

"STORM BREWS AS WORKERS DIVIDED" Jan. 20 1956

- 57 delegates at the annual convention of FFVWU at the Hotel Prince Charles, a storm brewed today during deliberations
- the federation's executive has voted 3-2 against a merger with the teamsters union.
- Charter with the teamsters was presented to the seven locals in ceremonies last December 11, but was opposed by Penticton, Summerland, and Vernon who failed to have official representation
- a controversial resolution is that the federation should become local 48 of the Teamsters
- when workers struck last fall, the Teamsters moved in with financial assistance and this brought about the possibility of amalgamation with the powerful and rich union
- Sequence of events leading up to the workers present dilemma is:
 - Dec. 4 the executive board of five from Penticton, Oliver, Kelowna Okanagan Centre, and Vernon met in Kelowna
 - it was at this meeting that the executive went against the majority of locals and voted 3-2 against affiliation with the Teamsters.
 - Vernon and Oliver executives were against affiliation
 - Penticton proposed that the matter be set over until next spring when the TLC and CCL will merge
 - Kelowna and Okanagan Centre voted for affiliation
- It was then decided to go ahead with affiliation plans and the charter presentation despite the executives stand, on the basis that original agreement was that expression of opinion by the majority of locals would be the guiding rule.

"FRUIT MEN OKAY TEAMSTER UNION"

"Some Delegates Walk Out in Protest of Affiliation"

- Penticton- the FVWU (TLC) voted by a 5-4 margin to join the independent Teamster's Union
- Later delegates to the annual convention of workers walked out in disapproval
 - vote: 30 to 24 and reflected a split in the fruit workers ranks since a strike last fall.
 - the 16-day stoppage ended Sept. 9 when the union accepted a five cents an hour across the board increase, half of what they asked for
 - during the strike, the Teamsters had offered financial assistance to the packers
 - "the dissidents walked out after John Sweeney of Seattle, secretary treasurer of the Western conference of Teamsters had spoken."
 - "When the delegates said, "we're walking out" they were answered by their fellow workers on the other side of the fence with "goodbye."
 - "they left the meeting despite the impassioned pleas for unity by president George Snowdon, TLC vice-president R.K. Gervin and Mr. Sweeney."
 - Mr. Sweeney said "this is one of the great things of our democratic process, the right to be able to do what we want to do."
 - "But I will predict that they will be breaking down the doors to get back with us."
 - the remaining delegates went on the record as inviting those who took the dissidents to return.