

UTU QUILTS BARGAINING TALKS

- **Burke Urges Union to Send Operators Back to Work**

(Sept. 26) In a development that caught local news media by surprise, Tuesday, labor leaders announced that the UTU had walked away from negotiations with the MTA. In a news conference at the Pasadena Hilton, union negotiators said they are planning a rally, Friday, probably at City Hall.

In a follow-up meeting with the media, CEO Julian Burke expressed regret that the union had broken off talks. He urged UTU General Chairman James Williams to allow bus operators to return to work. The CEO said union negotiators have not responded to any of the MTA's proposals.

Earlier, Assemblyman Herb Wesson and Steve Smith of the state Department of Industrial Relations presented a proposal to the two sides. At their own news conference, Wesson described the proposal as a framework for discussion, but said it had not worked.

Smith encouraged both parties to return to the bargaining table sooner than later. Smith, who expressed frustration with the lack of progress in the talks, said he and Wesson will be on call to help in any way. One media report said the union would not come to the table until the mediators returned.

Burke called the mediators' proposal a good effort, adding that the MTA Board had never accepted nor rejected it. The CEO told the media he isn't sure where the negotiations will go from this point.

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