

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

PROPERTY OF INSTITUTE
OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
214 CALIFORNIA HALL

Washington, D. C., June 9, 1948. — The United Mine Workers of America proposed today that coal production be continued after July 1, expiration date of the present contract.

The Union assured the nation that, dependent upon operator acceptance of today's proposal, it will recommend that the more than 400,000 soft-coal miners remain at work pending negotiation of a successor contract.

As joint wage conferences resumed at the Statler Hotel, John L. Lewis, president of the UMWA, made this specific offer to the bituminous coal operators "in order to reassure the nation and insure an adequate supply of coal after July 1 ..."

It was noted that this is not a new procedure by the UMWA and that in years gone by the union has recommended that its members remain at work under terms and conditions of the existing contract until a new agreement has been reached.

The UMWA called upon the operators to do their part in assuring continuation of coal production by permitting "forthwith the administrative activation" of the 1947 United Mine Workers of America Welfare and Retirement Fund.

More than 146,000 injured and crippled soft-coal miners and members of their families will be left virtually penniless after July 1 unless the operators live up to the present agreement and activate the 1947 welfare fund.

So that neither the coal operators nor miners may suffer from this proposed agreement, Mr. Lewis suggested that the arrangement be subject to cancellation by either upon five days' notice.

The text of the UMWA proposal is as follows:

"In order to reassure the nation and to insure an adequate supply of coal after July 1, the United Mine Workers of America proposes as follows:

1. Subject to acceptance by the bituminous coal operators and the approval of the Mineworkers' National Policy Committee, the negotiating representatives of the United Mine Workers of America will recommend that all bituminous coal mines remain in operation after the end

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of the vacation period on July 6, 1948, under the terms, conditions and rules of existing agreements, pending negotiation of a successor contract; with the understanding that any changes or improvements negotiated, affecting wages or conditions of employment, will be made retroactive to July 1, 1948, inclusive, provided:

- a. That this arrangement may be subject to cancellation by either party thereto, upon five days' notice.
- b. That the bituminous coal operators will cause their trustee representative on the United Mine Workers Welfare and Retirement Fund, under the existing contract, to permit forthwith the administrative activation of said Fund, and that the business of the Fund and the disbursements of its monies be governed in all matters by the majority decision of any of its three trustees; namely, Messrs. Bridges, Van Horn and Lewis or their respective successor.

NOTE: This same proposal was made by the UMWA to Cyrus S. Ching, chief of the U.S. Mediation and Conciliation Service on June 17, 1948

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