

**PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT**

**0-595**

Chemical workers of relief. The extent of the West Coast strike has been reached. Some chemical plants were tied up in West Coast ports during the long walkout are considering another serious problem that was created by the strike—the possibility of permanent loss of overseas markets.

One chemical company said that before the President invoked the Taft-Hartley Act to force workers back to the docks for 90 days, it "lost some overseas customers, and I'm not sure we'll ever get them back." These markets were in the Far East and have been taken over by English suppliers. "When a new supplier moves in, it means a new relationship has begun that makes it twice as difficult for us to get in the back door," he added.

Dow spent \$25,000/month on extra transportation to avoid this problem. "That's the advantage of being an international firm," a Dow spokesman said, "because we can service our customers from other points if one of our supply lines dries up." But even these expenditures have not prevented Dow from losing some business abroad, although the total impact on the company has been relatively small.

**Ratification Won:** Meanwhile, an International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union caucus meeting in San Francisco overwhelmingly voted to ratify the new contract and set a date for a full-membership vote. The caucus had been convened last week to study the "memorandum of understanding" between the union negotiators and the Pacific Maritime Assn., which outlined the points of the settlement.

## Chemical pacts signed

Although the '72 chemical labor contract calendar is relatively light, some key pacts have already been concluded, including those at Union Carbide, Koppers and Cellu-Products plants.

Carbide's electrometallurgical products unit at Marietta, O., site of a much-publicized pollution abatement controversy, has signed a two-year contract with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW). It includes wage and benefit boosts estimated by the union at \$16/hour for the 950 workers, a wage-reopener clause for the second year, increased shift-differential premiums, and an additional (fifth) holiday.

OCAW also negotiated a new contract

with wage increases of 6% a year over three years and raises the company's contribution to hospitalization from 50% to 65%. It also includes, for the first time, shift premiums in the computation of vacation pay.

District 50 reached an agreement with Cellu-Products, successor to Kimberly-Clark Corp. at a Niagara Falls, N.Y., paper and tissue mill. The accord, covering 860 workers for three years, was the first since Kimberly-Clark sold the plant last year because of "economic conditions." The pact, providing wage hikes of 6%/year beginning in June, was reached following resolution of a seniority grievance that had threatened to block the sale.

In another development, Armstrong Rubber became the fourth major rubber producer (others are Goodrich, Goodyear and Uniroyal) to agree to help finance an in-plant health survey and research study. An accord Armstrong has with the United Rubber Workers provides for an epidemiological study by the Harvard School of Public Health.

## Du Pont is the target

Chemical labor unions, as expected, are beginning to step up their efforts to organize Du Pont plants. A variety of factors, including interunion rivalry, government policies and the symbolic value of organizing "the citadel of antiunionism in the chemical industry"—as District 50 calls Du Pont—seem to be behind the latest drive.

Du Pont confirms that union organizing activity is "on the upswing." The company would not elaborate on what the unions are doing or what plants are key union targets. It concedes only that the action is concentrated outside Delaware.

Part of the activity probably is attributable to the impending merger of the United Steelworkers and District 50. The International Chemical Workers Union is reportedly concerned that the merger could cut into its own organizing success. It may, therefore, with the covert encouragement of other AFL-CIO members who are unhappy with the USW-District 50 merger, try to organize new plants before that court-delayed combination goes into effect.

**Aiming High:** District 50 is concentrating on organizing additional plants of companies with which the union already has some contracts, especially Du Pont, says John Oshinski, the union's director

of the union organizing. The union already represents workers at Du Pont's La Porte, Tex., and North Bay, Ont. (Du Pont of Canada) plants.

Since last summer, when Charles Levinson, head of the International Federation of Chemical and General Workers, picked Du Pont for a global organizing campaign, an organization called the Du Pont Union Coalition has disseminated material asking how workers feel about organizing.

## Animosity over asbestos

Even though Pittsburgh-Corning Corp. closed its Tyler, Tex., plant three weeks ago, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union is still battling alleged safety hazards there. OCAW complains there's a possibility of public health hazards and susceptibility of ex-workers at the asbestos insulation plant to job-connected diseases.

OCAW, in a telegram to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Ruckelshaus, charged the company with "dumping waste asbestos in open fields and pits in the vicinity of the plant, thus permitting asbestos fibers to blow about the countryside." EPA, OCAW contended, should take immediate action to compel the company to bury all its asbestos waste.

Pittsburgh-Corning, the union alleged, also has sold tens of thousands of empty burlap bags, which had contained asbestos and are "heavily polluted with asbestos fibers." OCAW asked Ruckelshaus to notify the public of the alleged danger, trace the bags that have been sold and recall them.

In another telegram sent on the same day, OCAW censured the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), charging that the agency did not take sufficient measures to protect workers' health at the plant. Two OSHA inspections at the plant since Nov. '71 have resulted in citations for several alleged violations with fines totaling \$7,200.

Pittsburgh-Corning says production at the plant was halted Feb. 3 because, despite company efforts, "it has become economically impossible to meet the . . . tough federal dust-level standards."

The company, adds President James Bierer, is making sure of the safe disposal of the remaining asbestos waste and will "keep in touch" with any employee showing symptoms of dust-related illnesses. The company also says it has recovered 900 of the burlap bags.

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