

September 8, 2005



TO: MGEU Members at the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation

Sisters and Brothers:

I am writing to you regarding the current raid being undertaken by Teamsters Local 979.

I believe it is important for you to know the facts in this matter because it has serious implications for the labour movement both in Manitoba and in Canada.

It is my understanding that the Teamsters have attempted to deflect criticism in this matter by claiming that the MGEU has undertaken raids against its members in the past. The fact is the two parties have had jurisdictional disputes that have been handled democratically by the Manitoba Labour Board. Because a union does not like what the rulings say does not give it license to begin raiding campaigns. Make no mistake: the MGEU has not conducted raiding campaigns against the Teamsters Union. The Teamsters' effort is not retaliation – it is unquestionably raiding.

A major concern for me is the possibility of this type of behaviour escalating or spilling over to other provinces. The overriding goal of the labour movement should be to organize the unorganized, thus ensuring more people can attain fair wages, decent benefits and job security – not to expend our energy and resources battling other unions.

It is my contention, and it is shared by labour leaders in Manitoba and across the country, that raiding inevitably helps the employer and undermines the collective goals of workers. There is a reason the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Constitution contains Articles forbidding it. The Teamsters pledged to uphold the CLC Constitution and they have broken that promise.

Attempts have been made to resolve this matter at the national level by both the CLC President Ken Georgetti and myself. I know the Manitoba Federation of Labour and other prominent labour leaders in Manitoba have said they will not support the Teamsters now or in the future unless they cease this raid. And I would strongly encourage you to say no to the Teamsters and their raid.

In solidarity,

James Clancy
NUPGE President