

August 16, 1952



United mine workers of America (Ind.)

NOTICE

NATIONAL MEMORIAL PERIOD

ATTENTION:

Coal Operators and Coal Companies Signatory to the Joint Industry Agreement
Officers and Members of Local Unions, United Mine Workers of America
United States Bureau of Mines and Federal Inspectors
State Mining Departments and State Inspectors

Greetings:

Exercising its option, the International Union, United Mine Workers of America, declares a Memorial Period from August 23, 1952 to September 1, 1952, inclusive, during which time the production of coal will cease. All other necessary work incident to the industry requirements will continue during the period designated.

LEST WE FORGET

Less than eight months have elapsed since the nation was shocked by the unnecessary Yuletide horror of the West Frankfort Mine disaster. This frightful disaster killed 119 men. In the wake of this economic massacre are the bereaved widows, the helpless orphans, the broken homes, the stricken communities, accompanied by grinding poverty, broken life's dreams and the crushing weight of human sorrow.

Death continues its ravages in the coal industry. Since December 23 of 1951 and through July 31, 1952, 334 miners have been killed, and approximately 20,040 mine workers have been maimed. During the same brief period, Federal Mine Inspection Records reveal a total of 52,256 violations by mine management of safety provisions of the Federal Mining Code. Of this number, 29,007 were repeat violations. As of July 31, 1952, there existed 37,387 uncorrected violations of the Federal Mining Code. This is an appalling record, emphasizing negligence and disregard of human life by mining companies, and in many instances approximates criminal intent. It cries aloud for redress by those who are sufficiently fortunate to remain alive and unmaimed in this savage industry. It is fitting that during this Memorial Period tribute should be paid to those who have made the great sacrifice, and that every effort should be made to lessen the bloodletting and wastage of human flesh which constitutes our national shame.

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INSTITUTE OF
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

SEP 10 1952

OBLIGATIONS OF MINE MANAGEMENT

With the coming of the autumn equinox, we enter a period of sharp barometric changes, which will intensify the ever present perils of the mines. A decent respect for human life and the preservation of property values impel the taking of protective steps. During this Memorial Period when production is abated, the management of each mine, with the cooperation of each mine worker, should place it in a legally safe condition; ventilation should be made adequate to meet all standards and any barometric change; air courses and haulage roads should be made clean; accumulated coal dust should be removed; rock dusting should be completed to meet requisite standards; all machinery and electrical equipment should be put in order; and all other necessary steps should be taken to make each mine not only legally and contractually safe, but safe from every standpoint of collective good judgment and sound mining practice.

OBLIGATIONS OF U. M. W. OF A.

Safety Committees and local union officers will confer with management affecting the safety problems of each mine, and will make available, at the request of management, any number of men that may be required for work during this period. All work of construction, installation, sinking and repair will continue as usual.

FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL AND STATE INSPECTION FORCES

The United States Bureau of Mines and the Mining Departments of the several states can cooperate greatly during this period of non-production by insisting that mine management effectuate immediate compliance with previously issued instructions and recommendations hitherto ignored by mine management. Members of the United Mine Workers of America will give unqualified cooperation to inspectors of the State and Federal Governments in this task.

Production of coal will be resumed Tuesday, September 2, 1952.

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

By: JOHN L. LEWIS, President

ATTEST:

THOMAS KENNEDY, Vice President
JOHN OWENS, Secretary-Treasurer

