



[Minutes from Meeting re: acceptance/rejection of new plan offered by USED]

173 Camouflage Minutes of the Meeting.

4-5-43

Subject: Acceptance or Rejection of New Plan Offered by the U.S.E.D.
Organization of Factory Committee

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:30, but at that time there were very few people present. Finally at 8 PM, there were enough to get started.

It is almost 8 O'clock now so lets get strtd. First, How many weavers are here. (Not very many). Non-wevers? (same) We can't pass anything because there is not enough represented.

Briefly, it is this. I am new. I entered the factory on the 16th or 17th of march, Bud Kinoshita quit about that time, nd I got railroaded into this job of chairman until such a time that a permanent one would be selected. Therefore, I am not familiar with the past grievances. But I hve been working on the non-weaver's pay, which figured at \$1.37 an hour, which was refused by the contractors. There was a session between the worker's Committee, contractor, and the U.S.E.D. Labor Commissioner. The meeting lasted from 2;30 PM to 3:30 Am Sunday, and then from 10 AM to 5 PM that same day. The final decision boils down to accepting \$1.02 an hour under protest pending the final decision. If the decision of the U.S.E.D. is to our favor, we will receive another check for the difference. The other set-up is this; Work on a 16.5% retroactive to March 1st, but let the March payroll be fggred at 18%. This will make the hourly rate amount to about \$1.22 an hour.

Is this their proposal?

It is Finney's proposal. On Sunday, Stahl came out with a screwy proposal which we flatly refused. So we wasted all that time.

Who is Finney, Why negotiate with him?

The contract with Stahl is held with the U.S.E.D., and Stahl contracts to get the labor.

This has nothing to do with Finney.

I don't think so.

The contract between U.S.E.D. and Stahl is a secret contract. They can quit the contract anytime they want. The area engineer, who is Finney is interested because from the story gathered, they can renegotiate with Stahl anytime they want. Finney is an assistant and everything must go thru him to Captain Phillips. The U.S.E.D. can cancel their contract with Stahl.

I don't know what we can gain by this meeting, there isno quorum present. The one thing we can do is to answer questions, and have opinions voiced.

What about the Gila Plan?

There is not much difference from ours. The 16.5% plan wo ld be similar. We will make good dough, 13 &14 dollars a day, but we would have to work 9 hours a day. There is no question that we ould have to work hard

on the 16.5% plan. We want to give the warehouse fellows a bek. They can operate on 18% providing there is no backlog. There are hundreds of nets piling up. These have to be processed, first, otherwise we may hve to put in more workers, or py it out of our own pockets.

What does V.K. say about it?

He phone up the liason office of the W.R.A. and Army; and then he and Gelvin Phoned up Washington. They feel that we should settle the problem ourselves. They do not want it to become a nationl publicity. Tom Masuda feels tha if we carry it on, the workers could get \$1.37, but we don't know howlong it will tke.

Why don't we stop the factory right away?

The publicity would have a damaging effect.

The contractors are the one who re breaking the contract.

That is true, tha is why I would like to ask the wokkers to decide on the compromise offer. \$1.12 an hour for the month of March, and 16.5% starting from the first of April.

There arenno figures for the last part of March. I don't know whether it would amount to an average of \$1.12 for the whole pay period.

The percentage is way down for the last half of March, therefore it should be balanced.

I think that is the average for the first pay period, figuring it at 18% of the weavers earnings.

Rosenbloom said that it was for he whole month. It is the quiskest way out, otherwise I don't know how long it will take. This is principally a problem of the non-weaver.

Do we accept the check on Stahl's signature?

In that way, we will hve to accept \$1.02 an hour under protest, but God only knows when weill get the rest.

Let's work up to the end of the contract. But there is no use working if the break the contract.

As long as the ceiling does not run above 18% of the weaver's wggges, the U.S.E.D. will side with the workers; but if it runs over 18%, then they side with the contractor. Their principally duty is to see that neither side is taking advantage of the other

How about the Boeing Factory?

But they don't have a Japs face. This is considered a war industry, and therefore a strike would mean bad publicity.

The W.R.A. Field men are working towards building up good will in the outside communities. This may upset the relocation program.

Why doesn't the W.R.A. do something?

Davis of the W.R.A. is understanding, and has made uncomplimentary remarks about the contractors.

Has he any authority?

He has something to do with employment.

It is just the case of the outside public not accepting the trust fund idea. They don't care who gets it, it is that high wage scale going to the Japs. In Denver, the whole Japanese crew was shifted to the Midnite shift because some bastard squacked to the management. A jap hasn't got a leg to stand on.

If the factory closes down, there will be adverse publicity.

Is \$1.12 for the rest of the contract?

Only for the month of March. From April 1st, we work on a 16.5% plan; ie, 16.5% of the total earnings of thw weavers. The backlog to be cleared up on contract terms; \$150.00

Would that be making more than \$1.12?

Yes, until the backlog is cleared up.

If .87¢ is correct, how are you going to expect them to give you something for nothing. They will not interpret it differently.

(G.K. is the timekeeper)

Will there be bonuses for the foreman?

There will be when the contract is changed.

87½¢ based on 14.06. Rosenbloom knows that he doesn't have a right to cut it. He figured the \$1.02 on 16.5 basis.

Whether you accept \$1.02, or \$1.12, you won't get any more than that.

Is this an ultimatum?

It is a proposal. We offered a counter-proposal, and then they gave another two proposals. U.S.E.D. interprets the contract as do the contractor.

At this point, reads new offer.

If we accept the \$1.12, of the U.S.E.D., they will take over Rosenbloom and Billike's job.

That is o.k. with us.

The workers will get gypped in March. The total loss per person for the full month will be about \$16.00.

Have everyone share this loss.

It would be unfair to the weavers.

Accept the \$1.37, and 15%?

No, we would kill ourselves working. We are doing that now, and the warehouse cannot keep it up. The increase up to 16.5 would go to the warehouse.

With 15%, we won't be able to do the janitor work.

I'd investigate the 18%.

It means 18% of the total payroll. March is the only difficulty. We can make good money at 16%; it is a question of sacrificing one month for the future.

Do you have something to say, Franklyn?

Pluto-crats, and millionaires; I am making only \$19.00 a month. Now, the situation will take considerable time, to iron out. This means in terms of \$1.37 for one month. In the meantime, you are losing money. Even accepting 16.5, the non-weavers losing 5 dollars. The stake amounts to about \$1200. Today you lost one half of that, and tomorrow you will lose the other half. You lose more money the more you lay around; and then you are not assured of getting the \$1.37. You might lose. Our interpretation of the contract may not be exactly correct, and if an arbitration board decides what is to be, they will be correct, and what they say will be binding.

My interest is solely to see the thing go on harmoniously. I would like to see faces going to work with a smile, instead of a frown, cursing the so and so Jews. If we want the factory, go to work, if not, close it down.

We should like to get a meeting of the non-weavers, but for now, I would like to know the sentiment here.

I move we take a vote on the 18% plan.

This was seconded, and passed unanimously.

This is a straw vote?

Yes.

I still don't see how he arrived at \$1.12. This is for the first pay period.

We will get a meeting for the non-wevers to-morrow.

Meeting adjourned.

T.S.