

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
NEWS BUREAU
UMWA BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D.C.

Washington, D. C., June 25, 1948. — The following joint statement was issued by the UMWA and the bituminous coal operators at the conclusion of their wage negotiations:

"The wage agreement between the bituminous coal operators and United Mine Workers of America, to become effective on July 1, 1948, provided:

- (1) An increase in wages for each union employee of a flat \$1.00 per day.
- (2) An increase in the Welfare and Retirement Fund of 10 cents per ton, making the total payment into this fund 20 cents per ton.

"All other terms and conditions of the previous wage agreement remain as they were.

"The operators negotiating committee is of the opinion that the increase of \$1.00 per day (12½ cents per hour for inside men) is in keeping with wage increases currently adopted by other mass industries.

"In the interest of promoting harmony in the bituminous coal industry and to cause a cessation of the constant bickering that has beset the industry during the past year, the committee deems the agreement to be a respectable and reasonable one. No matter what the feelings of either side were about the law and the Fund, they have decided to cooperate with each other so far as they can in operating it successfully.

"The new agreement is predicated upon the restoration of normal business-like relationship between the operators and mine workers. Each side expressed a desire to bring about harmony and understanding between labor and management in the industry. As far as it was possible the parties expressed a desire to cease public denunciation of each other.

"The bituminous coal industry is basically essential to the maintenance of this country's economy. Its labor is the most productive in the world. The production in tons per man day is from 400 to 600 percent greater than that of other large coal-producing countries. These figures express the effectiveness and efficiency of coal mine labor and its management in the United States.

The mine workers and operators have pledged each other to continue the policy of increasing production per man day and the development and application of machinery and power as rapidly as possible.

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