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Carolina Journal of Labor**And Charlotte Labor Journal****For Greensboro-High Point****Mine Workers Score Major Victory****As Foremen Come Under Contract**

Washington, D. C. — Scoring a major victory in a long-drawn-out battle, the United Mine Workers (AFL) signed a contract with Admiral Ben Moreell, Federal Coal Mines Administrator, covering mine foremen and supervisors at four mines of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Co.

The action came after a sharp attack upon the mine operators in the UMW's Journal, which, in blunt terms, charged them with "stalling tactics" to avert a showdown.

Admiral Moreell also signed two agreements covering electrical and technical workers. These applied to Jones & Laughlin and the general office of the Industrial Collieries Corporation, Johnstown, Pa., a subsidiary of the Bethlehem Steel Corp.

The agreements were made with the United Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Workers, District 50, UMW.

Signing of the agreement covering supervisory employees of Jones & Laughlin came several hours after the company had filed a petition in the U. S. Court of Appeals to restrain the action.

The contracts bore most of the terms provided in the contract for production workers signed by Secretary of the Interior Krug and John L. Lewis, president of the UMW, May 22. Several provisions differed, however.

A new section in the contract covering Jones & Laughlin foremen binds the union to initiate court action if the company refuses to recognize the contract. The section was inserted to open the way for test in the higher courts of the ruling by the National Labor Relations Board that supervisory employees may organize into an appropriate unit for collective bargaining.

According to the National Labor Relations Act, NLRB may be tested in court only if a union files a complaint. If a union (as in this case the supervisors) refuses to file such a complaint, perhaps preferring other action, the case could not go to the courts, since employers may not initiate tests.

The contract specifically safeguards rights of the companies in case the NLRB should reverse the decision which held that units of foremen are legally covered by the National Labor Relations Act, or Wagner Act.

The board began to rule in favor of the foremen in the Union Collieries case in 1940, but subsequently reversed its stand. In the last two years, however, it has gradually returned to its position of six years ago.

The Case bill passed by Congress this year exempted foremen from protection under the Wagner Act, but it was vetoed by President Truman.

Employers have insisted that foremen represent management and cannot "act on both sides of the bargaining table." In some industries, however (printing and railroads), foremen are covered in written agreements.

There are 18 clauses in the Jones & Laughlin agreement, which covers about 150 employees. The wage section provides for an increase of \$1.85 a day, similar to that provided in the Krug-Lewis contract. The contracts covering the clerical and technical workers provide for a wage rise of 18 1-2 cents an hour.

The agreements provide retroactive pay to May 22, 1946, when the contract with the production workers was completed.

MATCH MAKERS GET RAISE

Barberton, Ohio. — President F. B. Gerhart of the National Matchworkers Council (AFL) has announced that all members of the union have received a basic wage increase of 18 1-2 cents an hour. This new contract covers about 900 employees at the Diamond match plant here and in the neighborhood of 1,500 workers at the Ohio Match Co. in Wadsworth, Ohio.

Mine Workers Score Major Victory**As Foremen Come Under Contract**

Oak Ridge, Tenn. — Conceding the validity of AFL protests, the War Department abolished regulations which interfered with the civil rights of atomic bomb workers and curbed organizational activities of the AFL Atomic Trades Council.

The change in the Army's policy came after conferences in Washington between War Department higher-ups and AFL President William Green and George Googe, AFL Southern Organization Director.

Secretary of War Patterson agreed that Army censorship of union literature and interference with distribution of organizing material could not be justified on security grounds. He called in General Leslie Groves, in charge of atomic energy development, who also agreed. Modifications of the regulations then was worked out with Col. E. E. Kirkpatrick, who handles labor relations at the three huge plants here which employ 20,000 workers.

Under terms of the new understanding, the Army agreed to drop any further censorship of AFL literature to be distributed by organizers at the plant gates. The major purpose of this regulation—one against which the AFL registered a primary objection—was to "prevent references to the plants which might disclose classified information," an Army official said.

"With the modification of this regulation," the Army statement added, "the responsibility for maintenance of security in this field thus falls directly upon the unions and the unions' representatives."

The Army also agreed to permit

union representatives, furnished with special passes, to aid in the distribution of union literature at points near but outside the gates.

"For security reasons," the statement said, "there has been prior objection on the Army's part to allowing visitors free access to plant areas and gates."

In their protestations to Secretary Patterson, both Mr. Green and Mr. Googe cited earlier assurances by the Army that military security was no longer a factor and the Army's earlier pledge that the AFL would be permitted to inaugurate an organizing drive when the war ended.

Supplementing these protests, James F. Barrett, coordinator of AFL activities at Oak Ridge, charged that the measures instituted by the Army were making it impossible to carry on organizational activities at the atomic plants and constituted a breach of faith in the light of the earlier assurances.

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