

The efforts of Syd Thompson on behalf of working men and women began in Alberta during the early days of the depression, and from there he took a leading role in organizing the workers' march to Ottawa in 1935.

After serving Canada for five years with the Royal Canadian Engineers in Europe, he returned to the work to which he has dedicated his life.

In 1950 he moved to Vancouver, becoming a member of the International Woodworkers of America, beginning his career there as shop steward, later becoming plant chairman. In 1956 he was elected a vice-president of the largest IWA local union in North America.

Whenever it seemed just he challenged conventional wisdom, and did so both outside and within the union organization. This trait was evidenced most dramatically in 1958 when he successfully challenged to become president of the Van-