

MTA LABOR NEWS UPDATE

Thursday, November 13, 2003

Day 31

MTA Board Proposes Non-Binding Mediation/Arbitration for Health Benefits

The MTA Board of Directors met for several hours in closed session yesterday afternoon regarding the labor strike. MTA's Board Chairman afterwards held a news briefing with reporters and told them that the Board has proposed in concept the idea of submitting its health benefits dispute with striking mechanics to non-binding mediation/arbitration as a way to end the strike.

MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky told reporters that the three-person mediation/arbitration panel could consist of one representative from the mechanic's union, one from MTA plus a health-care expert elected by the other two referees.

In return for the creation of this three-person panel, the MTA would want striking mechanics to return to work. ATU president Neil Silver through the news media said he would need time to study the MTA's proposal.

The MTA Board of Director's next meeting is scheduled for this Friday afternoon at the Hall of Administration.

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