

# 2-Year Pact Written At Schoolcraft

Bargaining teams for the Faculty Forum and the Board of Trustees at Schoolcraft Community College hammered out a tentative contract agreement Thursday that could pave the way for opening of the school to students as early as Tuesday.

The opposing college factions reached tentative accord on a two-year pact after a three-hour negotiating session Thursday and a marathon 19-hour meeting Wednesday.

So far the two-year college located in Livonia has delayed for one month in opening its doors to students for the normal fall term.

The 122-member Faculty Forum set a ratification meeting for 4 p.m. Friday. The seven-member Board of Trustees was scheduled to meet at the school on the ratification issue at 2 p.m. today (Saturday).

Just exactly what the tentative contract contains was impossible to determine at Observer press time Friday. Spokesmen for both sides were tight-lipped in this respect.

But it can be safely assumed that the tentative pact calls for a wage increase for teachers of at least 13.8 per cent the first year and a basic salary offer of \$9,000 to \$16,300 for the second year.

Speculation that registration could begin for students Tuesday was inferred from a statement made by David L. Heinzman, Schoolcraft public relations director, at a mass meeting at Livonia's Stevenson High School last Monday that was arranged by the Faculty Forum.

At that time Heinzman said it would be possible

to start classes at the school three days after the strike was settled.

Whatever the outcome of the ratification sessions, the Board of Trustees is scheduled to make an announcement after its Saturday meeting to press, radio and television.

The Faculty Forum bargaining team is composed of Chief Negotiator Oscar Poupart, Faculty Forum President Stuart Bloom, Larry VanderMolen, Gary Herhsron, Lois Mattison and Norman Wheeler.

The administration negotiating unit is composed of Schoolcraft Vice President Kenneth Linder, Schoolcraft Attorney Robert Battista and Fred Stefanski.

Thursday's tentative agreement climaxed more than nine months of negotiation often characterized

by bitter infighting and partisan political highlights.

It was believed that the two parties had come to accord early last week. But this notion was soon dispelled when each disagreed publicly as to the length of the contract each thought it was bargaining for.

To clarify its point in this respect, the board issued the following statement Wednesday:

"Our interest in a two-year contract is not something of the last moment. From the onset of negotiations last January, we indicated strong interest in a two-year pact. Just the thought of having to face again in a few months what we are now going through should lead any reasonable person to prefer a contract of longer duration than one year."

Faculty Forum spokesman declared last Monday they were under the belief they had been negotiating for a one-year contract all the time.

## UAW Pessimistic Here

# GM Strike Idles 13,500 In Area Plants

By BOB McCLELLAN

The United Auto Workers strike against the giant General Motors Corp. moved into its fifth day this morning with Observersland union presidents expressing little optimism for an early settlement.

The nationwide walkout against the auto company started after midnight Monday. It affects more than 13,500 hourly workers at five General Motors facilities in Livonia, Westland and Redford Township.

The UAW strike has shut down 157 GM plants across the country and has crippled production at 27 of the firm's parts supplier centers. More than 350,000 GM hourly workers have been idled by the strike.

A SPOKESMAN told the Observer that GM executives had expressed no opinions as to how long the strike might last, but a statement issued during the week by Earl Bramblett, GM vice president of personnel, suggested it could be a long one.

Bramblett said the GM-UAW bargaining teams could possibly hammer out agreement on national issues in three or four days, but that it would probably take much longer to resolve local items of dispute. He pointed out it took the company and the union five weeks three years ago to reach accord on local issues.

In regard to the length of the strike, GM supplied one terse comment:

"We will try to achieve a sound settlement as quickly as we can."

Two union spokesmen for Observersland UAW locals were much more blunt — and pessimistic.

PHILLIP TERRANA, president of Local 174, which represents 4,000 hourly workers at the GM Fisher Body plant in Livonia, was downright grim. "If this strike isn't over by the first week in November, I expect it to last until January," he declared.

Terrana believes it will take at least four to five weeks to resolve the numerous local issues.

Little cheer was expressed by Robert Kurtis, president of amalgamated Local 163. His union represents about 6,700 blue-collar laborers at GM's diesel plant in Redford Township.

"All indications point to a long strike," he stressed. "The corporation has not pressed the button to make any movement."

He revealed there were more than 200 unresolved local issues at his plant.

BEHIND BOTH UNION and management statements is the fact that the last time the UAW struck GM — in 1946 — the walkout lasted for 119 days.

A major bone of contention between the disputing parties is the union's effort to get a "30-and-out" clause in the three-year contract. The union wants to provide retirement for its workers with a minimum of \$500-a-month pension after they have worked for GM for 30 years — regardless of the worker's age. GM's Bramblett labels this demand "socially undesirable."

He said this provision could mean for some workers — those who started with the company when they were 18 and worked until 48 — that they would receive more in pension money than they had earned through paychecks.

He pointed out the corporation now provides special early retirement in some cases at \$500 a month for those who have reached the age of 58.

HE SAID the firm would agree to letting older workers go at less than age 58 if they would take eight per cent less in pension for each year under 58.

Bramblett said the union's "30-and-out" demand would work a hardship on the firm by depriving them of skilled workers that the company could not easily replace.

"It takes between \$38-40,000 over a four-year period to train a skilled journeyman," he revealed. Nonetheless the union — on its national front, anyway — declares it wants the "30-and-out" item in its new pact and can be expected to be hard-nosed about getting it.

All but one of the GM plant Union spokesmen in Observersland pointed out their membership, for the most part, is made up of men under 35 with less than five years' seniority.

Cleady McClure is financial secretary for Local 262. It represents 2,640 workers at the Chevrolet Spring & Bumper Plant in Livonia.

"Nearly 80 per cent of our men are under 35 and have less than 10 years' seniority," he said. "But there is good support among them for a contract that contains the '30-and-out' clause."

Kurtis says his membership feels the same way, and that he urged them to stand firm behind their national leaders on all issues in a union, rally called

PICKET LINES GO UP — This is now a familiar site at four General Motors plants in Observersland. Pickets here were caught at the Chevrolet Spring & Bumper Plant on Eckles Rd. in Livonia. More than 2,600 members of the United



Auto Workers struck the Livonia facility when the union started a national walkout against GM last Monday morning. (Observer photo by Vince Witek)

by the local at Livonia's Roma Hall Thursday noon. He said about 5,000 of his men attended the rally.

SOME UNION SPOKESMEN indicated, however, their members are concerned basically with getting immediate pay raises.

"They want the money right now," asserted Domingo Vidal, president of amalgamated Local 203 which covers 150 hourly employees at the Chevrolet Parts Warehouse in Westland.

"Ninety-five per cent of my men are under 25. They need the money now because they've got growing families and house and car payments."

Vidal said 100 of his warehouse workers have been sent home for lack of work and that the 50 others probably can be expected to hold employment there for no more than three weeks.

"We have an unusual arrangement with Chevrolet," he explained. "The warehouse is owned by GM, but the labor is supplied by Leaseaway of Detroit on a contract basis. That's why my men are not on strike, though they're still out of work."

The only other GM plant in Observersland affected by the strike is the firm's parts depot in Livonia. The Observer was unable to obtain any details from the union or the plant's management.

In recent negotiations, the union has not accepted GM's money offer. The auto giant has offered its hourly workers increases of 9.8 per cent the first year and three per cent each year for the second and third years.

The sides are at odds on the controversial cost-of-living issue, too.

IF THE CUSTOMER cost index merits it, say GM bargainers, the firm will raise the limit on this item up to 16 cents for the first two years and raise it another 12 cents for the third year.

The cost of living issue is a particularly thorny one, because the union feels it lost a good deal of money — and face — when it agreed to a ceiling on the item in the previous three-year contract.

Just how long the strike will last cannot be predicted with any accuracy, but indications are that the union is prepared for a long one.

The union has about \$120 million in its strike fund. It does this out at \$30 weekly for a single man, \$35 for a couple, \$40 for a family, and paid life and medical insurance.

Union officials say the strike fund will last six to eight weeks. There's no indication on the union's part that this will curtail the length of the strike, however.

"We didn't have any fund at all when we struck GM in 1946," Local 262's McClure noted. That strike lasted four months.

## Michigan Bell Tells Why It Asks Rate Hike

The Michigan Bell Telephone Co. has filed new statewide rate schedules designed to produce \$14.8 million in additional revenue authorized by the state Public Service Commission.

The proposed rates will not become effective until approved by the commission.

"Every effort has been made to simplify the new rate structure so that rates may be more easily understood by customers," said John Peard, a Michigan Bell manager. "The new rates also are designed so that customers pay on the basis of the amount of service and facilities they actually use," he said.

Peard said the new rates obviously will result in higher phone bills for most customers. However, by streamlining rates and making them more flexible, he added, the company is seeking to have charges relate more closely to customer usage.

MAJOR features of the new rates include a discount to customers for dialing their own long distance calls; the dropping of the three-minute initial period for long distance calls within Michigan with all such calls being charged by the minute; and a uniform \$9 charge for installing, moving or changing service, including customer initiated number changes. This is the first statewide use of the one-minute charge for all intrastate long distance calls.

The new long-distance rates in Michigan range from five cents a minute for calls below 20 miles up to 35 cents a minute for calls over 200 miles. Customers dialing their own calls will receive a discount of 20 per cent on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. A 40 per cent discount will be given at all other times and on certain holidays (Christmas, New Year's, July 4, Labor Day and Thanksgiving).

There is no discount where operator work is required to handle station calls, except in

a few areas where customers cannot dial their own long-distance calls. For person-to-person calls there is a 50 cent additional charge for each call to help cover the extra costs involved. Fewer than five per cent of long distance calls within Michigan are now person-to-person.

The message unit billing system is being eliminated. It is used in the Detroit metropolitan area, Pontiac and Grand Rapids. Local calling areas will remain the same. Interzone calls, between non-adjacent zones or exchanges, will be charged by the minute. Interzone calls will be five cents per minute for calls up to 20 miles and 10 cents per minute for calls beyond that distance.

Customers who dial their own interzone call will be given a 40 per cent discount at any time. Each person-to-person interzone call will have an additional 50-cent charge above the basic time charge.

Residence metro service will be increased 80 cents per month to \$11.75, with a three-cents-per-minute charge beyond a 25-hour monthly allowance for calls outside the local calling zone. Customers who have measured local service will pay 4.5 cents per local call instead of the present 4.2 cents.

There is no change in the business metro monthly service rate, either for individual lines or PBX trunks. But business local calls are up from five cents to six cents each, uplited.

OTHER changes include the introduction of one-party budget service in Detroit suburban zones; the consolidation of two-party measured service with two-party budget service with budget service local calls dropping from 8.4 cents to 4.5 cents each; and the replacement of the one- and two-party Econo-Unit services with the new simplified rate structure.

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