

Crawford Union Acknowledges Company Gesture

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Sandy Scarantino, president of striking Local 45, United Furniture Workers, this morning expressed his appreciation on behalf of some 160 members of the union for the Christmas cash gift of \$15 from the Crawford Furniture Manufacturing Corporation, but said that the bonus was agreed to in a previous union contract.

He said: "The members of Local 45 appreciate the gesture on the part of the Crawford Company on paying the Christmas bonus a few days before the time agreed upon in an agreement reached between Crawford Furniture union and the company on May 1, 1953."

Mr. Scarantino pointed to the fact that prior to this year there has never been a Christmas bonus paid to any members of the union. He stated that only after considerable negotiations the early part of this year were the members of the Crawford union able to obtain a Christmas bonus in their contract with the Crawford company.

He referred to a clause in the contract which stated that the company will supplement the contributions (voluntary payroll deductions made weekly by employees, for a Christmas fund) with an amount equal to the employees contribution but in no event shall the amount exceed \$15 per employe in any one year.

The contract was voided when members affiliated with the CIO last July, but Mr. Scarantino said the union and company had been operating on the old contract from the time of the affiliation until the strike on Nov. 9.

Mr. Scarantino stated that one of the issues involved on the present strike at the company is an improvement in the Christmas bonus.