

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Garbage Workers Not City's Lowest Paid

Garbage workers, before the strike, had a minimum pay rate of \$1.65 an hour, but hundreds of other city employes working today get less than that.

And hundreds of others make little more.

This was the crux of the matter in the city government's resistance to the strikers' demands, administration sources have said. They said it was not just a question of raising money to pay increases for the garbage collectors, but for many other city employes.

So now the city administration faces that situation.

Odell Horton, director of City Hospitals said more than 600 hospital employes make less than the federal minimum wage for hospitals of \$1.40 an hour.

## STARTING PAY

While \$1.65 is the starting pay for garbage collectors, most made \$1.80 before the strike, Public Works officials said. The \$1.80 amounts to \$72 a week or about \$312 a month.

While the garbage collectors are in the hourly paid class, their pay is more than that of some city workers

under civil service. In the first civil service grade, from \$200 to \$250 a month, the city has 13 employes. There are 124 holding jobs in the civil service range from \$225 to \$275, and another 160 in a grade between \$250 and \$310 a month.

Not far above that point on the pay scale are the firemen and policemen.

## FIRE, POLICE

Of a total of 1,827 employes in the Police and Fire Departments, 1,045 are in the pay grade between \$460 and \$570 a month, the lowest for that division.

There are 202 in the next grade which carries a base pay of \$610 a month, 322 with a base pay of \$685, some 197 with a base pay of \$780 a month, and 61 with a base pay of \$895 a month.

Actual salaries for fire and police departments are also affected by time in service, so the base pay figures do not necessarily reflect the actual salaries.

## MONEY

Before settlement of the garbage workers' strike hinged on money it was

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learned all grievances had been worked out — including one about Negro laborers in the sewer-drain department of Public Works being sent home on a rainy day while white workers were kept on the job.

This has been charged by a number of strike supporters, and is said to have touched off the strike. But Charles Blackburn, director of Public Works, denied that it did.

The incident occurred on Jan. 30. Because of the rain, Blackburn said, 21 employes of the sewer and drain department were given two-hour "show-up" time and released for the day.

#### BLACKBURN

It's true that the men were Negroes, Blackburn said, "but this had nothing whatever to do with their being sent home that day."

In fact, a number of other Negroes were kept at work that day, the director said.

"It was just a matter of reducing our work force," Blackburn said. "The work which they were to do, digging sewer connections, could not be done because of the mud. We put some men on other jobs, such as clearing out stopped-up storm drain inlets, but we couldn't use everybody."

#### SHOW-UP

It had been the practice, Blackburn said, to pay those who were not needed on rainy days two hours for showing up for work and then releasing them. "The men always had an option anyway of calling in if they didn't want to work in the rain," Blackburn added. Those sent home in cases of rain were rotated among the

work force so the same men did not get sent home each time, the director said.

Blackburn said 114 hourly-paid Negro employes of the sewer and drain department did work that day. He said 21 others on monthly salaries, such as truck drivers, tractor drivers and special equipment drivers also worked. Of those, 13 were Negroes, Blackburn said.

There were also ~~20~~ ~~some~~ men who stayed. Four of these were Negroes also, the director said.

The issue was among grievances brought by the local union spokesmen, prior to the strike. But Blackburn insists that it was not a "major" item, and that it did not cause the strike.

"I did feel they had a point," Blackburn said. "I issued a memo, it took me about three days — that I

would try to see that any employe could work a full week if he wanted to, regardless of rain. That policy has been put into effect."

Before the strike, Black-

burn said, 225 sanitation department crew chiefs in the 1,200-man work force were Negroes. They were in charge of a truck, crew of men and a route. Seven of

the 12 labor foremen, next highest in authority, were Negroes, he said, and four of the 16 division superintendents, next highest position, were Negroes.