

After 5 Months, UTU Presents First Written Proposal

(Oct. 5) For the first time in five months of bargaining talks, UTU negotiators have presented the MTA with a written contract proposal.

The offer was handed to agency negotiators Wednesday evening, before talks were adjourned for the day.

Another bargaining session with the UTU is scheduled, today (Thursday), at 6 p.m. MTA negotiators also expect to meet with the ATU. Talks with the TCU aren't scheduled until next week.

In a statement to media gathered at the Pasadena Hilton, Mayor Richard Riordan expressed frustration at lack of progress in the negotiations with the UTU and with the delay in receiving a written proposal.

"Now, after five months," he said, "we finally received a written proposal. Then what happened? The union leaders left the hotel and told us they couldn't meet with us (until) tomorrow night at 6 o'clock."

He called on the union to go back to the bargaining table, adding, "... let's get the buses back on the road."

Meanwhile, 79 AFSCME members and eight ATU members reported to work on the 20th day of the strike. MTA transit contractors rolled a total of 133 buses to service contract lines in the South Bay, San Fernando Valley and along the Metro Red Line corridors as far west as the intersection of Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard.

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Riordan's
statement:
"I'm
frustrated."