

"MAY ATTACK CERTIFICATION" -- VERNON NEWS JAN, 23/56

"FRUIT LABOUR SETUP SPLIT WIDE OPEN AT CONVENTION"

"The whole thing was railroaded and as far as we are concerned the fruitworkers' union movement in the Okanagan is split wide open."

-thus the former North Okanagan vice-president of the FFVWU (TLC) Clarence Holmes summed up events when he returned to Vernon from the Federations annual convention in Penticton.

--Holmes said the break up was "disastrous", said it was the most unhappy convention he had been to in the Federations' 10-year history.

- Holmes led the Vernon delegation in walking out of the convention

-Holmes was one of the executive majority that refused to accept a Teamsters Charter come weeks ago.

-Mr. Snowden at the same time assumed office as director of organization when Brian Cooney of the Okanagan Centre was ousted from the post.

-the charter was accepted by several locals at a meeting attended by Federation president George Snowden.

Holmes: "The local autonomy they enjoyed in the past has been thrown out of the window." "Vernon won't even be a local under the Teamsters' organization."

--it was predicted that the group who walked out of the convention "would be breaking down the doors to get back with us."

-the rebels however, did not relent- and did not return to the convention."

-Mr. Holmes said that when the Teamsters first came into the Okanagan picture, "they said that if there was sign of a split in the Okanagan, they would get out." But, the intruding union had not done so."

--from other local sources last night it was learned that the old school Federationists were not prepared to accept the new deal without a fight.

-Up here it might come to having the thing contested, when we've found out what the people want to do."

-The Teamster affiliation had not been accepted by the labour department yet, and it transpired that a possible manoeuvre would be to challenge the certification of the new regime."