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Crawford Calls Upon Union to Name Arbitrator

Calls for Resumption Of Normal Work Before Meeting

Officials of Crawford Furniture Manufacturing Corporation and of Local 45, United Furniture Workers of America, continued today to work toward settlement of a "wildcat" strike at the plant, now moving into its third day.

Following a union resolution promising to go back to work "if the company reinstates the union president (Sandy Scarantino) with full seniority rights, and agrees, in writing, to settle all unresolved grievances within three weeks," Clyde Crawford, president of the furniture firm, issued the following statement:

"In view of the news reports of the resolution passed by the members of Local 45, UFWA, we have dispatched a letter to Sam Olfano, UFWA international business representative, stating that we will meet with them immediately upon resumption of normal operations to process the Scarantino grievance.

Insists on Action

"The company also insists that the union grievance committee stop procrastinating on the concluding of grievances and authorize one of its representatives to meet with a corporation representative to select an arbitrator in accordance with the union contract.

"Two-thirds of all grievances filed by employees since Jan. 1, 1955, have been done so either by Mr. Scarantino, Mr. Tennies, or Mr. Webb.

"In the case of Mr. Tennies' grievances, for instance, the company representatives insisted an arbitrator be chosen in accordance with the union contract on Oct. 26, 1955. Scheduled meetings thereafter on these grievances were repeatedly postponed by the union chairman.

"As late as February 16, 1956, we again wrote the president of the union to have a representative meet with the company representative to pick an arbitrator. The letter concluded as follows:

"Your prompt attention to this letter would be greatly appreciated as we are very anxious to have the above grievances disposed of."

"Up to this time, we have had no reply to this letter, either in writing or verbally."