

FROM:
United Mine Workers of America
Press Bureau
Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C.

1948
Washington, May 18. -- Harvey Cartwright, president of the Indiana Coal Operators Association, was elected unanimously today as permanent chairman of the 1948 Joint Bituminous Wage Conference.

Mr. Cartwright replaces Ezra Van Horn, who had served annually as chairman of the joint conference of coal operators and the United Mine Workers of America since 1941.

The joint conference, called to negotiate a new National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement, is being held in the Shoreham Hotel.

Mr. Cartwright's nomination was made by Thomas Kennedy, vice-president of the UMWA. It was seconded by Charles O'Neill of the Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers Association.

The joint conference was called to order at 10:18 a.m. (EDST) by John L. Lewis, president of the UMWA. Following Mr. Cartwright's election, Mr. Lewis shook hands with the new chairman and turned the meeting over to him.

Mr. O'Neill then nominated for permanent secretary of the joint conference John T. Jones, president of District 16 (Maryland) of the UMWA. Mr. Jones was elected unanimously by the operators and mine workers.

Truman S. Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the Northern West Virginia Coal Association, was elected unanimously as assistant secretary of the joint conference. He was nominated by John Owens, secretary-treasurer of the UMWA.

Martin L. Markle, of the Somerset (Pa.) County Coal Operators Association, and Clarence Donaldson of District 2 (Pennsylvania) of the UMWA were elected sergeant-at-arms and assistant sergeant-at-arms, respectively.

Secretary Jones read the call to the conference.

Chairman Cartwright then called for the selection of the committee on rules and order of procedure. Nominated and elected were Mr. Kennedy, Hugh White, president of District 12, and William Mitch, president of District 20 (Alabama), for the UMWA.

Joseph E. Moody of the Southern Coal Producers Association, which is not a signatory to the 1947 National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement, was nominated to be an operator representative on the rules and procedure committee.

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The joint conference was interrupted temporarily at this point while operators and UMWA representatives conferred on the question of whether Mr. Moody was entitled to a seat on the committee.

Following the brief conference, Mr. O'Neill moved that S. M. Thompson, a Denver (Colo.) operator, be placed on the rules and procedure committee in place of Mr. Moody. The motion was approved unanimously by the joint conference. Other operator representatives on the rules and procedures committee are George Campbell, president of the Old Ben Coal Co. of Illinois, and Mr. O'Neill.

The committee on credentials consists of George H. Love of the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Co., H. M. Moses, representing the United States Steel Corp. captive mines, and Hubert E. Howard, of the Indiana Coal Producers; and Mr. Owens, Mr. Jones and Samuel Caddy of Kentucky, representing the UMWA.

Mr. Lewis then moved for a recess to 2 p.m. to allow the committees time to meet and prepare their reports.

Meanwhile, on motion of the Federal government, U. S. District Judge T. Alan Goldsborough dismissed the civil contempt case that had been pending against the UMWA and Mr. Lewis. The court took under advisement another government motion seeking to dissolve the injunction restraining the mine workers from ceasing work.

The injunction originally was issued in the form of a restraining order on April 3, 1948.

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