

THE FREE PRESSING NEWS

OCTOBER 10, 2002 - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA



BARGAINING UPDATE

On Tuesday, October 8, the joint council made a fair offer on outstanding non-economic issues so that we could move on to the serious issues that all members want addressed. To be fair and show the Company that we were willing to bargain, we withdrew several proposals, including a revised anti-harassment policy, a freelance clause in editorial, apprenticeship proposed in the mailroom, a new classification in creative services.

Our new offer proposed to include the paper's Ottawa bureau in the collective agreement. The Company said "no" -- even though all major daily newspapers in Canada cover their bureaus in their contracts.

We proposed a schedule for posting days off in the mailroom. The Company said "no" -- even though they follow the practice now.

We wanted a clause to ensure employees never have to use their own vehicles for work unless they volunteer it. The Company said "no" -- even though this is current practice. Plus, the Company indicted new employees would have to provide their own vehicles, and maybe all employees would eventually have to provide vehicles without any increase in the mileage rate of 32 cents per kilometre.

The Company said "no" to sub lines in technical maintenance and the mailroom,



STRIKE HEADQUARTERS

The CEP/GCIU strike headquarters is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for as long as the strike lasts. Your strike captains will be assigning you regular picket duties. You must picket or perform other strike-related duties (as assigned) in order to receive strike pay. A shuttle van is available to transport picketers between the strike headquarters and the Free Press. Picketing continues by carriers and district managers at the Free Press depots around the city. If you have any questions continue to phone the Local offices at 949-2770 (CEP) and 949-2775 (GCIU).

THANKSGIVING HARVEST

We may be facing hard times ourselves, but so are other people in the

even though such a sub line has worked well in the pressroom for decades.

The Company has refused to include the amount of the route bonuses in postings for available carrier routes, even though the carrier has no ability to negotiate the bonus amount.

The Free Press has said "Take a hike" to the following economic proposals:

- new sub-contracting clause
- improved job security
- improved vacation benefits (6 weeks after 18 years)
- vacation pay to part-timers comparable to full-time rates
- top-up for parental leave
- bereavement leave to include death of grandchildren
- improved benefits (increased life insurance coverage, AD and D, vision care, and current premium costs maintained)
- Company to pay half of extended health premiums

The employer's response to carriers was "no" to waiting time, no improvements to replacement system (vacation), and no changes to current system of chargebacks. Carriers receive only 24 cents per kilometer for gas mileage, and the Company offer was 27 cents by October 2004. (Inside workers get 32 cents.)

The Union has proposed an increase of 2.5 cents over the life of a three-year contract. The Company offered 1.5 cents over the life of the agreement with no retro pay.

community. We're holding a Thanksgiving food drive -- a Mountain of Cans -- at our picket line in front of the Free Press on Mountain Avenue. We'll deliver the food to Winnipeg Harvest in time for Thanksgiving. Starting today (Oct.10), please bring a canned good from home, and ask friends and neighbours to show support for our strike by bringing a donation too.

YOU MAKE \$60,000?!

President and publisher Rudy Redekop says you earn an average of 60,000 dollars a year. Tell that to carrier who makes on average 7,900 annually. Carriers make up 60 per cent of CEP 191's membership. Part-time workers at the Free Press earn on average 19,000 annually. Less than a quarter of the employees make an average of 58,000. With math skills like it's no wonder Rudy can't figure out an agreement we'd like.

KUDOS

Thanks to the news crew from CBC-TV that refused to cross our picket line to interview Rudy Redekop. Instead, the CBC made him travel downtown -- allowing him to see our picket line in full force up close.

RELAX ...

No picketing on Thanksgiving Monday (October 14). Spend some quality time with your family.

Look for the picket line photo album appearing

tomorrow.

SOLIDARITY!