

Injured Workers' Day

Saturday, June 1st, 1985

INJURED WORKERS VOICE



May/June 1985

Publication of the Union of Injured Workers
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NOW IS THE TIME!

On June 1, 1983 some 3,000 injured workers, led by the UIW, convinced the government to shelve its plan to implement Weiler's "actual wage-loss system". This scheme would mean that the WCB would set each injured workers' "loss of earnings". The injured worker would have to report earnings each year. If you were lucky and earned more money the WCB would lower your benefits. As well each injured worker would receive a lump sum equal to only a few years of the present pension. And, under this plan, the WCB would have the right to "deem" that you were earning wages even if you were not. So if the WCB decided you should be working as a security guard, whether or not you or your doctor agreed, the Board would "deem" (pretend) you were earning a security guards' wages and they would deduct those wages from your benefits, whether or not you took the job. Weiler also proposed that benefits end at age 65. This unfair scheme which proposed abolishing the permanent pension and increasing the discretionary power of the WCB was fought and defeated for the time.

In its place Labour Minister Russ Ramsey tabled Bill 101. This new legislation created a two-class system separating workers injured on-the-job before and after April 1, 1985. There were some small crumbs for injured workers hurt before April 1.

1 Supplements and Canada Pension Plan

After April 1, the WCB will not be able to cut off your supplement if you are getting CPP benefits. Part of what you get from CPP will be deducted from the supplement.

2 The Old-Age Supplement

Older workers, between 58 and 65 will be able to receive a special supplement equal to Old Age Security or \$273.80/month. You only have to prove that you are willing to work but cannot find a job because of your age and your disability.

Not everything in Bill 101 is favourable to workers hurt after April 1. One very negative section is S.43(1) which sets the earnings losses. The WCB will ask the hourly and daily rate of pay. They will then send the IW, and employer, a letter saying that the first calculation can be challenged. If either the worker, or worse, the employer, contests the WCB then calculates on the basis of the prior years' earnings. If there is lost time, due to layoffs or sickness, the injured worker will end up with a lower earnings basis.

The UIW is now demanding the following:

1. Full, automatic cost-of-living adjustments each year.
2. A "catch-up" increase for injured workers and improvements in the system of pension supplements.
3. Full equality for survivors of workers killed on the job before April 1. In Bill 101 the survivors benefits are quite generous.
4. An amendment to S.3(2) so that the worker is paid for the day of the accident.
5. An amendment to S.43(1) so that workers would get the benefit of the higher of the two earning levels calculated under that section.

The election on May 2 made possible the end of 42 years of Tory rule. The PCs have ended up with 52 seats, the Liberals 48 and the NDP 25. This means the NDP holds the balance of power. On the basis of many phone calls from members it became obvious that most injured workers wanted an end to the Tory regime. The UIW has developed an aggressive strategy, initiated during the campaign with a questionnaire to all candidates,

participation at all-candidates meetings and, now, a program which the UIW will use to judge the performance of both the NDP and the Liberals. Our 11 year history has taught us not to trust the Tories. Even in their state of insecurity and weakness, the PCs have shoved the so-called "Red Tories" to the front lines in an attempt to placate the forces of change in Ontario. We should remember that in the halls of power individuals don't count much. The new Labour Minister Bob Elgie (Ramsey was defeated by workers in

Sault Ste Marie) is the same individual who denied open hearings on Compensation reform; and supported Weilers' idea of wage-loss.

In a letter to Premier Miller, Bob Rae and David Peterson we said "the UIW will judge the political parties on the basis of their "actions" in support of our program. Now is clearly the time to press for the changes we have been advocating since 1974.

3 IMPORTANT DATES

- * Candle-Light Ceremony
QUEEN'S PARK
Thursday May 30 at 8 pm
- * Injured Workers Day
QUEEN'S PARK
Saturday June 1 at 10 am
- * Opening of the Legislature
QUEEN'S PARK
Tuesday June 4 at 1 pm



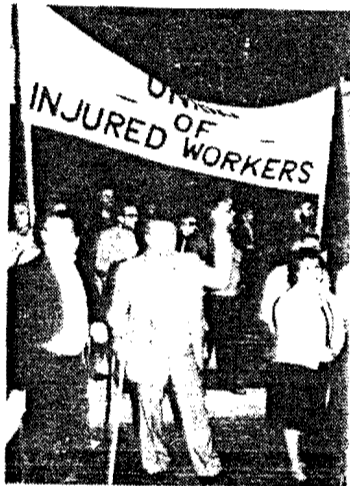
DIocese OF ST. CATHARINES

122 Riverdale Avenue

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CHANCERY OFFICE

17 May, 1985.



Mr. Philip Biggin, President,
Union of Injured Workers
1357A St. Clair Avenue, West,
TORONTO, Ont
M6E 1C5

Dear Mr. Biggin:

On the occasion of "Injured Workers Day", June 1st, on behalf of the Executive of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, I wish to express solidarity with injured workers, the disabled and handicapped, and all who suffer and find themselves marginalized in this Province.

As Pope John Paul reminded us often, the measure of a civilization is how it treats its weakest members. While Canadian society is slowly becoming more aware of the situation of the handicapped, there are obstacles to be overcome and progress to be made. Perhaps the greatest obstacle is the obsession of our technological society with productivity, profit, efficiency, speed and records of physical strength.

The very fact that there are so many thousands of injured workers in Ontario is one of the many symptoms of moral disorder in our economy. By placing greater importance on efficiency, competition and profits, than on the health and safety of those who work in industries, the value, meaning and dignity of human labour is being violated.

We must be wary of attitudes which treat workers as some kind of merchandise or commodity needed for production and then to be discarded. The law of the survival of the fittest should have no place in our social fabric.

To deny work to injured workers is to practise a serious form of discrimination, that of the strong and healthy against the weak and sick. Injured workers and indeed all handicapped people are, by their very humanity, full-scale subjects of work who are called to contribute to the progress and welfare of their families and of the community according to their particular capacities.

The Union of Injured Workers has become a mouthpiece for the weak, disabled and handicapped workers in Ontario. In a spirit of solidarity, we urge members of the Catholic community and all people of good will to join with us in supporting the struggle for basic human rights and social justice in the work place.

Yours truly,

Thomas B. Fulton

(Most Rev.) Thomas B. Fulton,
President,
Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops.

FUTURE UIW EVENTS

June 11 - 7 pm Italian Organizing Committee
Earls Court Community Centre
Lansdowne & St Clair W

June 26 - 7 pm English Organizing Committee
Ironworkers Hall
1604 Bloor St W
Between Dundas W & Keele

July 3 - 10 am
WCB - 2 Bloor St E
Possible demonstration to demand that the WCB operate in the interest of injured workers

Sept 2 - 8 am
Labour Day Parade
Join UIW float
and march to the CNE
Meet at CITY HALL

Sept 10 - 7 pm
Italian Organizing Committee

Sept 25 - 7 pm
English Organizing Committee

