

NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1976-77

It is with pleasure that I present the fourth annual report of the New Zealand Industrial Relations Society. The past year has been one of mounting industrial conflict, with the largest number of stoppages since 1951, and consequently growing public concern with industrial relations. This has been reflected in the great increase in membership of our society, which has trebled during the past year, rising from 45 to 145. We are still a relatively small organisation, but with the establishment of a branch in Wellington we are at last becoming a truly national society.

Six general meetings were held during the year, all at the Royal International Hotel and all well attended:

- 4/10/1976 Bill Andersen on "Are there Political Strikes?"
- 29/11/1976 Brian Picot on "A New Zealand Approach to Industrial Democracy."
- 28/ 2/1977 Panel discussion on "Recent Changes in Industrial Legislation."
- 18/ 4/1977 Panel discussion on "The News Media and their Role in Industrial Relations."
- 13/ 6/1977 Conrad Blyth on "Incomes Policy and Inflation."
- 29/ 8/1977 Barry Tucker on "Wage-fixing in the State Services."

The publication of a journal has always been a prime objective of our society. The first issue of the **New Zealand Journal of Industrial Relations** appeared in May of last year and four further issues have been published since then. There is no doubt that the journal has been a major factor in the society's expansion and our thanks are due to the joint editors, Margaret Wilson and John Deeks. We can be proud of the high standard already achieved and we hope to expand the size of each issue if finances permit. Apart from members of the society who received the journal automatically, we have a growing subscription list — some seventy at present — of individuals and institutions in New Zealand and overseas.

Thanks to Mike Dakin (a former vice-president) and Brian Stephenson (also ex-

Auckland), a branch of the society was formed in Wellington during the year. The initial meeting, by invitation only, was held on 31 March with a good attendance from different interest groups — employers' and union representatives, as well as staff of government departments, the university and the media. I attended this meeting on behalf of your committee and spoke on the aims and objects of our society. Steve Marshall, our Publicity Officer, was also present and a strong local committee was elected which arranged the first public meeting, late in June, with the Minister of Labour as the main speaker. This latter meeting attracted nationwide publicity on radio and television, and the young Wellington branch seems well launched on its career. The growing number of members and subscribers in Christchurch gives grounds for hope that there too a branch can be formed and this is a project that the incoming committee must keep in mind.

Last October the committee undertook to prepare submissions on the Industrial Relations Amendment Bill. The first draft, which was mostly the work of Dr Farmer, was submitted to a special meeting of interested members before being sent to the parliamentary committee in Wellington. We had hoped that representatives of the society would be asked to appear in person before that committee but no such invitation came. It seems that the government had made up its mind in advance on the major features of the bill, and our representations could not significantly influence the legislative process.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the committee, and particularly our hard-working secretary, Bill McNally, for their contribution to the success of the society. It is not always easy for busy men and women to attend regular monthly meetings but despite inevitable differences of opinion we have co-operated without any friction. It would be an illusion to think that a society such as ours is able to resolve the deep economic divisions which exist in our social system. What we are able to do is to provide a forum, in our meetings and in

our journal, where these conflicts can be discussed and perhaps explained. In this rather modest way we are contributing to a better understanding of the economic forces which shape our lives.

BERT ROTH, President

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1977-78

At the society's 4th Annual General Meeting in Auckland on 29 August, the following were elected officers of the society for 1977-78:

President: H. Roth.

Vice-Presidents: L. Baldock, P. Carroll.

Secretary: W. McNally.

Treasurer: J. May.

Joint Editors of the New Zealand Journal of Industrial Relations: J. Deeks, M. Wilson.*

Committee Members: P. Jenkins, R. Randserson, A. Webster. ©

* (M. Wilson has since resigned).

EDUCATIONAL FORUM

In November, Bjorn Gustavsen, the Director of the Institute of Work Psychology, Oslo, will be visiting Wellington. He will be giving a public lecture, speaking at a University Staff Seminar and at a Workshop for trade unionists and management.

The first Diploma students in Industrial Relations complete their studies at Victoria University of Wellington this year. A Certificate Course, the prerequisite for the Diploma Course, is held in alternate years. The Director of the Industrial Relations Centre says indications are that enrolments for next year's Certificate Course will be heavy. (See details on p.106).

Mr John Brumm, leader in Trade Union education in the United States, who was appointed to the Industrial Relations Centre to study and report on the educational and training needs of New Zealand trade unionists has now completed his report. The report is now with the Trade Union Training Board. Mr Brumm leaves New Zealand shortly for Australia, India and Scandinavia before his return to the United States. ©

W.E.A. TRADE UNION POSTAL EDUCATION SERVICE

The Service has been in operation since 1968 and was modelled on similar schemes in Britain and Australia. It is directed by a committee which contains equal representation from the Federation of Labour, the

Workers' Educational Association, and the National Council of Adult Education.

Unions may affiliate to the scheme at a cost of \$10.00 plus 2½% per financial member. Members of affiliated unions, their wives or husbands are then eligible to participate in a wide variety of courses at a minimal cost of 50c.

The aim of the Service is to provide a range of correspondence courses in subjects of interest to trade unionists both as individuals and as members, and so to help unions play a full and responsible part in our changing society.

The main courses offered are in three main areas:

1. Basic General Education — Adult Study, English, Arithmetic, and Statistics.
2. Matters of Specific Trade Union Interest — History of Trade Unionism in N.Z., Industrial Negotiation and Relations, and A Basic Guide to Committee Work.
3. Matters of General Social and Economic Interest — including Psychology, Sociology, Pay Packets, Prices and Profits, The Law and You, and Home Ownership.

Enrolments are accepted throughout the year. Students are encouraged to work at their own level and receive individual tuition from well qualified and sympathetic tutors. Every effort is made to keep courses up to date and introduce new ones on a regular basis. Suggestions for new courses are always welcomed.

More detailed information is available from union secretaries or by writing to:
W.E.A. T.U. Postal Education Service,
P.O. Box 12-103,
Wellington North. ©

Certificate Course in Personnel Management & Industrial Relations, University of Auckland, 1978-79

The aim of this course is to introduce persons engaged or interested in personnel management and industrial relations to the systematic study of the relevant social sciences, of the principles and practice of personnel management, and of industrial relations legislation and the laws and processes regulating employment. The course will be of special interest to those engaged in business management, public administration, industrial relations, staff recruitment,