

‘SMATTERING’ OF MECHANICS, SUPERVISORS REPORT TO WORK

- **Negotiations Continue Despite Tensions Among Unions**

(Oct. 3) A smattering of mechanics and operations supervisors reported to work, Tuesday, following a surprise Monday announcement by leaders of the ATU and AFSCME that the walkout by the two unions would be suspended for a one-week "cooling-off period."

During a news conference, Monday, ATU President Neil Silver reserved the option of calling a strike next week if no contract agreement is reached during the cooling-off period.

With bus operators still walking the picket line, UTU General Chairman James Williams has scheduled a meeting of the union's membership for 11 a.m., Wednesday, at the Olympic Auditorium.

Bargaining talks continue

Meanwhile, bargaining talks continue between the MTA and UTU. MTA negotiators presented a counterproposal to the UTU Tuesday morning and arranged to meet with union leaders in the afternoon.

A contract proposal was presented to the ATU, Monday afternoon, and MTA negotiators have scheduled a meeting, today, with the TCU.

Despite tensions among leaders of the UTU, ATU and AFSCME, no incidents were reported among rank and file union members on picket lines at any MTA facility.

No problems anticipated

In a statement issued Tuesday morning, CEO Julian Burke said that, while he did not anticipate any problems on the picket line, security would be increased at MTA Headquarters and at the operating divisions.

"To be clear," he said, "any workplace violence constitutes automatic grounds for dismissal. Video surveillance equipment will be used to further discourage inappropriate behavior and, as necessary, to document the unlikely event of an altercation.

"The events of the past several weeks have taken an economic and emotional toll on the entire MTA family," said Burke. "I remain committed to resolving this labor dispute as soon as possible."

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