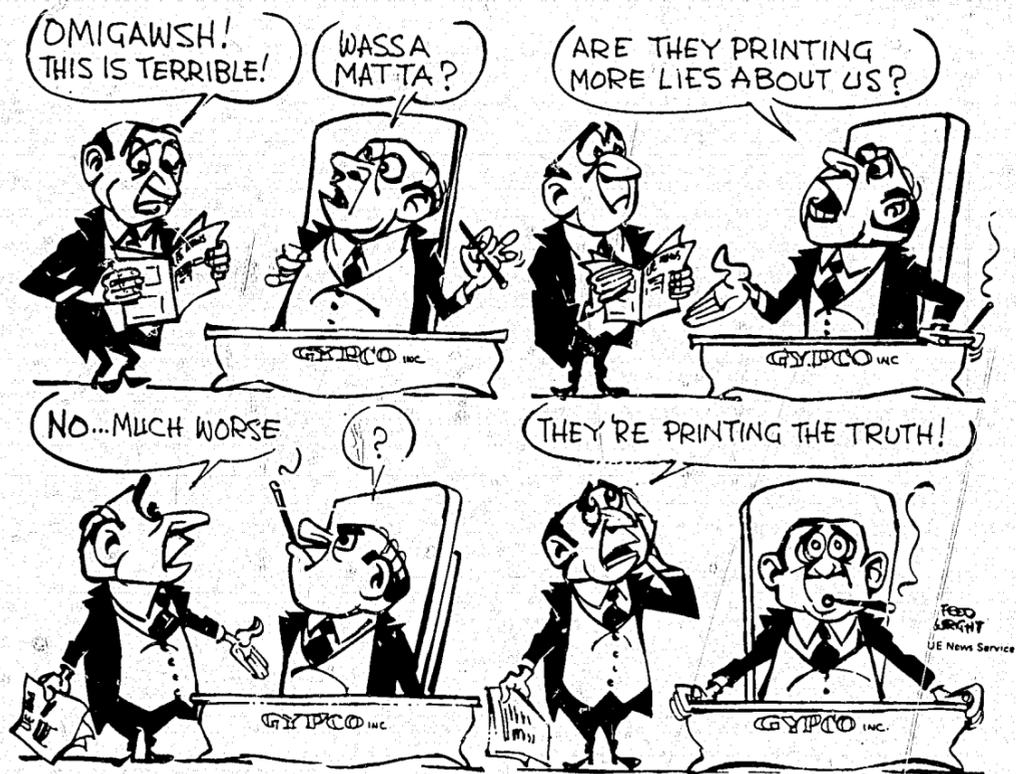
continued on page 14

9. If feasible, have students spend an hour with their parents at their work and report back to class on what they experienced.
10. Puppet shows with themes based on what the jobs are, who benefits from them, how they relate to one another, how the community benefits.

**EVALUATION:**

For the earliest years, it is helpful to tape record any discussions about the unit in order to assess how much is being learned. For older students, oral and written work, along with projects, can be assessed.

(Acknowledgment to the Powell River Five-Nine Project of Project Canada West for some of the ideas for this lesson plan approach. Copies of the Powell River Project, a unique approach to urban studies, are available from John Church at the BCTF.)



## 1913

A Wobbly song, "Lumberjack's Prayer," credited to a Finnish logger expresses the mood of that period:

*I pray, dear Lord, for Jesus' sake  
Give us this day a T-bone steak;  
Hallowed be Thy name,  
But don't forget to send the same.*

*Oh, hear my humble cry, O Lord,  
And send me down some decent  
board.  
Brown gravy and some German fried  
With sliced tomatoes on the side.*

*Observe me on my bended legs,  
I'm asking You for ham and eggs,  
And if Thou havest custard pies,  
I like, dear Lord, the largest size.*

*Oh, hear me cry, Almighty Host,  
I quite forgot the quail on toast;  
Let Your kindly heart be stirred  
And stuff some oysters in that bird.*

*Dear Lord, we know Thy holy wish,  
On Friday we must have a fish;  
Our flesh is weak and spirit stale,  
You'd better make that fish a whale.*

*Oh, hear me Lord, remove those  
'dogs'.*

*Those sausages of powdered logs,  
The bull-beef hash and bearded  
snouts,*

*Take them to Hell or there abouts.  
With alum bread and pressed beef  
butts,*

*Dear Lord, they've damn near ruined  
my guts;*

*Their whitewashed milk and  
oleorine*

*I wish to Christ I'd never seen.*

*Oh hear me Lord, I'm praying still  
But if you don't, our Union will  
Put pork chops on the bill of fare  
And starve no workers anywhere.*

THE I.W.A. IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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