

Strikers Ready To Talk Terms, Scarantino Says

Clyne Crawford Restates Company's Willingness to Meet

"We are ready to meet with management any time they wish to meet," Sandy Scarantino, president of Local 45, United Furniture Workers (CIO) stated following a meeting Saturday of striking members employed at Crawford Furniture Manufacturing Corporation.

The strike, which started Nov. 9, was entering its fifth week today.

Clyne Crawford, president of Crawford Furniture, said this morning that a statement he made at the start of the strike on Nov. 9, that his committee is willing to meet with the union officials at any time, still stands.

"We have also conceded a minimum of four hours work and pay if employe is advised to report for work, arbitration, plant wide seniority, liberal leaves of absences for union conventions or other causes, check-off system and many other contract concessions," Mr. Crawford said.

The dispute centers mainly over a wage increase. The company submitted an offer of a 2-cent hourly increase on base rates which is equivalent to 4 cents an hour in pay envelopes on the incentive plan, Mr. Crawford stated. They offered 5 cents on day work. The union is reportedly asking 4 cents on base rates and 8 cents an hour increase for day workers.

Sam Olfano, international representative of the CIO, sharply criticized management for a letter sent out late last week to all union members and their families.

"The letter constitutes an attempt by management to divide the unity of striking members of Local 45 in which the company sent out letters to each employe with a copy of a contract not complete or formally agreed on by either party.

"It is an obvious attempt to go over the heads of the union committee and the international representative direct to the people," Mr. Olfano stated.