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"

UNION JUSTIFIES ITS STRIKE IN OKANAGAN -- REPLY TO "PROSPECTOR" COLUMNIST"

"Following is the text of a statement from Mr. J Clayton Walls, an official of the International Woodworkers of America CCL-CIO 249 Bernard Ave. Kelowna. Mr Walls replies to comments on the recent Okanagan fruit strike which appeared in the the column entitled, "My Views" by Janet Stevenson. The views of Mr. Walls like the views of of Prospector columnists, do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.

"I was amazed to read on the Editorial Page of the issue of Sept. 16 last, the comments of the writer of the column "My Views", in respect to the recent strike in the Okanagan fruit industry. I say "Amazed" because in my opinion the analogies drawn and the conclusions reached are based on false assumptions and misinformation insofar as the labour movement is concerned.

I have intentionally delayed writing this letter until the heated discussions and furore cause by the strike have now abated somewhat, and thus it is now possible to assess the matter with a more detached and objective attitude. Labour principals are the same, be they applied to a plant that is owned ;by a "big owner who is living in idleness on his yacht" or owned by a hard working small operator or by a growers co-operative. Christian Social principle apply to all. The workers employed by them, regardless of ownership, have a moral rith to recieve a just wage in return for their labour. By the same token, we recognized that the woner has a right for a fair return on the money he has invested, or the grower receive a fair return for his produce.

"Not What Labour Unions Built For"

The seeeping statemnt made by the writer, to quote.... "To get back to the strike".... I don't think that one like this is a bit fair. This sort of thing isn't what labour unions were built for. They were to stop factory owners, etc. from making exhorbitant profits instead of sharing them with the