

... "Better Than Anticipated"

ducted a highly visible campaign to head-off the deauthorization petition. Weekly meetings, information tables next to any deauthorization activity, letters to the editor in the local and campus newspapers and one-on-one contact with every employe in the bargaining unit has kept nearly 40 people busy.

"Our emphasis has been education on fair share," said Donna Glathar, membership organizer for the local. "Right now we are taking straight aim at the issues surrounding fair share. Following this campaign we will channel our local's enthusiasm into another strong membership campaign."

Glathar said that the anti-fair share group seemed to think raising the required number of names would not be difficult. "We countered their initial big push and then, as the battle got tougher, they seemed to go downhill," she said. "Now they are hardly active."

"By contrast, we have really expanded the base of our active people during this campaign. More and more I am hearing members express a confidence that as a union they can get things done."

Another area where fair share

opponents have had trouble mounting an effective campaign is in the Children's Services Division. "It's difficult to speculate what the result would have been two years ago, but the (deauthorization) petitions are not getting many names now," said Don Prebus, president of the CSD local. "This show of strength is due largely to the changes OPEU has undergone—the members now know they can be much more involved in the bargaining process and as a result of the union's new openness, they feel they can make an impact."

"Our campaign to organize against a possible deauthorization attempt will fit nicely with our efforts to continue organizing our local state-wide," Prebus continued. "We are forming a committee that encompasses each district and many field offices."

"However, we are not trying to head-off any deauthorization petition, nor will fair share be the primary issue if a petition is successful. "Fair share will only be a vehicle for education. We will focus on informing CSD employes why a union is necessary and show them the organizing and bargaining tools they have at their disposal to help make better working conditions."

"I am very typical of the majority of employes in CSD," Prebus said. "I looked down on the union, because I aspired to be in management. But my aspirations to become a manager were frustrated time and again. So I

looked for another outlet for my energies and became active in OPEU. At first I was surprised at the input I had. Now, even though we still have a long way to go, I am an advocate."

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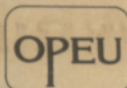
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