NEGOTIATORS BACK AT BARGAINING TABLE

Full Negotiations to Begin Wednesday

(Sept. 19) Negotiators for the MTA and UTU met across the bargaining table, today, for the first time since late Friday. No actual negotiations took place, but the two sides agreed to resume negotiations at 10 a.m., Wednesday. The UTU said its bargaining team will be at the table.

LINK TO: Other Developments in Today's Strike News Headlines

CEO Julian Burke told media gathered at the Pasadena Hilton that he is pleased with today's meeting. UTU General Chairman James Williams agreed with Burke's assessment of the talks.

The MTA asked the UTU to bring written responses to the agency's earlier contract proposals, but union leaders would not commit to that, according to an MTA spokesman.

ATU Talks Tentative

Negotiations between the MTA and ATU are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. The two sides were making progress when the talks adjourned, Sept. 14. The MTA and the TCU, which represents clerks, continued negotiations today.

In another development, the head of the LA County Federation of Labor announced that 8,000 to 10,000 AFL-CIO members plan to march in front of MTA Headquarters at 11 a.m., Thursday.

Meanwhile, picketing continued at MTA Headquarters and at the operating divisions.

"Things seem to be quiet and orderly at the divisions. There have been very few problems," said Transit Operations Chief Tom Conner. "The volunteers helping at the divisions have been diligent about working their shifts. We appreciate that."

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