



MONTECITO, CALIF.—Bystanders watch fire burn on down through the canyon as they stand amid the ruins of this home, one of four destroyed by brush fire which hit this community east of Santa Barbara, Calif. Six homes were damaged and a late flareup after the fire war considered contained, placed a dozen others in a danger path.—(UPI Telephoto).

G.M. Rejects Union Proposal On Arbitration

DETROIT (UPI)—The United Auto Workers today proposed binding arbitration to head off a threatened nationwide strike against General Motors Friday, but GM promptly rejected the offer and recommended instead a contract extension.

GM Vice President Louis G. Seaton called the union's proposal a "heads I win, tails you lose" gambit.

Seaton said the company suggested that the national agreement "be extended beyond the 10 a.m. Friday deadline until such time as the few remaining differences have been resolved at the bargaining table."

UAW President Walter P. Reuther made the arbitration proposal in a three-page letter to Seaton as the two entered the final 24 hours of negotiations before the strike deadline for more than 300,000 workers.

The union said time was short and the differences between company and union were great. "There is now basis for reasonable doubt that those differences can be resolved on a mutually satisfactory basis in the new hours remaining before the strike deadline," Reuther said.

Because a GM strike would have crippling effects on the nation's economy, Reuther said, the company ought to agree to a three-member "board of impartial arbitrators" to meet and come up with a solution to the non-economic problems.

Under the plan, the two sides would each pick an arbitrator and those two would then select a third member who would serve as chairman of the board. In the event those two couldn't agree, the secretary of labor would select the chairman, Reuther said.

Reuther made the proposal after warning that a strike was inevitable unless GM made "meaningful progress" in non-economic areas.

Seaton said the company was

Ralph LaFollette Completes Training

Ralph R. LaFollette, Craigville, local representative for Mutual of Omaha and United of Omaha, has recently completed the comprehensive insurance course offered at the national sales training school session in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The school was held at the Pittsburgh training center under the direction of Jack Haff, training director. It is the first step of a formal educational program established by Mutual of Omaha to provide its representatives with the advantages of professional training methods. LaFollette was chosen for the national sales training school through a selection interview analysis. On the average, only one out of eight applicants is able to pass the rigid entrance requirements.

willing to match the economic gains won by the UAW at Chrysler and Ford, but agreed there were still differences in non-economic areas such as working conditions and production standards.

The union earlier this week set a deadline of 10 a.m. Friday for an agreement or a strike by more than 300,000 workers. The union represents a total of 350,000 GM workers.

However, the union made plans to head off the closing of 10 GM plants which also make vital parts needed by Ford and Chrysler for their cars. Reuther said workers at those plants would be instructed to remain on the job in the event of a nationwide GM strike.

Seaton said that was all right with him. "Our plants are open for business, and that means all plants," he said. "If the boys want to come to work at 10 a.m. tomorrow, the gates will be open."

The union doesn't want the other two firms closed because it reached peaceful settlements with them earlier this month. Those contracts, called the richest in auto industry history, included earlier retirement at age 60 with \$400 a month pensions, more pay, an extra week's vacation, wholly paid insurance and a host of other benefits.

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Only Minor Damage In Two Accidents

Only minor damage resulted in a pair of Wednesday afternoon accidents on Decatur streets.

At 3 p.m. Wednesday, autos driven by Stephen Teeple, 16, route 2, Decatur, and Roy Hamrick, 58, of 423 Elm St., collided in the intersection at Monroe and Seventh streets.

Teeple was southbound on Seventh and was struck on the left side by Hamrick, who was northbound on Seventh and attempting a left turn onto Monroe. Hamrick said he failed to see that Teeple car until the impact. Damages were estimated at \$20 to the Hamrick vehicle and \$10 to the Teeple auto.

In a 4:11 p.m. mishap, Robert Bombka, 25, of 911 Bush St., backed from an alley and struck a car driven by Kathleen Ann Gross, 23-year-old resident of 705 Winchester St.

Bombka had pulled into the alley on Madison street, and then proceeded to back out, striking the west bound Gross vehicle on the right side. Damages were listed at \$175 to the Gross car and \$25 to the Bombka car.

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