

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
NEWS BUREAU
STATLER HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington, D. C., May 20, ¹⁹⁴⁸ —The following statement was read to reporters today at the Shoreham Hotel by a spokesman for the UMWA:

"The United Mine Workers of America awaits the pleasure of the coal industry for a start of the 1948 bituminous negotiations.

"We did not walk out!

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly nor reiterated too often that the UMWA is anxious and will/^{ing}to bargain collectively.

"These are the facts on the collapse of the meeting in the Shoreham Hotel:

1. The 1948 joint wage conference never was formally organized for business. As in the case of the United States Congress, no formal business can be conducted until representatives are accredited.
2. By contractual agreement between the union and the operators no conference actually exists until delegates are accredited by unanimous action.
3. The UMWA, in an attitude of good faith and fair play proposed the seating of industry representatives authorized to speak for 269,000,000 tons of production.
4. The UMWA clearly stated that the Southern Coal Producers Association, not a signatory to the 1947 agreement and thus not entitled to participate in formation of the joint conference, would be invited to present its case immediately the conference was organized to do business.
5. The conference died aborning because of the action of a minority of the operators. These operators consciously wrecked the conference. These operators malignantly refused to abide by past practice and the 1947 contract.
6. No wage conference having been created, the UMWA is faced with no choice but to ask the operators to make the next move."

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