

Worker wins his dispute

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Claiming his work was "unsatisfactory," Master Jig officials fired Brown the day after his confrontation with company president Randolph Videreg, about employee benefits.

A JIG bene operator with the firm since November 1976, Brown didn't receive a written or verbal complaint or reprimand from company officials prior to his discharge, Stevens said.

"They turned around and made a series of pretexts in an effort to make it look like they were firing him for other reasons," Stevens said.

Now a Florida resident, Brown said he's been unemployed, except for odd-jobs, since he was fired.

Brown filed the labor violation complaint with the Detroit NLRB office shortly after his discharge in June 1981, Stevens said. When NLRB attorneys determined Master Jig violated the NLR Act, the case was prosecuted before Buschmann last September, the Detroit attorney said. Unsatisfied with Buschmann's ruling, company officials appealed to the NLRB in Washington D.C. and lost the case.

Established in the 1930s, the NLR Act was designed to protect workers who wanted to unionize, Stevens said. Over the years, however, the labor act

has been extended to protect non-union employees who collectively seek improved working conditions, he said.

"Brown was not trying to start a union at Master Jig," Stevens said. "But the employees were acting like a union so they are protected. We won the case on that theory."

"NOW IT'S an order that they rehire Brown. But I don't know whether they have refused to rehire him," Stevens added.

"No word has come through yet," said Brown, who refused to comment further.

John Galyon, Master Jig's general manager, who testified in the NLRB hearings, said he could not yet comment on the order to rehire Brown.

"I can't talk about it right now because we still have some matters in litigation," Galyon said. "There are other avenues we have to pursue."

Videreg is out-of-state and unavailable for comment.

The firm's only legal option, Stevens said, is appealing the NLRB order before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. If Master Jig officials refuse to rehire Brown, Stevens said he will ask the Court of Appeals to enforce the NLRB order.

El Salvador protested

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"Actually, with the position we're taking in dictatorship countries, we are creating a seedbed for communism because the people who are revolting have no other friend to turn to," she said.

But while El Salvador was a hot issue for some area residents last week, such may not be the case for the rest of Congressman Broomfield's constituents.

According to Sinclair, the congressman has exchanged thoughts on the subject with anti-war groups in the past few years, but most of the mail he gets deals with topics which are closer to home.

"Our general mail has not been heavy on El Salvador," he said. "People are more concerned with unemployment, the federal deficit, the budget and the economy."

Hills bargains for park

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"I don't want people to think we're spouting off (by disclosing details of the agreement)," Savage said.

City officials are optimistic a land trust grant will finance the purchase. But if the Kammer Land Trust Grant supplies only a portion of the funding, "then we'll have to sit down and look" at other financing methods, Savage said. The city has until June to apply for the yearly grant.

Spicer also declined comment on the deal, and Mark Thomas, the broker handling the sale for Weir, Manuel, Snyder & Ranke, Inc., is on vacation.

ACQUISITION OF the property would hail victory for community education and recreation leaders, members of the city's Historical and Planning Commission, as well as for former council members. All have put pressure on the Farmington Hills City Council to establish a city park.

The centrally located acreage features woods, a tributary of the Rouge River, hills, open meadows and wildlife. It was purchased at the turn of the century by Detroit attorney Lamm Goodenough and inherited by his daughter, the late Eleanor Spicer, a naturalist.

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