

Ford, Union Open 11th Hour Negotiations on New Proposal by Company

Company-Wide Strike Scheduled For Midnight

Detroit —(U.P.)— Ford Motor Company and the CIO United Auto Workers union called an 11th hour negotiation session today on a new company offer it was hoped would avert the first company-wide strike in history at midnight tonight.

The new offer, reported by union sources to have relaxed the company's strong opposition to the guaranteed annual wage demand, raised hopes a peaceful settlement could be reached or at least enough progress made to put off the strike.

The union alerted 140,500 workers to be ready to leave their jobs unless there is a break in the negotiations deadlock.

Some 48,000 members of Ford Local 600, the world's biggest local, were scheduled for a practice walkout at mid-afternoon at the huge Rouge plant in suburban Dearborn. They were to participate in a mass demonstration and hear the latest report on negotiations.

Silence Pledge
A silence pledge by both sides against any public statements for 24 hours ending at noon today surrounded the talks. Both sides were tight-lipped, refusing to give any indication whether talks were making headway or were headed for a stalemate.

The stumbling block in the talks was the union demand for an unprecedented guaranteed annual wage. Demands for higher pensions, higher pay, paid hospitalization insurance and other benefits were put aside until the annual wage hurdle could be cleared. The union said it wants the annual wage to protect workers against periodic layoffs.

Strong Company Stand
The company has taken a strong stand against the annual wage, which union President Walter Reuther said is a goal his union will strike to get if necessary. Ford, in its first offer last week, ignored the demand and offered a stock-sharing plan instead.

But union sources said the company had eased its stand in the surprise offer Tuesday.

While the sources said the offer "still wasn't adequate," they described it as a "hopeful sign."

Coon Given Life Sentence in Prison

Klamath Falls —(U.P.)— Florin (Curley) Coon, 52-year-old barber, yesterday was sentenced to life imprisonment for second degree murder in connection with beating to death of his wife last October.

Coon was convicted last Friday.

Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg, who pronounced sentence, denied an attempt by Coon's defense attorneys to delay sentence after they produced a telegram from a person who claimed to have evidence that would clear Coon. The attorneys refused to make public contents of the telegram or name of the sender. The judge said if there was new evidence, judgment could be set aside and a new trial ordered.

Public Lands Racket Revealed by Nevada

Washington—(U.P.)—Rep. Cliff Young (R-Nev.) charged yesterday that "a new breed of confidence man" is bilking Americans of hundreds of thousands of dollars in a phony public lands racket.

He demanded a congressional investigation with hearings in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, "two focal points on land racketeering activity."

Young said the racket works this way:
The confidence man attracts his customers through misleading advertising about "cheap federal land available in desirable locations."

The customer is charged \$100 and up for the filing of his application with the Bureau of Land Management under the homestead law, the small tract act, or other federal law. Actually, the fee is \$25 and the confidence man pockets a \$75 profit.

Nothing New in Guaranteed Annual Wage Demand

Detroit —(U.P.)— The guaranteed annual wage demand which threatens to touch off a company-wide strike against Ford Motor Co. tonight isn't anything new. It has been kicking around for 60 years.

More than 190-odd plans have been concocted. Many still are in operation in this country.

But none ever has been drawn up and put into operation which

Foodhandlers Again Urged to Arrange For Chest X-Rays

Foodhandlers — those employed in restaurants, bakeries, dairies, meat markets, grocery stores and allied trades — were again urged this week by the Jackson County Public Health association and the health department to have chest x-rays.

Clinics for the x-rays are provided at the Community hospital on Wednesdays, 3 to 6 p.m. and at the Sacred Heart on Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

The county health officer, Dr. A. E. Merkel, pointed out that there are estimated to be over 100 unknown cases of tuberculosis in the county and a chest x-ray is the best known method of protecting the public and other employees from the undetected germ. A number of suspected cases have already been discovered since opening of the clinics.

Firms Cooperate

Tuberculosis statistics show that a number of cases have developed in the food service industry and an effort is, therefore, now being made to x-ray all employees of this trade. Firms who have already complied with the request include Fluhrer's bakery, the Groceteria, Big Y Market, Quality Market, the Top Notch, Franklin's Town House and the Crater cafe.

There is no law requiring physical examinations for food handlers, Dr. Merkel stated, and it is hoped employers and employees will comply with the request on a voluntary basis.

"It is a protection to the individual as well as the public," Dr. Merkel stated. "By discovering tuberculosis, lung cancer and other chest disorders early before symptoms develop, the individual may be saving himself long hospitalization and even death," he added.

Honor Demanded For Leif Ericson

Washington —(U.P.)— Columbus "didn't discover America," and it's about time the government honored the man who did, Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), feels.

Magnuson told the Senate yesterday that Leif Ericson, the Viking voyager, landed in New England in 1002 A.D., 490 years ahead of Columbus.

Magnuson said his Scandinavian constituents are disturbed when they come to Washington and glimpse a massive memorial to Columbus in Union Station Plaza but see no statue of Ericson.

Magnuson said he and 11 other senators are sponsoring a resolution to appropriate \$53,000 for a site and pedestal or an Ericson statue which already belongs to the government but is in storage somewhere.

"We aren't mad at Chris, but he didn't discover America," the senator said.

Holiday Death Toll Sets All-Time Record

By UNITED PRESS

A final tabulation showed today that traffic accidents killed 372 persons across the nation during the Memorial Day week end to set a new all-time record.

The total of 576 accidental deaths and 136 deaths by drowning also rivaled or passed previous marks. In addition, there were 15 deaths in plane crashes and 53 in miscellaneous accidents, the United Press survey showed.

The old record for a three-day Memorial Day weekend was 364 traffic deaths, set last year.

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affect so many workers or have such a strong guarantee.

The automobile workers, who have been hit by seasonal layoffs throughout the industry history, want the automobile companies to guarantee them that wage checks will keep coming for as long as 52 weeks, despite layoffs.

The union first demanded that the companies add enough to the unemployment compensation checks to give workers the same take-home pay during periods of lay-offs as they would receive if they were working. The union later reduced this so that workers would get only enough to give them 80 per cent of their gross pay, before taxes. Walter

Reuther offered Sunday to scale this down even further.

Nothing quite like that, in a huge industry where production fluctuates so much, ever has been tried before.

Other Plans

The closest approach to that was the "fixed weekly wage plan" tried by the Decatur, Ill., plant of General Electric in the late 1930s. The plan had achieved a pretty stable production pattern, and a plan was set up to give the employees a guaranteed "fixed wage" for six months, based on production estimates.

In 1936 and 1937, sales ran far ahead of estimates. But suddenly they slumped in 1938, inventories mounted rapidly and the

plan was discarded.

Some of the most widely-publicized plans have been the Nunn-Bush plan, the Procter and Gamble plan, and the Hormel plan.

The Nunn-Bush plan guarantees 52 weekly pay checks a year to some 600 employees. But the "guarantee" varies according to sales, and the employees actually are guaranteed merely 52 paychecks a year. Size isn't guaranteed.

The Procter and Gamble plan "guarantees" 48 weeks of work each year. It has been in effect since 1923. But the company has retained the right to terminate the guarantee at any time, or reduce the number of hours in the work week.

Hormel Plan

Under the Hormel plan, in effect since the late 1930s, most workers are guaranteed 38 hours

a week for 52 weeks a year. But overtime worked in some weeks, instead of going to the employee at premium rates, is saved and meted out to him during slack periods.

Most of the guarantee plans in effect also are limited to the calendar year also. As the year runs out, the employee's guarantee runs out. Near the end of the year, there is little guarantee left.

The United Auto Workers plan, with a definite guarantee and no provision for offsetting short weeks with overtime pay in other weeks, also would ignore the calendar year. A worker would have 52 weeks of pay guaranteed from any date of the year when he was laid off.

The idea of the guaranteed annual wage isn't something new. But the United Auto Workers plan is—in scope, size and method.



SALUTE WAR DEAD — Vice President Richard Nixon places President Eisenhower's wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery to highlight the nation's observance of Memorial Day.

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