

Screen Makers Place Hopes For Labor Peace on New Control Measure

Studio Unions Jealous of Jurisdiction Scope; Adhere Strictly to Labor Rules

By KASPAR MONAHAN, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 2—Hollywood is waiting anxiously to see if the new labor-control law will end any of its jurisdictional disputes. Labor troubles have added tremendously to the woes of the movie industry, already beset with high costs and shrinking markets. Most of these troubles have been of the type which is always hardest to handle—jurisdictional rows. Particularly is this true in an industry with so many technical problems and complicated practices.

Luxury wages—far higher than those paid in business as a whole—have made studio jobs attractive. And in order to protect and promote such jobs, labor has divided movie employment into a variety of crafts and specialties which defies analysis.

Average Pay \$96.28

The California Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average weekly wages of film workers was \$96.28 in April. This figure doesn't include any of the so-called "creative talent," such as actors, writers and directors. It's for ordinary craft workers.

That average compares with the national factory average of \$48.46 reported by the U. S. Labor Department for May.

The jobs are soft, the conditions are ideal. Sound stages are clean, spacious and air-conditioned. Filmmaking is a leisurely procedure and the craftsmen seldom have to extend themselves.

They are the aristocrats of labor, so every job is highly-prized. Each of the 52 studio unions is jealous of its jurisdiction and striving to create more jobs for its craft. Hence the growth of featherbedding and a hair-trigger reaction to any encroachment on its domain, real or fancied.

Adhere to Rules

The slightest deviation from the myriad rules on jurisdiction is enough to bring the threat of strike and a pause in production, while scores or hundreds stand idle and drawing full pay.

For example:

An extra actress in a period movie needed more make-up on her exposed shoulders and partly-exposed bosom. The director called a make-up woman and told her to please hurry because a delay would increase production costs.

She refused—said that job belonged to a woman who did "body make-up" and her jurisdiction extended only to the Adam's apple.

In another studio a crew was summoned to make still pictures for publicity use. A man switched on the lights. Immediately a howl went up. Then time out for telephoning the business agent. The man who switched on the lights, it developed, only did this job when a film was being shot. When a still photograph is wanted, a member of another union snaps the switch.

Producers Angered

Producers rage inwardly, but there's nothing they can do about it.

It was a jurisdictional dispute that brought the labor wars of Hollywood to a climax in 1945. The Conference of Studio Unions claimed jurisdiction over 78 set erectors. The International Alliance of Stage Employees disagreed, and the strike was on.

Thousands went out, violence

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SAVAGE LOVE UNLEASHED
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Dear Ruth
WILLIAM HOLDEN
JOAN CAULFIELD
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COZY
Open 9:45 A.M.
The Outlaw
Jane Russell
Nothing Cut

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GRAND CIRCUIT RACING
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JUDGING
WAYNE KING AND ORCHESTRA
FRIDAY, SEPT. 5TH
TONIGHT
GRANDSTAND—"STATE FAIR FOLLIES OF 1947"—8 P.M.

FOX BURLESQUE
Welcome FAIR VISITORS!
Ceil Vondell
Shirley • Freddy Lewis • Betty Brooks



WORKING GIRL

"The Richest Girl in the World" says she'll keep right on working as a photographer and editor after a French Riviera honeymoon with her second husband, Porfirio Rubirosa, of the Dominican Republic.

He denounced the rival union as a "scab" and "company union," being bribed by the producers with high wages. He admitted that those wages in the case of many workers were out of all reason.

Accused of Red Tactics

Present I. A. T. S. E. heads, Richard Walsh and Roy Brewer, accuse the C. S. U. of Communistic tactics. This is called "bunk" by C. S. U. sympathizers who insist their rivals are in cahoots with the producers.

Both rival unions belong to A. F. of L. but President William Green's efforts to bring about a truce have failed.

C. S. U. supporters say the right of peaceful picketing has been denied in California. A studio driver snorted when I mentioned this.

"Look, brother," he said. "This car was hit by rocks during the strike and the windows busted. They tried to kill me. Peaceful picketing, my eye!"

NEXT: Hollywood Frets Over Television.

Times Amusement Clock

CIRCLE

"Front Page Story," with Burt Lancaster and Charles Bickford, at 11, 1:45, 7:30 and 10:15.

"Code of the West," with James Warren, at 12:45, 3:45, 6:30 and 9:15.

"Variety Girl," with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Barbara Stanwyck and star cast, at 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 7:30 and 9:45.

"RUTHIE'S"

"Alexander's Ragtime Band," with Alice Farren, Fredric March and Tyrone Power, at 11, 2:30 and 10:15.

"Western Union," with Randolph Scott and Zane Grey, at 11, 2:30 and 8:30.

"LOVE'S"

"Song of the Thin Man," with William Powell and Myrna Loy, at 11, 1:45, 3:45, 6:30 and 9:15.

"Adventures of Don Coyote," with Frances Bavier and Richard Arlen, at 12:45, 3:21, 6:09 and 9:15.

"LYRIC"

"Dear Ruth," with William Holden and Joan Caulfield, at 11, 1:30, 7:20 and 10:05.

"Phil Vance's Gamble," with Alan Carney and Austin, at 12:45, 3:30, 6:20 and 9:05.

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