

PENTICTON HERALD Monday, Jan., 23rd, 1956

"TEAMSTERS TAKE OVER FFVWU DESPITE WALKOUT"

"Door Will Be Kept Open for Reconciliation"

- "A dramatic and history-making convention of fruit and vegetable workers in the Okanagan concluded its three-day meeting late on Sunday afternoon, ending sessions that completely changed the name, and perhaps the character of the fruit union movement in the valley." Before the Convention ended, it witnessed:

A final definite sign-up with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America.

The walkout of a group of delegates, those representing the locals in Penticton, Vernon and some from Summerland.

Election of an entirely new executive.

Passage, unanimously, of a resolution calling for a federal Royal Commission to investigate all phases of the fruit industry.

"SNOWDON WANTED TO PREVENT SPLIT" (same newspaper article)

"Even the opening of the convention was not without its drama, for before the convention was hardly seated, George Snowdon, president throughout the stormy 1955 term, made his own position quite clear:

"I have been asked by quite a lot of people to make my stand decisive. They seem to think I am sitting on the fence. There is an issue, there is no denying that, and, in spite of my personal feelings, I have tried to bring the two sides together, for I do not want to see this organization split, for if you split, you may as well pack up and go home."

"My personal opinion whether I am for the Teamsters or a continuation of the Federation does not matter. There are some who say I am for the Teamsters and get paid by them, or have been promised something by them. I get paid by you, as Director of Organization for part of 1955, and nobody else, and you have been made no promises."

"As far as I am concerned, it is not a case of whether you decide for the Teamsters or for the Federation; it is rather that you avoid a split. We have worked on the rule of the majority and I think we should continue with that. I believe that when nine out of eleven locals voted for the Teamster affiliation that was a democratic vote as you can get. As for the charges, and counter charges, you are splitting hairs on both sides, and I believe you would be better to forget the whole thing."

"GERVIN MAKES APPEAL FOR UNITY"

- Snowdon then called on Van., R.K. Gervin, vice-president of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, who said that he had received instructions from the president of the congress to come to Penticton and perform certain duties.

- his letter suggested that as vice-president of the Congress, he should chair the convention at the opening, because it concerned two affiliated bodies, linked with the TLC; then to entertain a motion regarding the affiliation, and, once a majority had voted and ruled to join with the Teamsters, to disband the original convention and reconvene under that auspices