

UNION HAZARD BULLETIN LIGHTS

USWA Locals 8744 - 8751

JULY 1980

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CITY CONTRACT?

During contract negotiations, ARA kept insisting that if we would just ratify the contract, ARA would be sure to get all the work from the City. Well, now that the contract is ratified, where are we? We still don't know!

Here is what we do know: First, a panel made up of members of the school department and others looked over the bids and decided which companies they thought should get the work. They made a report and sent it to Supt. Wood. This has already happened. But they refuse to tell us their decision. They say it is not public information.

Now Wood is supposed to look it over and send his recommendation to the School Committee. The School Committee has the final say. They are supposed to be making their decision by July 10. So we hope that by the July 16 meeting, we may be able to tell everyone where we will be working in the fall.

But don't hold your breath... Stalling is a way of life for the City bureaucracy.

COALITION FORMED

A coalition between us, the Boston Teachers' Union, and other unions that service the Boston Schools has been formed. We have had several meetings already, and more are planned for the summer. We are working on a statement of unity for all the unions involved.

It is in the best of union tradition for all workers, regardless of what union they may belong to, to work together. We are looking for a long and lasting relationship. In unity there is strength!

NEW THREE YEAR CONTRACT RATIFIED

A special ratification meeting was held on June 22, at 6:00 p.m. Notices were sent to all members on our mailing list, to inform them of this meeting. About 70 members came and voted by secret ballot, and by a vote of 38 to 36 ratified the company's latest contract proposals. The new contract went into effect on July 1, 1980.

WHAT DID WE GET?

School rate: \$7.92/ hour-- a 65¢ an hour increase
Charter Rate: \$4.65-- a 25¢ an hour increase.
3 paid holidays, 2 snow days.
Bereavement pay: 2 more days.
Court Appearances: pay for all lost time on company matters.

WELCOME BRUSH HILL DRIVERS!

From how things look now, it is very likely that we will all be working together in one yard next year. There is a good chance (but nothing is certain yet,) that ARA will get the whole contract. And if they do, they are bound by our new contract to hire the Brush Hill drivers.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Brush Hill drivers to our yard and our local. Working together will make our union much stronger. Most of us remember two years ago, when Hudson and Brush Hill were both located at the Bartlett St. yard. That was the year we organized ourselves and fought to bring in the union. Hudson and Brush Hill drivers stuck together through thick and thin, walking picket lines and even going to jail together to win our first union contract.

Seeing what we were doing, Hudson split us up into 4 far-flung yards in an attempt to weaken our union drive. The companies never succeeded in breaking our unity. But we missed working with our friends and fellow drivers from Brush Hill after that.

It will be good to be working all together once again. The Brush Hill drivers have been strong fighters for the union. We have enjoyed working together in our joint committees and meetings. They also know how to get down and have a good time, as anyone who has been to their parties and picnics can agree.

So, welcome, Brush Hill drivers!

JULY MEETING TO ELECT DELEGATES
TO USWA CONVENTION

Our regular monthly meetings during the summer break are scheduled for:

July 16 and
August 20.

Both will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Boston Teachers' Union, on Columbia Point. Both will be joint meetings of locals 8744 and 8751.

On July 16, we will be electing delegates to send to the Steelworkers bi-annual convention in Los Angeles. This is where the union decides all its policies and makes changes in its Constitution, etc., for the next two years.

Each of our locals is entitled to send one official, voting delegate. Other members may go too, as observers.

It will be an opportunity to see how the International Union is run, and to meet other rank-and-file union members like ourselves from all around the U.S. and Canada.

At the July meeting, we will also be updating the membership on anything we have been able to find out by then about the City contracts. The School Committee is supposed to make its decision on what company or companies get the contract by that time.

If the city has not decided by then (which is likely, knowing how the city works,) we will definitely be able to let people know by the August meeting.

Also, A SPECIAL GATHERING OF
BRUSH HILL DRIVERS

Purpose: Making the Change to ARA.

We at Brush Hill want to guarantee that the spirit, camaraderie, solidarity and especially the unity between Black, White and Hispanic drivers, as well as between men and women, carries over to our new yard. The joint committee has begun to work at clearing away the obstacles. Let's hear from the membership!

Place: 10 Forest Hills, apt 2.
Jamaica Plain
Kara Speltz house

Time: Sun. July 13, 6:30 pm
HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS WILL BE SERVED.

Call by Saturday morning to reserve your hamburger.
Gene: 522-8713 or 522-9282, or
Kara: 522-1526

HOW THIS SUNDAY MEETING CAME ABOUT

On June 18, our Pres. Tess Ewing received a call from District Director Foley asking her to set up a ratification meeting on June 20, the last day of school. The B.T.U. was called, and they told us there was no room available on that date.

On the same day June 18, a member of our local, presented a petition signed by 23 other members of our local, calling for a meeting at the B.T.U. on June 20 the last day of school. For the purpose of ratification.

One must keep in mind that no new proposals had been presented to the negotiating committee. Which had met with the company on June 16 and at that time, were told they nothing new to offer. Those company proposals we had seen were rejected by the membership at a earlier meeting

On June 20 in the drivers room signs went up stating there was to be a meeting, at the B.T.U. at 2:30 to vote on a new contract. The union did not call this meeting. A member took it upon himself to call this meeting.

Also on June 20, a negotiating session was being held. At 2:15, the company presented new proposals. This was the first time the negotiating committee saw them.

All along, we were being told the company needed a signed contract with the union to get the contract with the city, and that the last day to sign the union contract was Monday, June 23. Therefore, the negotiating committee was forced to call this meeting. We feel this type of manipulative pressure put on us is unfair, and only reaffirms our commitment to fight for city-wide seniority hiring, to avoid getting into this kind of mess in the future.

BRUSH HILL DRIVERS: APPLY TO ARA

ARA has agreed to hire the Brush Hill drivers in order of their seniority, if ARA gets the contract. The Brush Hill drivers would come after the ARA drivers, but before anyone else.

In order to be hired, you must go to ARA on Columbia Point, and fill out an application. Be sure to tell them you are from Brush Hill, so you can get preference over other applicants.

If you have any trouble, tell one of the union stewards or officers. ARA agreed to hire the Brush Hill drivers, and we must make sure they live up to their agreement.