

U.A.W. Maps Battle Against Extension Plans Suit to Test Nixon On Negotiated Increases

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BOSTON, Aug. 18 — The United Automobile Workers warned the Nixon Administration today that it would terminate its contracts with the auto companies and fight any extension of the wage-price freeze that would eliminate upcoming wage increases due the union.

Leonard Woodcock, the president of the U.A.W., told 1,700 cheering delegates at the union's skilled trades convention here, "If this administration thinks that just by issuing an edict, by the stroke of a pen, it can tear up contracts, they are saying to us they want war."

"If they want war," he added, "they can have war."

Mr. Woodcock said that the union would file suit to test whether the Administration had the legal right to make unions give up wage increases due to go into effect during the 90-day freeze.

He added, however, that the increases within the 90 days rent wage-price freeze since only a small number of workers in the agricultural machinery section were due to get increases within the 90 days. He said that the union would also call off any of its 57 current local strikes that were purely for economic gains.

Pay Rise Due Nov. 22

About 750,000 auto workers in the 1.3 million-member union are due to receive a pay increase of 3 per cent on Nov. 22. This is 10 days after the 90-day freeze runs out. They are also due a cost-of-living adjustment for 1971 on Dec. 6.

In a statement approved by the union's international executive board, Mr. Woodcock said that if the wage-price freeze was extended and the contracts "are not permitted to operate as written, we will consider them terminated and will act accordingly."

"We're not necessarily saying strike," Mr. Woodcock explained in a news conference, "but we will be free to take any action we want."

The auto union's agreement with General Motors provided an increase of 51 cents an hour in the first year and a 3 per cent raise for each of the second and third years, with an unlimited cost-of-living protection.

Mr. Woodcock said the G.M. agreement "was won after long strikes involving great sacrifices by hundreds of thousands of workers and their families and a cost of almost \$200-million in strike benefits."

He said that the union would begin immediately to try to mobilize the whole labor movement against the current wage-price controls, which he said were not needed.

He said that Emil Mazey, the union's treasurer, had been sent to Washington to consult with George Meany, the president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, whose executive

council is due to meet tomorrow to consider the wage-price freeze. A letter asking for the support of the U.A.W. position was also sent to Frank Fitzsimmons, the president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Democrats Also Criticized

Mr. Woodcock not only attacked the Administration but also criticized Democratic leaders in Congress for passing legislation that gave a free hand to President Nixon to impose the freeze.

"Mr. Nixon's hand wielded the dagger," Mr. Woodcock said, "but the dagger was put there by the leading Democrats in Congress, who advocated a law to put in the restraints."

The union rescheduled to Nov. 20 a special convention that was to be held on Sept. 11. The new date comes just after the wage-price freeze is scheduled to end and two days before the union's wage increases are to go into effect.

On the agenda will be a proposal to consider "all necessary action to protect the integrity of our contracts and the collective bargaining rights of our members."

In a speech to the delegates, Mr. Woodcock called the wage-price controls "the gravest threat to the freedom and effectiveness of the American labor movement in a generation."

He said that even during the Korean war, when the nation was in danger of getting into a war with Communist China, the cost-of-living adjustments and wage increases won by the union were permitted to be put into effect despite wage and price controls.

He said that the drains on the economy in 1950 were much greater than now.

of Wage-Freeze

Discrimination Alleged

Mr. Woodcock said that the wage price controls were "discriminatory" since wages are more easily controlled than prices, which must be watched for millions of different items.

The union's executive board statement said that the lack of controls on profits, dividends and interest rates and the granting to corporations of a tax credit on investment "reflects a perverse order of priorities in keeping with traditional Republican adherence to the trickle-down theory."

"With industry presently operating at 73.2 per cent capacity, the investment credit is hardly likely to unleash any sizable increase in business spending for plant and equipment," the statement said.

The only item in the Nixon program favored by the board was the ending of the 7 per cent excise tax on autos. But the statement estimated that the President's proposal to cut 5 per cent in Government employment would wipe out more jobs than would be created if the demand for domestic-produced cars increased sales by 500,000.