

Involved Contractual Issues Offer Key to Northwest Timber Strike

By HALE SCARBROUGH

Complicated contractual matters far removed from the usual run of wage and hour situations common to many labor disputes run through the differences between employers and the CIO woodworkers in the current strike that has stopped production at Car-Aid-Co and Klamath Basin Pine Mills.

The strike by CIO woodworkers in practically Northwest industry-wide, except for the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company mills.

Weyerhaeuser settled with the union earlier this month, granting all workers on the payroll a 7 1/2 cent hourly pay increase, three additional paid holidays and other concessions.

Weyerhaeuser's negotiations were not carried on through the Pine Industrial Relations committee, employer representative, and the settlement offered the union—according to Tim Sullivan, CIO official—the PIRC offers in important respects from the Weyerhaeuser agreement.

Weyerhaeuser said the settlement grants the 7 1/2-cent raise to all employees on the payroll effective April 1, and to all going on

the payroll subsequent to that date and when and if it is approved by the Wage Stabilization Board the increase is retroactive to April 1.

An employee leaving the company after April 1 and before WSB approval of the increase is given 30 days to make written application to the company for his 7 1/2 cents an hour extra for the hours worked.

The PIRC offer Sullivan said, was 7 1/2 cents an hour increase as of April 1 for all employees on the payroll that date and those hired subsequently, retroactive to April 1 or to 60 days prior to the time the hike is given WSB approval, whichever is later.

That 60-day clause, if WSB waits several months before acting upon the increase, would govern the retroactive date of the pay boost to the detriment of workers, Sullivan said.

HOLIDAYS

Weyerhaeuser's agreement on the subject of holidays grants three additional holidays with pay stipulating that to be eligible an employee must have been on the payroll 31 calendar days prior to the holiday and work the scheduled work day just before and just after the holiday. Exceptions are that an employee with a legitimate injury or illness forcing him off the job for not more than 30 calendar days, or not more than six months in the case of industrial accident. If the mill is shut down

wants vacations paid at the hourly rate workers were receiving on March 30, and piece workers paid on an average of their earnings during the 90 days previous to March 30.

Those differences, Sullivan said, aren't acceptable to the union.

On the other hand an employer spokesman said the main bone of contention in the strike is payment for and control of health and welfare funds. Under the present contract a 7 1/2 cent hourly wage increase granted the union in 1950 is earmarked for the health and welfare fund, put on salary checks and then deducted. Weyerhaeuser that year agreed to a company-paid, jointly-controlled health and welfare fund but didn't give the 7 1/2 cent salary hike, therefore has been having up until now a minimum pay scale 7 1/2 cents an hour lower than that of the other CIO pine mills.

The union now wants, the mill operator said, a flat payment of \$14 a month per employee, instead of the salary deduction, for the health and welfare fund, with the companies paying the bill and the union administering the fund.

The \$14 figure out to about 9 1/2 cents an hour.

That business of the company paying the cost of the health and welfare fund and the union having the administration of it is illegal under the Taft-Hartley Act, the employer said, and not acceptable to companies.



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Severe Power Shortage Seen

SEATTLE (AP) — The Pacific Northwest will face severe power shortages for the next eight years unless new federal projects are launched immediately, the American Power Association was told Wednesday.

"Paradoxically this dark outlook exists in a region that has well over a third of the nation's potential hydroelectric resources," Dr. Paul J. Raver, Bonneville Power Administrator, said in an address prepared for the association's annual meeting.

Raver said the Northwest now has 3,000,000 kilowatts of firm (year around) power and will need 9,000,000 kilowatts by 1960. Less than half of the required new power is now assured, he said.

Federal projects now under construction will provide 2,400,000 kilowatts and non-federal projects — public and private — another 400,000 kilowatts, Raver declared.

He said non-federal projects in the planning stage could add another 340,000 kilowatts.

This would still leave a deficit of 2,300,000 kilowatts, Raver said.

He added the shortage could be met by construction of the Hells Canyon, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite Dams on the Snake River, and Libby Dam in Western Montana.

"Will we stigmatize and national economy with bitter sectional conflicts between state and federal interests, fish versus power, private interests versus public interests, over jurisdiction?" Raver said.

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