

WORLD WOMEN'S MARCH IN OTTAWA OCTOBER 15, 2000



by Irene Pohoréčka

It was amazing. The World March 2000 in Ottawa was an amazing event – with people of many backgrounds and from all walks of life. The March itself, was actually two marches – one group from the west gathered at LeBreton Flats, while a group from the east gathered in Hull. Both marches converged enroute to Parliament Hill. It seemed a symbolic convergence of west and east -- English and French -- all focused on the issues of poverty and violence.

The rally marking the end of the march and demonstration was followed by a 45-minute meeting of a delegation invited to speak to Prime Minister Jean Chretien. The group which met with the prime minister presented 13 recommendations. Unfortunately, the meeting did not produce any immediate government action on either the major grievances or the specific recommendations made. Delegation members had earlier expressed the hope that the then impending federal election campaign would trigger a more immediate response from the government.

Our recommendations – That the federal government:

1. restore funding to **health care** and enforce the rules against the privatization of our health care system, beginning with Alberta.
 2. spend an additional one percent of the budget on **social housing**
 3. set up the promised **national child care** fund, starting with an immediate contribution of \$ two billion.
 4. increase **Old Age Security payments** to provide older women with a decent standard of living.
 5. use the surplus from the **Employment Insurance Fund** to increase benefits, provide longer payment periods and improve access, as well as improve maternity and family benefits.
 6. adopt **proactive pay equity legislation**
- "In 1998, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women reported that 40 percent of employed women had non-standard jobs (neither secure nor full-time) and women working full-time averaged 73 percent of men's pay ... To increase women's economic equality requires multiple strategies from facilitating unionization to raising the minimum wage. Laws to provide equal pay for work of equal value, and eliminate the wage gap are required."

7. fund **consultations with a wide range of women's equality-seeking organizations** prior to any legislative reform of relevance to women's security and equality

rights, beginning with the Criminal Code, and ensure access for women from marginalized communities.

8. implement a progressive **immigration reform** which provides domestic workers with full immigration status on landing; abolishes head tax on all immigrants; and includes persecution on the basis of gender and sexual orientation as grounds for claiming refugee status.

9. support the **cancellation of the debts of the world's poorest countries** and increase its contribution to international aid to .7 percent of the Gross National Product.

10. adopt national standards which guarantee **the right to welfare** for everyone in need and ban workfare.

11. recognize the ongoing exclusion of women with disabilities from economic, political and social life and take the essential first step of ensuring and funding **full access for women with disabilities** to all consultations on issues of relevance to them

12. establish a national system of **grants** based on need, not just merit, to enable access to **post-secondary education** and reduce student debt.

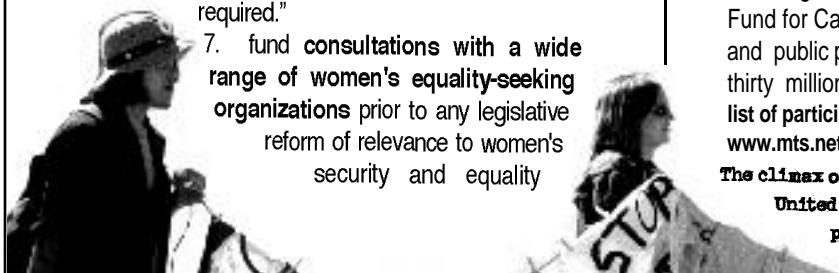
13. **special groups funding:** a) The federal government support women's organizing for equality and democracy by allocating by allocating \$50 million to ... women-controlled

groups committed to ending violence against women, such as women's centres, rape crisis centres and women's shelters. b) Recognizing and funding the three autonomous national Aboriginal women's organizations to ensure full participation in all significant public policy decisions as well as providing adequate funding to Aboriginal women's services, including shelters in rural, remote and urban Aboriginal communities.c) Fund for Canada-wide meeting of gay women in regards to legislative and public policy reform. d) Federal government provide core funding of thirty million dollars for equality-seeking women's organizations. For a list of participating countries and other international march information see www.mts.net/~mum



Irene Pohoréčka and Katherine Gauthier at Le Breton Flats in Ottawa.

The climax of World March 2000 was in New York City in front of the United Nations on October 17. With over 160 countries participating, a delegation met with UN officials.



191 Local Rep Report

About 90 members of Local 191, employed by The Brandon Sun are ready to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement with the employer, Adolph Setek says. The last contract between the bargaining unit and Thomson Corp, which owns the Brandon Sun, expired after three years on Dec. 31.

Setek said the workers have ratified their proposals. The union has asked the company to commence bargaining. So far, no date for the start of talks has been set.

Contract talks are also set to begin for employees of Spot Graphics, Setek said. Proposals have been forwarded to the company's owners, Trans-Continental Printing Inc. Workers have been without a contract since the end of November.

Setek said Local 191 has asked for clarification of an arbitration award concerning about 20 delivery drivers made last September. The drivers' jobs had been contracted out and almost all of them have had their hours cut drastically. Under the arbitration award, they were to have been reinstated in their old jobs. Clarification is now being sought regarding the arbitrator's ruling on reversing the paper's contracting-out practice and the payment of lost wages since outside contractors became involved in hauling papers.

Under the arbitration decision both company and union were to have negotiated the outstanding issues. The union's renewed call on the arbitrator resulted from its inability to set up meetings with the newspaper's management.

Setek also reported an impasse in the Free Press' appeal of a recent Manitoba Labour Board decision which declared some 30 district managers part of the Free Press bargaining unit, which includes about 500 people.



The newspaper earlier served notice that it intended to appeal the matter to Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench. For this action to proceed, the company must submit a legal brief to the court, which then seeks a legal response from the union before scheduling a hearing. No company brief

has so far been adduced, Setek said.

Meanwhile, a two-day hearing before a Revenue Canada adjudicator has

Buddy, Can you Spare a Few Hundred Million?

by Paul McKie

Almost a year after Thomson placed a For Sale sign on its papers, three papers still remain - The Brandon Sun, The Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal and The Winnipeg Free Press.



Thomson sold more than 40 of its U.S. papers and even parcelled off small properties in southern Alberta and the Kenora Enterprise weekly in northwest Ontario. But the media conglomerate can't seem to find buyers for its so-called Central Canada Strategic Marketing Group.

Israel Asper's CanWest Global got management hearts all a-flutter after the Winnipeg-based media company took over Conrad Black's Hollinger empire. Everyone expected CanWest to pick up the Free Press next.

But it hasn't happened yet. Lord Thomson wants too much for the paper and Asper doesn't want to pay. So for possible buyers that leaves ...?

As for Thunder Bay, strong rumours suggest the paper has already been sold to Horizon Publications, the same group that bought the Alberta papers. But for all the rumours no announcement has been made.

In Brandon several potential buyers have kicked at the tires but no one is buying.

So a year later union members are left wondering how much longer they can go on with an owner who keeps taking money out of the operation but doesn't seem too concerned about putting money in.



been set for Jan. 25-26. The Free Press had appealed an earlier Revenue Canada ruling that it remit Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance contributions for its carriers. The newspaper objects to Revenue Canada's decision to consider the carriers full-fledged employees. However, for the time being, the company has made contributions on behalf of the carriers.

If the Free Press loses its appeal, implications could involve contributions to Workers' Compensation Board, the Vacations with Pay Act and payroll taxes.



NEW CEP DELEGATES LEARN THE ROPES ...

Report from the MFL Convention

By Kelly Mazur

Janet Washington and I had the opportunity to represent Local 191 at the 36th annual convention of the Manitoba Federation of Labour in Brandon in September.

Both Janet and I soon realized how much we would have to learn and how much we would have to pay attention during the proceedings to keep abreast of what was happening and make an informed, intelligent contribution to the deliberations of delegates from all parts, industries and trades of Manitoba.



Being first-time delegates to a MFL convention, both Janet and I were impressed at how much we learned from the discussion of resolutions about the main concerns of the labour movement in this province and from what is generally taking place in the labour movement in Manitoba.

MFL President Rob Hilliard told delegates about the two main problems facing the federation this fall and winter. They are the dispute between the Canadian Auto Workers and the Canadian Labour Congress, and the proposed changes of the Manitoba Labour Act, Bill 44.

Hilliard explained that Bill 44 has already forced labour decision makers to

spend a great deal of time and energy to make changes advantageous to the working people of this province.

The federation feels the new bill is not radical at all, Hilliard explained. It contains no anti-scab legislation, no final-offer selection, and no sectoral bargaining provisions. With union certification sign-up levels set at 65 per cent, Hilliard said, the new legislation leaves a whopping six Canadian jurisdictions with labour legislation friendlier than what Manitobans will enjoy.

Hilliard noted that the previous Progressive Conservative Filmor administration amended the Manitoba Labour Relations Act three times - each amendment more regressive than the previous one.

Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti told MFL delegates of the serious danger posed by globalized capital with its twin agenda of privatizing vital public services and continued deregulation. Georgetti touched only briefly on the current struggle between the Congress and the auto workers.



3

CEP HOLDS FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Glen Dawkins

A new era in the history of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada was begun at the CEP's fourth national convention, last September in Montreal.

The convention, which brought together 1,300 rank and file delegates from the across the country including six members from CEP Local 191, featured the election of a new president, secretary-treasurer, vice-president media, and Western Region vice-president and administrative vice-president.



James Merchant, voting during elections at the convention.

Brian Payne, who took over from the retiring President Fred Pomeroy earlier in the year, was acclaimed as president. Andre Foucault was elected secretary-treasurer and Peter Murdoch was elected vice-president media. Dave Coles was chosen as

Western Region vice-president while Don MacNeil was elected as administrative vice-president, joining the incumbent Ron Carlson.

The Local had supported Foucault, Coles and MacNeil in their election campaigns. We also supported and were very active in the campaign of Gail Lem, who lost in her bid for another two-year term as vice-president media.

Thanks to the efforts of Local 191, a resolution was passed requiring that the national executive circulate its intention to increase the per capita dues to the locals no later than 30 days before the



CEP Local 191 Delegates to CEP National Convention (left to right)- James Merchant, Adolph Setek, Glen Dawkins, Paul McKie, Rick Palmer, Cindy Garofalo

union's biennial convention. At the last two conventions, the national executive has announced plans to increase the dues on the eve of convention. This resolution will give the locals time to consult with the rank and file on any dues increases.

It was one of 70 resolutions that were debated by rank and file delegates, including shorter work time, the CEP literacy project and the need for a drug testing policy that defends workers' rights and exposes the myths around random drug testing.

The convention affirmed that the fight for shorter work time is a defining issue for CEP. Delegates voted overwhelming to call on the union to make it a top priority. Delegates spoke of how shorter working time creates jobs and how employers use longer hours and more part-time work to decrease full-time employment.

As part of the convention agenda, Colleen Talbot, President of the SpinaBifida and Hydro-

cephalus Association thanked the delegates and the leadership of the union for contributions of almost \$50,000 made in 2000. CEP remains the largest single financial contributor of the association. Spina Bifida is a serious birth defect where the spinal cord does not develop properly, affecting 1 in 750 children born in Canada each year.

The union also announced plans to donate to a local food bank and homeless shelter at each convention. Delegates at the 2000 convention donated almost \$6,000 to Accueil Bonneau, a Montreal shelter, with the national executive matching that amount.

Local 191 was represented by its president Paul McKie of the Winnipeg Free Press, first vice-president Glen Dawkins of the Winnipeg Sun, second vice-president Rick Palmer of the Brandon Sun, rank and file member James Merchant of the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal and Local representatives Adolph Setek and Cindy Garofalo.

ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW
ABOUT YOUR LOCAL'S HISTORY?**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR
LOCAL RIGHT NOW?**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE NEWS
ABOUT UNIONS IN CANADA?**

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT
www.mts.net/~mum

4

PrintCEPIes, official news bulletin of CEP Local 191, appears monthly. Chapel chairpersons are encouraged to forward news items to newsletter editor Manfred Jäger at 257-8800, manfredjager@hotmail.com or mail to CEP, Local 191, 23-1313 Border St., Winnipeg, MB R3H 0X4. Email stories to mum@mb.sympatico.ca. phone: 949-2770, fax: 949-2774

SOCIAL COMMITTEE SURVEY

Your Social Committee would like their fellow Members to give them input on what event would hold the most interest for them. Here are your Committees suggestions.

Please mark your choices or give us your suggestions below.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Union Slo-Pitch Tournament | <input type="checkbox"/> Car Rally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casino Fantasy Night & Silent Auction | <input type="checkbox"/> Bingo Glo-Bowl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casino Bus Tour - 1 Day Junket | <input type="checkbox"/> Hay Ride |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Scramble Golf Tournament followed by a Social or Dinner | |

Other suggestions?
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Please submit this to the Union Social Committee through your Chapel Chairperson or at the office by February 20, 2001. This will give us enough time to possibly arrange something for this year.

The Social Committee wishes to thank everyone for their contributions to this query.

Anyone wishing to join the Social Committee is welcome to.

We meet on week days around 11 a.m. or as late as 2 p.m. for about 1 to 3 hours. Depending on what is on the agenda. Please feel free to call about the next scheduled meeting.