

Annual Meeting: Committee on Canadian Labour History 29 May 1990

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Annual Meeting
Committee on Canadian Labour History
29 May 1990

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE (27)

Robert Babcock
Bettina Bradbury
Gail Cuthbert-Brandt
Bonita Bray
Lorne Brown
Christina Burr
William Burrill
Lykke de la Cour
Jacques Ferland
Alvin Finkel
Nancy Forrestell
Gerald Friesen
Larry Hannant
Craig Heron

José Igartua
Gregory Kealey
Linda Kealey
Margaret McCallum
Peter McInnis
Ian McKay
Kathryn McPherson
Danny Moore
James Naylor
Bryan Palmer
Mark Rosenfeld
Eric W. Sager
Allen Seager

AGENDA

Adopted as presented.

Minutes of last meeting, adopted as published in *Labour/Le Travail*, 24, (1989), 355-358.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Robert Babcock, who is not standing for re-election, gave an extensive review of CCLH activities over the last 20 years, explaining among other things the reasons for the founding of the journal: namely as a vehicle for publication of research in *Canadian* labour history.

Babcock called for further attention to the following issues:

- a) relations with the RCHTQ;
- b) preservation and use of business records;
- c) upgrading bibliographic resources to meet the standard of available American work;
- d) publication of a reader.

TREASURER

Gregory Kealey summarized the tabled financial statements and circulation data with the observation that "we are running hard to stand still," printing 1500 copies of the journal per issue, and moving 1200-1300 of them. Tables of contents for forthcoming numbers were also circulated. Kealey emphasized that the Special Issue on Newfoundland, like earlier issues on Alberta and Women and Work, arose out of the ordinary procedures of manuscript submission and evaluation.

The next volume of the RCMP Security Bulletins is well under way.

A strategy of marketing *Labour* publications (an increasingly important source of revenue) has been developed through Fernwood Books, whose representatives have an excellent record of promoting Canadian texts.

The *Labour* bibliography, mentioned in the president's report, is confronting problems of methodology (indexing) as yet unresolved.

On the issue of the reader it was M/S/C: That the publications sub-committee (Heron, Bradbury, and Rouillard) investigate the potential for creating a representative anthology of *Labour* articles, somewhat on the lines of *The Acadiensis Reader*.

OLD BUSINESS

Security Files:

Following discussion of our members' increasing interest in and use of state security files, it was M/S/C: That the Committee on Canadian Labour History urge The National Archives of Canada to make available to the researchers the Finding Aid for RG146, CSIS records.

Users of CSIS materials are urged to contact Jim Naylor at the University of Winnipeg, who has agreed to compile a directory of these individuals.

Symposia on Canadian Working Class History:

Craig Heron thoroughly reviewed the huge success of the first annual symposium held at the BCGEU hall in Victoria on May 26, 1990. Special thanks are due to Eric Sager and the British Columbia Government Employees' Union, for hosting the event. It was agreed that, depending on local resources, the symposium should be an annual event. Our colleagues at Queen's (Palmer, McKay, and McInnis) were enjoined to act for the next year.

Following discussion, the following principles were agreed upon:

- a) the subject matter should at least in part reflect the character of the region in which we meet;
- b) the event should be more simply called a 'workshop,' and ample opportunity given for general discussion: for example, use of 'break-out' rooms or groups;

- c) the labour movement should be involved in some way or another; for example, use of a union hall, invitations to speakers and participants from labour;
- d) it is a good idea to begin the day with informal introductions from all participants;
- e) a group social (for example, an organized lunch) should be part of the programme;
- f) a notice of and/or agenda for the workshop should be included in the CHA Newsletter.

Danny Moore of the National Archives/CHA kindly offered to undertake mailing and promotion, for a future year, thereby saving the major financial costs entailed this year (partly carried by the Public History Group at the University of Victoria).

NEW BUSINESS

Under this item a discussion took place on the issue of the title of the committee, and a change, proposed by some members, from:

'The Committee on Canadian Labour History'
to
'The Canadian Committee on Labour History'

There being no consensus on the question of the implications of such a change, or what it precisely signifies, it was M/S/C: That the executive investigate the issue of a change of title, so as to reflect the interests of the members, reporting back to the next general meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected, by acclamation:

President: Bryan D. Palmer (Queen's)
Vice-President: Kathryn McPherson (York)
Treasurer: Gregory Kealey (MUN)
Secretary: James Naylor (Winnipeg)

Following congratulations to members elected, to Gail Cuthbert-Brandt on her election to the CHA executive, and to Eric Sager for his honourable mention in the Macdonald Prize Context, the meeting then adjourned.

BUILDING BRIDGES

The Emerging Grassroots Coalition of Labor and Community

"Fragmented," "isolated"—such terms are often used to describe U.S. social movements today. But over the past few years, once-insular movements have been reaching out to cooperate at the grassroots level. *Building Bridges* portrays dozens of the literally hundreds of grassroots coalitions of labor and community groups that have developed over the past few years. It reveals a new, unheralded alignment which promises to transform American society as radically—and far more constructively—than Reagan's New Right coalition did in the 1980s.

Contributors include Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello, Jim Green, Andrew Banks, Patricia Lee, Jane Slaughter, Peter Rachleff, Barbara Richards, Charles McCollester and Mike Stout, Eric Mann, Bruce Shapiro, Janice Fine, Max Bartlett, Mel Duncan, Michael Pertschuk and Wendy Schaezel, Cindia Cameron, John Kuo Wei Tchen, Temma Kaplan, Kim Moody, Louise Simmons, John Brown Childs, Staughton Lynd, Daniel Weisman, Mark Ritchie, Carl Boggs, and Jill Nelson.

Edited by Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello

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