



The Reverend Jesse Jackson, left, leads MTA and UTU negotiating teams through weekend bargaining sessions in Pasadena. **PHOTO BY JOSÉ UBALDO**

Negotiators Put in Long Weekend with the Rev. Jackson

(Oct. 16) After a long weekend of exchanging proposals under the tutelage of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, negotiators for the MTA and UTU continued bargaining talks Monday morning.

News of a picketer who was injured by a hit-and-run car exiting MTA Headquarters caused a brief interruption, but negotiators were back at the bargaining table shortly afterward. The teams broke for lunch at noon, but planned to reconvene at 2 p.m.

Throughout the weekend, the MTA and UTU exchanged proposals on part-time operators and work rules permitting the agency to schedule more hours for part-timers.



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In a 'dead zone'

Late Sunday afternoon, following two hour-long bargaining sessions and more hours of caucuses, Jackson - who marked his 59th birthday - told the media, "We've hit a certain impasse...We're in this dead zone." Talks adjourned just after 5:30 p.m., but resumed shortly after the teams had breakfast together, Monday morning.

Also participating in negotiations were Mayor Richard Riordan, Board Chair Yvonne Burke, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky along with CEO Julian Burke, Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky and other members of the MTA's bargaining team.

In addition to issues involving part-timers, MTA officials also were dealing with the question of whether the agency is achieving savings by not having paid striking workers during the past month. Union leaders believe the MTA has saved \$23 million or more, the amount the agency wants to save through contract negotiations.

Lipsky, however, told reporters that the agency "at best" is breaking

even, pointing out that when bus and train service is running, the MTA receives no revenue.

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