

Third front

Postal unions launch anti-cutback campaign

by DAVE BLAIKIE

OTTAWA (CP) — The country's largest postal unions have launched a national campaign with the aid of the Canadian Labor Congress to battle service cuts at Canada Post, including the unpopular trend toward group mail boxes and away from door-to-door delivery.

"Service must become the top priority of Canada Post," Congress president Shirley Carr told a news conference Monday. "And we intend to see that it happens."

Flanked by the presidents of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Letter Carriers Union of Canada, the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association and the

Union of Postal Communications Employees, Carr said the campaign will include the following steps:

■ Distribution of one million protest cards to Canadians for free mailing to federal political party leaders and MPs at their Parliament Hill offices.

■ Placement of advertisements in major daily newspapers urging the public to "help us put the service back into the postal service."

■ Distribution of a questionnaire to MPs asking where they stand on the issue of post office cuts.

■ Establishment of links with community groups to widen the lobby for improved service.

■ Distribution of an information booklet to news organizations and "people influential in the community" to explain postal problems and seek help in improving service.

■ Lobbying at the local level to draw town and city councils into the fight against cuts.

Arguing that a tight-fisted Conservative government rather than postal employees are to blame for post office woes, Carr said only pressure from the public will change the government's mind. However, she added "there may be a danger" that the campaign is starting too late to influence the government in drawing up a new business plan for the post office.

The plan now is expected to be

made public sometime late next month. It will spell out how Canada Post will wipe out its debts by a March 31, 1988, deadline set down in the last federal budget.

Carr and the postal union leaders accused the Tory government of favoring private business over public institutions to the point of undermining the job that Canada Post could be doing.

Letter carriers president Bob McGarry said Tory policy prevents the post office from competing effectively with the private sector

in the small-package business.

Inside workers president Jean-Claude Parrot said a similar bias has kept Canada Post from opening up significant numbers of profitable new retail postal outlets, known as New Directions stores, to raise revenues and maintain services.

Communications workers president Denis Gagnon said the latest round of cuts includes a 50-per-cent cut in staff assigned to process problem mail.

Lloyd Johnston, head of the post-

masters union, said a crisis has occurred in rural areas where 72 post offices have been closed to save money in the last six months.

Carr said reversal of the trend toward group mail boxes is a major goal of the campaign because all Canadians living in areas where door-to-door service can be provided should be getting it.

McGarry estimated it would cost \$6 million a year at maximum to provide door-to-door delivery to the estimated 200,000 Canadians now being served by group boxes.

How racist group avoids hate laws

by CAROLYN ADOLPH
Southam News

OTTAWA — A group of white supremacists based in Alberta and the western U.S. is getting around Canada's hate propaganda laws by using computers instead of paper to transmit their literature.

The Aryan Nations, an organization of neo-Nazis who believe Adolf Hitler was a prophet sent by God to cleanse the world of certain races, has a computer network to transmit hate propaganda from posts in San Diego, Houston, Chicago, and Hayden Lake, Idaho. Anyone in Canada and the U.S. can tap into the network by calling one of the telephone numbers.

Richard Mosley, a legal adviser to the Justice Department, said using the network to transmit hate propaganda into Canada is legal.

It is illegal under the Criminal Code to import hate propaganda or distribute it in Canada. But, said Mosley, a judge would probably rule that the definition of hate propaganda as "any writing, sign or visible representation that advocates or promotes genocide" excludes computer messages because they don't have the same "visible form" as paper does.

Mosley said the government has no plans to amend the law, even though the Canadian Human Rights Commission recommended it do so last April.

"We've taken the view that there may be some kooks out there who are using their computers to communicate between themselves, but that we've seen no evidence of that's of such a serious nature that it requires an amendment to the Criminal Code."

One of the messages on the San Diego branch of the network counselled, "Assume the government is a mad dog and deal with it accordingly. Set up cottage industries, barter goods and services, get rid of your TVs, exercise, learn how to kill, learn survival skills, set up your own interest-free monetary system, track down JDL-ADL-JDO (Jewish groups) smegma and take appropriate action, use that CB to get the word out, call Christian talk programs and give the Identity message, buy books on harassment and try the techniques out on the jew-pharisees, be independent so you reduce detection probabilities, put literature out, support White organizations."

The problem would be considered more serious, said Mosley, if the exact size of the Aryan Nations was known. He thinks the estimate of 6,000 in the U.S. and Canada is exaggerated.

Mosley said that even if the law against hate propaganda was amended to include computer transmissions, the amendment might prove too hard to enforce.

"It's one thing to say you can't import it. It's another thing to catch the stuff. So they are, I think, promoting this network simply as a means to attract further attention. And should be respond with a knee-jerk reaction to amend the laws? That's exactly the type of attention they want."

The government heard of complaints against the Aryan Nations computer network last April, when the Canadian Human Rights Commission tabled its annual report in

the House of Commons. The Commission recommended that Parliament block access to phone numbers linking up with the computer network.

The complaint that resulted in that recommendation came from the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association, which also laid complaints against Ernst Zundel, who was convicted of distributing false news, and John Ross Taylor, who was convicted for transmitting hate messages by telephone in Toronto.

Terry Long, a Caroline, Alta. farmer who calls himself High Aryan Warrior Priest and leader of the Church of Jesus Christ Christian Aryan Nations, plans to set up a training camp for "Aryan warriors" and has said he will set up a computer network in Canada "soon as we get the money together."

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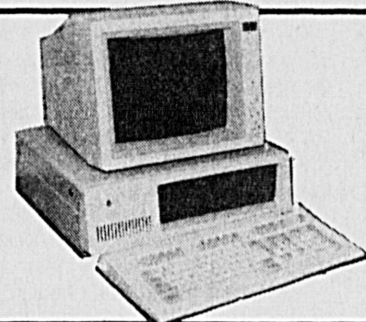
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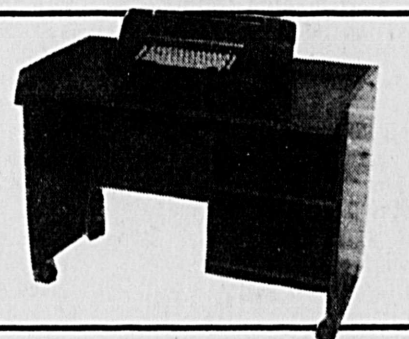
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Garbo's autograph fetches \$880

by Canadian Press

An autograph of actress Greta Garbo on a tiny slip of paper sold at auction in New York City for \$880 US, the auction's organizer said.

The signature, in ink on paper measuring 6.3 by 3.8 centimetres, was bought by a Florida collector, said Herman Darvick, president of Universal Autograph Collectors' Club, which sponsored the sale Sunday.

Signed photos of singers Michael Jackson and Madonna brought in \$110 each.

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