

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
PSAC LOCAL 70125 (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)  
HELD IN BOARDROOMS A & B, PSAC BUILDING  
233 Gilmour Street  
FEBRUARY 5, 1979

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The Acting President, Charles Landon, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Charles Landon                      Acting President  
          Françoise Maher                  First Vice-President  
          Joan LaMarsh                      Third Vice President

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Ed Walsh                                      Steward Committee

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Paul Nyznik	AS Chairman
Miki Sheldon	IS Chairman
Margaret George Blagrove	STSCY Delegate
R. Jiwani	STSCY Delegate
Hélène Goyette	STSCY Delegate
Joan Sparks	CR Delegate
Barbara Kennedy	AS Alternate

MEMBERS

Rick Murray	CR	A. Morey	STSCY
A. Laporte	CR	D. Turcotte	STSCY
E. Halpin	CR	J. Lizé	STSCY
R. Hutchinson	CR	J. Edwards	STSCY
B. McNeely	CR		

GUESTS

Bill Doherty	PSAC Vice-President
E. Ryan	National Director for Ontario
L. Fucile	PSAC Executive Secretary, National Component
C. Johnston	PSAC Regional Representative
C. Dann	PSAC Services Officer, National Component.

After introduction of the guests, the Acting President, Charles Landon, mentioned that he had also invited members of the Communicators Group who had been part of our Local until recently and especially those who had served on our Local's executive so effectively. An invitation had also been extended to Don Golding, National President, National Component, PSAC and to Ray Yerrell, Regional Vice-President Outside Canada. Letter have been received regretting their inability to attend.

Mr. Lloyd Fucile has agreed to take charge of the elections with Cathy Johnston assisting.

Charles Landon asked permission of the members for the presence of Leonne Kemball, our office manager. There were no objections.

1. AGENDA

At the Acting President's request the following be added. After item 7, Brother Doherty has kindly agreed to give us a short talk on the 'Role of the Local'.

M/S/C M. Sheldon, P. Nyznik Agenda accepted as amended.

2. GUEST SPEAKER - Lloyd Fucile, Executive Secretary, National Component, PSAC

Mr. Fucile had been asked prior to the meeting if he could speak on what action the PSAC was planning to take re the termination of the bilingual bonus.

Mr. Fucile said that he had been surprised that after the announcement in November that the bilingual bonus would be terminated, no members came forward then and complained. It was only in the last week when the announcement was repeated that he received four, and he emphasized four, telephone calls complaining and asking what could be done about it. The Bilingual Bonus had been negotiated by the PSAC, had been a hard fight to negotiate. Maybe the members didn't really think that the Government would stop the bilingual bonus - maybe they didn't care.

The PSAC Board of Directors met last week (end of January) but he was not in a position at the present time to give the decision of the Board. The Alliance has plans on regarding how you should help to let the Government know what you think of their action. What action the members were planning to take, were they willing to grieve? It is a right that was given to the members with a promise that it would not be taken away prior to 1983. Whether one receives the bonus or not, the member should also grieve to show the employer that you are not satisfied with this Government action. For some reason or other, this is not normally done - to grieve to help somebody else. If you wish to get something known, you have to learn to be working as a group. Don't quit now. Only half the battle is over and the war is yet to be fought. As a Local you have a most important role to play. If you don't do it, you are not going to achieve what you want and certainly the Alliance's.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, February 6, 1978.

M/S/C B. McNeely, E. Walsh that Minutes be adopted as presented.

4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's Report: Prepared by Maurice Lambert for period of February -December 1978.

ANNEX A - page 6

Interim President's Report: Prepared by Charles Landon

ANNEX B - page 8

M/S/C P. Nyznik, J. Sparks that reports be accepted as presented.

First Vice-President's Report: Prepared by Françoise Maher

ANNEX C - page 10

M/S/C J. LaMarsh, E. Walsh that report be accepted as presented

Financial Statement for 1978 - Prepared by Frank Arsenault (Past Treasurer)

ANNEX D - page 11

M/S/C F. Maher, B. McNeely that report be accepted as read.

5. BUDGET FOR 1979

As Chair of the Budget Committee, Joan Sparks explained the difficulties the Committee was experiencing in arriving at their recommendations. Various approaches had been tried. Unless of an increase in dues, the Local's security certificates would have to be cashed to meet the operating costs of the Local.

Charles Landon suggested that a separate meeting to deal with the Budget should be held the following month, as one month's notice is required. Bruce McNeely agreed that he would be present at that time.

M/S/C that the Budget for 1979 be tabled - Joan Sparks / Miki Sheldon.

Paul Nyznik asked that a copy of the Budget be made available to all members together with the notice of the special meeting. Agreed.

(See Appendix I - 1979 Budget approved at Special Meeting, March 12, 1979)

6. GROUP REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

AS Group: Presented by Paul Nyznik,

ANNEX E - page 12

IS Group: Presented by Miki Sheldon

ANNEX F - page 13

GS-MES (DIPLOMATIC COURIER): Presented by Nels Rosen

ANNEX G - page 14

STSCY Group: Presented by Joan LaMarsh

ANNEX H - page 15

OTTAWA HULL AREA COUNCIL REPORT: Presented by J. Sparks

ANNEX I - page 16

M/S/C Paul Nyznik, Joan Sparks that all reports be accepted as presented.

7. The Interim President, Charles Landon, invited Bill Doherty to kindly address the members.

### SUMMARY OF MR. BILL DOHERTY'S ADDRESS

He thanked the members for the invitation to attend the meeting. In accepting your invitation your Chairman advised me that this would be a good time to talk about the role of the Local.

The Local is the base of the PSAC and any organization for that matter but many people don't understand why. All of us feel that there should be a telephone number for which we pay 6, 8 or 10 dollars a month and through which we can get answers to all our problems. That would be an excellent system if we could make it work but unfortunately we cannot. So organization finds that they need a good strong rank and file base to resolve the problems, the ideas, the plans as much as possible at the Local level to come to a consensus or a majority opinion or a conclusion with which your larger organization can work.

If many of you have been following the history of this country over the past 50 years, you will have noticed that government at all levels is becoming much more maniable, much more easily impressed by pressure groups. Now think about it we have a pressure group for almost everything. It's the same in the USA. We have groups for almost every purpose we can think of and I don't think we should hesitate to call the labour movement, an organized pressure group.

The best way to make a pressure group effective is not by having someone to articulate the demands of the top of the organization and nothing else behind it - the most important thing is a good grass roots organization that can work at the important level of talking to members of parliament, indicating to the employer through the press, through all the mans at your disposal that you are either happy or unhappy. It's a job you have to do yourself. The point I want to emphasize is, the Local is the base.

One of the major problem in the Alliance and the Component is the lack of understanding on the part of a few people who really don't take an interest in the Alliance until they have a problem. When they do have a problem, they call the Alliance instead of their Component and when you ask did you phone the Component they say "What? Who?" When we get the information for which Department they are working for we then ask, did you phone your Local? - then we get "What's a Local?" The end results, we have to carry out a capsule of education over the telephone - and this cause a lot of delays. To eliminate these delays, the Local has to function day after day, week in and week out and it needs the people that will carry out the drudgery jobs. You would be doing a magnificent job if you could get 10% of your membership involved. Unfortunately in this busy world of ours, people have so many activities and they are also educated that somebody else can do the job. Education programmes are fine but the best form of programme is the one to one. Get an interested member approach another and get that member interested.

Mr. Doherty then asked the members if they had any questions. There were none.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Doherty and stressed, if he had well understood, if the members did not get united through their Local and continued to have the affairs of the Local conducted by the interested few, there was bound to be a lack of service and that the membership had only themselves to blame.

8. ELECTIONS

Lloyd Fucile presided over the elections, assisted by Cathy Johnston. Barbara Kennedy reported on the results of the Nominations Committee. Nominations were also made from the floor and called three times.

President	Françoise Maher	Acclamation
First Vice President	Joan LaMarsh	Acclamation
Second Vice-President	No nomination	
Third Vice-President	Hélène Goyette	Nominated by F. Maher, seconded by Joanne Lizé. Elected.
Corresponding Secretary	Margaret George Blagrove	Acclamation
Recording Secretary	Joan Sparks	Acclamation
Treasurer	André Laporte	Acclamation

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Publicity	Frank Haigh	Acclamation
Education	Rick Murray	Acclamation
Membership	Joan Jeakins	Acclamation
Steward	Ed Walsh	Acclamation
Foreign Service Directives	Ruth Hutchinson	Acclamation

OTTAWA HULL AREA COUNCIL

Joan Sparks	Delegate	Joan LaMarsh	Alternate
Miki Sheldon	Delegate	Barbara Kennedy	Alternate
Jean Edwards	Delegate	Rick Murray	Alternate

Thanks were extended to Brother Fucile for conducting the elections. Oath of Office was administered by Eleanor Ryan, National Director for Ontario to the new Executive.

Cathy Johnston was thanked for her help. She in turn thanked the Local for having invited her.

Chris Dann said he had enjoyed working with the outgoing executive and was looking forward to continued cooperation with the new executive.

Eleanor Ryan thanked the executive and added she was available to give any assistance required. She would like to be asked to the next Local meeting to describe her experiences over the past six months. She wished the new executive all the best.

Charles Landon thanked Leonne Kemball for the splendid work she has done.

The incoming President, Françoise Maher thanked everyone for coming and said she will need all the support the members can provide. She would especially like to thank Charles Landon for his efforts throughout the past year and hoped he will collaborate with the new executive.

9. ADJOURNMENT: M/S/C C. Landon, B. McNeely meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

N.B. Attached as APPENDIX I is 1979 Financial Budget adopted at a Special Meeting on March 12, 1979.

PSAC LOCAL 70125 (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)  
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT, submitted by Maurice Lambert for period of  
February 6, 1978 - December 31, 1978.

Looking back over the past year I recall a small group of individuals, a bit uncertain, who literally became a team serving the best interests of this Local and its members.

It all began with three major objectives: The possible formation of an External Affairs Component; the streamlining of the Local and its meetings and; a concentrated effort on Education.

Following the appointment of an ad hoc committee to look into all aspects of component status, a great deal of research and discussion, we organized a Special Lunch Hour Meeting to report our findings and seek the direction of our membership. The result was, probably, the largest ever meeting of the Local, with 321 voting members attending along with 20 or more observers and rand deductees. The meeting decided against any attempts to form our own component at that time and certainly showed us the value and possibilities available in noon hour meetings.

The Executive met at least once a month and more often when needed. We reviewed and culled the old files and reorganized where needed in the hopes of maximizing service to the membership. Each Officer, Committee and Group Chairman was encouraged to specialize in their own respective areas and to act as autonomous members of a working team. They did and I believe our membership got the best service possible from all concerned. We met with the Group Chairmen, explained our objectives and solicited their active support. Groups were re-organized and our list of active Officers, Chairmen, Delegates and Alternates nearly doubled. They actively supported the 5 day pedestrian traffic survey to assist in the hopeful solution of the problem crossing Sussex Drive for buses.

Although no formal courses were given by the Local, each edition of the COURIER carried educational material and I am certain that those who participated in our autonomy programme this past year would agree there is a great deal of education to be had through active participation.

One member was sent to McMasters University in Hamilton to attend their Alcohol and Drug Addiction course and we managed to encourage over a dozen members to sign up for Shop Stewards training.

A Welfare Committee was established in the Local and our Local initiated the establishment of a joint staff association, Employee Assistance Committee with PAFSO, IBEW, PIPS and ESSA. We established a new Local in the Alliance by supporting the CM Group's bid to do so and through our participation in the EAJC and LMC meetings have resolved many of the problems affecting our membership. the FSE concept, or APROD if you wish, is in the pilot project stage; The new appraisal procedure is near completion and discussions will begin with Management, February 8 on Diplomatic Passports and Immunities in the hopes of solving most of, if not all of, the 42 problem areas expressed by our members

serving abroad. The fact that many posts were not reporting the differences in exchange rates was brought to management's attention because of the losses to our members reported to the EAJC. Our FSD Committee has actively followed the NJC review and I understand that the final draft of a new FSD package is imminent. Delegates were sent to the CLC Convention in Quebec City and we actively participated in our own National Component Convention here in Ottawa.

It was a very good year for 70125, an active year, one to truly be remembered. Northin earth shattering but certainly not uneventful. A year in which foundations were built for things to come.

I wish to thank all those who served the Local and helped us to further the cause of our fellow members as well as the Local of its support and confidence throughout the year. Special mention must be made of Chris Dann, our Services Officer, Léonne Kemball and my Executive. It was sincerely a pleasure serving with you.

Thank you

(signed) Maurice Lambert  
Past President

**PSAC LOCAL 70125 (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)  
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From my viewpoint as First Vice-President and a new comer to the Union and Local scene three main events stand out during the past year. They were the vote on the formation of an External Affairs Component, the National Component Convention and the formation by the Communicators of their own Local.

The first and last events were undoubtedly linked and probably reflect the familiar attitude that large groupings composed of diverse interests are not as effective as smaller "independent" units representing narrower more localized views. This is an attitude we see at other, including the National, levels. Suffice it to say that the significance of the Communicators' departure is apparent when it is remembered that their members occupied the positions of President, 3rd Vice-President, Treasurer and Publicity Committee in the Local. The CM Group undoubtedly has done more than its share in supporting our Local and has set fine example to the rest of us.

The National Component Convention, the triennial get-together of so many public servants from across Canada is the sort of shock treatment which shakes one out of the fantasy, motherhood, world of "good ideas" and what "they" should be doing, into the real world of what can actually be done and what organization exists for doing it, and how to go about influencing this particular bureaucracy. Having been privileged to see the Convention in action I can understand how important it is to have grass roots support and how difficult it can be for this support to be effective.

This brings me to the last point in this valedictory report. It is no secret that quantitatively speaking interest in Union affairs at any level throughout the Department is minimal and the question why is of course continually being asked - only to be dismissed with a shrug followed by a frantic search by some of the dedicated few to find, among what is left of the dedicated ones, those who would be willing for to serve for yet another year. Apathy abounds. Why?



Primarily I believe because the membership feels itself impotent in the face of two bureaucracies - its employer and its union. In both cases the impotence steams from ignorance. How, in the case of the Union to overcome this? The stock answers are "get involved", take courses, ask questions study the system. And what happens? Masses of paper to read and to try to relate to; long, often boring meetings frequently concerned with procedure and not substance, out of hours voluntary work, not always leading to a clear objective and often increasing cumulatively.

I believe we have now reached a stage where we need to explain to our membership what they will lose when the dedicated few decide to quit, what will happen if there is no Local to serve them. It takes a crisis to produce support - have we reached this stage?

What in my view is needed at all levels of group activity is Leadership, Communication and Coordination. I respectfully submit that these are sadly lacking in many of our Community activities.

In closing I pay tribute to those who have served with me this year and particularly this past month - Françoise Maher, Joan LaMarsh. A special word too for Frank Arsenault of the CM Local who has kept our accounts so effectively as well as those of his own. Thank you Frank - you are a shining example of that dedication which is so conspicuous elsewhere by its absence.

There is no doubt that I personally, and the Local as a whole, owes a major debt to our office and clerk-typist Leonne Kemball - she has done an excellent job, advising on activities which might normally be done by Executive officers.

Finally, thanks and appreciation for Chris Dann's constant reliable and calm advice. He has sustained our membership in many ways during this past year.

Charles Landon

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SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Submitted by Françoise Maher

During my first term of office in the Union field, I followed up some dossiers already in progress and looked after a few items raised in the course of the year.

The main subject on my agenda was the departmental experience of a Foreign Service Concept in six of our posts abroad. As you know, the aim of the study is to try to determine how the various jobs done by our employees abroad, specially in smaller posts, could be incorporated into a category of employment which would allow particularly the SCY, the CR and the CM to be interchangeable. In general, the experience is welcomed because it officializes what is already being done and because it should be beneficial to the various groups of employees involved. Of course, there will be room for improvement and adjustment as the experience goes on. The Local has promised its collaboration and support and is being put up to date on the developments. It might however take some time before a conclusion is reached.

The matter of the cafeteria being crowded during lunch time thus conflicting with employees who have only half an hour for lunch was brought up. The Local made representation to the Department but, the cafeteria being open to the public, there will be times where it will be impossible to do anything. There is no difficulties when organized groups are looked after by representatives of the Department. The employees are expected to try to discuss the matter with their supervisors to try to find a solution before the Local is asked for help.

The Local was put 'au courant' of a case involving the husband of a secretary who was in the process of seeking his Canadian citizenship. The long period of waiting was seen to be detrimental to the wife in the eventuality of a posting abroad. After discussion of the case by the couple with the Citizenship Court, the processing was shortened. This should be kept in mind as a good reference case.

A Circular stipulating that Inspection Services representatives could make remarks on employees that seem not to perform their duties properly was criticized because the remarks would appear on the appraisal form without, it seemed, the employees being informed. The Department indicated that this was not its intention and issued another circular to clarify the situation.

The 2nd Vice-President had the opportunity to attend the National Component Convention as an observer. It was rewarding to learn and see how the proceedings go and to find that interventions made by employees of the Department in their various capacities were well supported.

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INFORMATION SERVICES GROUP (IS)

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SUBMITTED BY: Miki Sheldon, Chairman, IS Group

A dental insurance plan, the cost to be shared equally by employer and employee, is one of the demands submitted by the Alliance on behalf of the IS Group in the negotiations currently under way.

The group of over 900 members in the Administrative and Foreign Service Category who are engaged in public relations, writing, editing, etc., are trying for a new provision in the contract which will enable them to attend courses, conventions or study sessions.

In salaries, they are more or less in line with the Purchasing and Supply Group request of 12 per cent; but the IS Group has added a half percentage point, making it 12.5 per cent for all levels.

Other demands submitted by the IS Group in this round of bargaining are:

Three weeks' vacation up to six years of service; a gradual increase of one day a year up to four weeks after ten years' service; and five weeks after 20 years' service.

A 35-hour work week, seven hours a day; \$4.00 for meal allowance and a second meal period to be provided; standby pay to be increased to \$6.00 and \$18.00.

The Group is asking for a one-year contract, terminating on December 24, 1979.

(signed) Miki Sheldon

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GSMES-10 (DIPLOMATIC COURIER) REPORT

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SUBMITTED BY: Nels Rosen, Chairman

The competition for appointments as GSMES 10 (Diplomatic Courier) has been dragging on for 18 months. Appeals against the competition itself and acting appointments have been upheld in favour of Mr. R. Boisvert. The Department withdrew from a Supreme Court hearing on this same competition.

On January 1979 offers of appointment as permanent Diplomatic Couriers were received by the first eleven candidates on the eligible list. Ray Boisvert is number 12 on the list. The remaining eight positions (19 positions all told) are apparently to be filled by acting appointments and Ray Boisvert is still not being considered, either on a permanent or acting basis, although he has won all his appeals. The PSAC is aware of the situation and are pursuing the matter.

There is nothing further to report.

(signed) N.A. Rosen,  
Chairman

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ANNUAL REPORT of the  
SECRETARIAL, STENOGRAPHIC AND TYPING GROUP  
Local 70125  
P.S.A.C.

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January, 1979.

A meeting was convened by the First Vice President of the Local on Sept. 7th to elect a chairperson, 4 delegates and 4 alternates. Duly elected were: Chair - Joan LaMarsh; Delegates: Cathy Knorr, Rashida Jiwani, Janice Tripp, Hélène Goyette; Alternates: Margaret Blagrove, Carolyn Knox, Jean Burns, Liette Cadieux. During the meeting input to the bargaining round was solicited, and the first efforts of the newly formed executive of the group were to consolidate and forward the input through the Local. All our proposals were approved and forwarded and accepted for the bargaining process.

A meeting of the Group executive was held to formulate long and short term plans and define objectives. The first requirement established was the need for education by the membership in general and the executive in particular. To this end several members attended weekend courses on Stewardship and Local Officers training. More members are listed to attend courses early in the year.

The Group recognizes the pressing need for participation by active and interested members, and that this is an ongoing problem. In an effort to arouse interest a coffee and doughnut get together during February is being planned at which a Regional Representative will be asked to speak informally on membership responsibility. At the same time a drive for new members will be pursued.

With the reorganization of the Local it was appreciated that the Group's responsibility must be extended into the broader range of the Local's activities and a search was undertaken to identify responsible and interested members to stand for nomination to the 1979 executive of Local 70125. In our efforts to identify interested persons we have found several rotational secretaries who are interested in taking weekend courses in Stewardship to provide knowledgeable assistance when serving abroad. They are being encouraged to take the course before being posted.

During the year some seven or eight complaints were resolved within the Group. For the record, these concerned "compulsory" overtime and erroneous assessments. Concern has been expressed by some members of the group over the eradication of the second language bonus for secretaries.

Genuine appreciation is expressed to the outgoing executive for their valuable assistance in establishing and guiding the faltering footsteps of the newly organized Group, and to Region for its educational assistance and to the Component for emergency advice and follow-through.

The objectives for 1979 remain. Little has been done to achieve them but we have hopes for the next year.

*Joan LaMarsh*

Joan LaMarsh  
Chair  
Secretarial, Stenographic and  
Typing Group

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OTTAWA-HULL AREA COUNCIL REPORT: Submitted by Joan Sparks, Delegate

The Ottawa-Hull Area Council's past year was highlighted with political action in addition to its regular group activities. General monthly meetings continued to feature a guest speaker, but with the arrival of Bill C-28 in the spring, the Council put much of its energy into a strong campaign which continued into the fall by-election when candidates were confronted with a "Fair Deal for Public Servants" and a rally was held at the Civic Centre.

As always, a wide variety of subjects were brought to OHAC meetings for information or discussion and action, such as the CLC campaign to organize bank workers, CMHC housing co-operative programs, the Unemployment Service Centre, contracting out and the plight of INCO strikers in Sudbury. An ad-hoc committee collected toys and food for the strikers, held a benefit dance to raise funds and joined the Christmas convoy to Sudbury. Local 70125 contributed \$200.00 to this worthy cause.

On Tuesday, January 16, OHAC launched a 26-week TV series entitled "Insight". The main objective is to improve the public servant's image by showing various members at work and active in their community. Information on union events, personalities and social issues are also to be featured.

An Economics Seminar and a Union Counselling course were sponsored by OHAC in co-operation with the Ottawa District Labour Council, both of which were well attended.

As a general comment, OHAC meetings throughout the year were interesting, lively and productive, with an effective executive headed by Diane Astles, President.

(signed) Joan Sparks

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Prepared and Submitted by: Françoise Maher

A year ago, the Executive of this Local, with its limited experience, but full of hope and good ideas, started its work with enthusiasm. As months went by, three incumbents of jobs on the Executive, left: Joan LaMarsh, Hélène Goyette and Joan Sparks. In External Affairs, we are used to that kind of movement. We then welcomed a newcomer: Pat Lalonde.

The Executive wanted to put the emphasis on participation, education and publicity. In one instance, on the occasion of the sorting out and delivery of income tax dues receipts, the members participated and made the exercise a great success. As to education, regular PSAC courses were offered and a series of noon courses given at the Pearson Building by Carolyn Combs, PSAC Regional Representative and her colleagues. As to publicity, Frank Haig put out a very good issue of "The Courier" and during the course of the year, proper publicity was made of events, with the means we had, since we were refused paid use of departmental facilities.

Reports on the ongoing business were made by means of the Minutes of the monthly meetings and various departmental notices. Some of the questions studied at the EAJC and LMC meetings have been partly or fully answered like the pedestrian crossing in front of the Pearson Building, the code of conduct, the diplomatic passports as far as security is concerned. Whatever we can think, these meetings are keeping the doors open between management and employees; negotiations take time.

The committee chairmen and some group representatives along with volunteers, looked after specific dossiers and issues that were passed on to them. A good point goes to the SCY and CR groups which were more active this year in looking after their own affairs.

How do we evaluate the work done? Taken into account that the members directly involved with the business of the Local do it voluntarily, in their spare time: noon, evenings, weekends, besides their personal obligations, with a budget of \$1.00 per member per month, much has been done and well done as in previous years. Enthusiasm of the first months needs to be kept alive by support from the members. We can say jokingly, "No news, good news", it is not the way to motivate anybody to keep spending energy on a job which keeps getting more and more interesting, just for the sake of it. Without the involvement and support of more members, Local 70125 will collapse and whether we like it or not, we will be less than a drop of water in an ocean within the PSAC. The dues will continue to increase just the same but, without an active Local, External Affairs members will have no say in their own affairs. This message seems hard but let's be realistic and not count on others. Each of us has its share of responsibility in the work to be accomplished.

My last and pleasant duty is to thank the devoted members of the Executive, all members who gave us a hand in the course of the year with their comments and suggestions. Thank you to our Service Officer, Chris Dann, our Regional Representative, Carolyn Combs, our colleague Eleanor Ryan. At this stage, the whole membership I am sure wishes to pay a special tribute to Leonne Kemball, our Local office clerk, who ensures the continuity of the down to earth business, day after day, and without whom we would often be at a loss. Finally, a sincere thank you to all those who have in a way or another given this Local their support.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - Prepared and Submitted by:  
Margaret George Blagrove

As First Vice-President of the Local since the resignation of Joan Lamarsh in May of last year, I wish to say that I have enjoyed the experience, and I hope that I have helped the outgoing executive, especially Françoise Maher, through my encouragement and support. Apart from the SCY Group activities, which are reported separately, I wish to mention my participation last April in the Ottawa-Hull Seminar (reported on separately). Such information sessions do give one some idea or understanding of the very complex issues relating to the Union. It also affords one more of an idea what is available to its members in the way of educational seminars, courses, etc.

My only other remark would be that I feel very strongly that until a larger number of the membership realize the benefits of participating in their Union affairs, if only to become informed on a number of issues that affect them, there may not be a Union, or at least not one as it is presently formed with too few working on behalf of too many.

Pessimistic but realistic.

Margaret George Blagrove

February 25, 1980