

# PEACE MOVE MADE BY PRESS WIRELESS

## Company Offers Plan to Have Arbitrator Decide Whether Strike Violated Contract

Press Wireless, Inc., proposed last night in an effort to settle the eight-day-old strike by members of the American Communications Association, CIO, the immediate designation of an arbitrator to decide whether the union violated its contract when it called the strike.

The management proposal, which was made to the union through H. Ross Colwell, regional director of the United States Conciliation Service, provided that if the arbitrator decided the union had not violated its contract, the company would reinstate forty-six discharged employees and then proceed with arbitration of the merits of their discharge.

If the arbitrator decided the strike was a contract violation, Press Wireless proposed that all the strikers return to work, except the forty-six who were discharged in an economy layoff, and that then the arbitrator proceed to decide the merits of the case.

### Murray's Guarantee Asked

A telegram to Mr. Colwell, signed by A. Warren Norton, president of Press Wireless, imposed one other condition, namely, that Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, guarantee in writing that the ACA "will live up to this agreement."

"If this offer is accepted and guaranteed," the telegram said, Press Wireless will immediately arrange for details of arbitration."

Under the proposal, both the company and the union would name one arbitrator and together agree on an impartial chairman.

"Press Wireless has always maintained," Mr. Norton's wire said, "that the proper settlement of the strike by the American Communications Association, CIO, should be achieved by the union living up to its contract, to follow arbitration procedures therein and not to strike for any reason."

"The union's strike has not succeeded in forcing Press Wireless to give the union greater rights through strike action than it secured in its contract but because the union has caused the unprecedented restriction upon the public's right to freedom of information, Press Wireless is willing to take unprecedented action in making substantial concession."

The Press Wireless strike had started over the union protest against the discharge of the forty-six workers and the proposed downgrading of remaining personnel.

Both sides had agreed previously to the principle of arbitration, but the company had wanted an arbitrator to decide first whether it had the right to make such discharges without arbitration before any consideration of the scope of the layoffs. The union position has been that the forty-six be reinstated and that an arbitrator immediately proceed to determine if the number of layoffs was justified.

Earlier yesterday Mr. Colwell had said he still was exploring the Press Wireless strike after he had received a report by a three-man Government mediation panel, headed by Elmer T. Bell, that both the union and the management were refusing to compromise their positions.

Renewing the threat of an extension of strike activities, a union spokesman said picketing of newspapers that have an ownership interest in Press Wireless was "imminent," but withheld announcement of any deadline.

The union officials, including Joseph F. Kehoe, national director of organization for the ACA and principal spokesman in the Press Wireless situation, devoted most of their attention not to the strike but to negotiations with RCA Communications.

The union demanded a closed shop from RCA and increased wages and took a strike vote three weeks ago. Further negotiations with RCA were the subject of a union membership meeting last night at the Hotel Diplomat.

RCA, with Western Union and Mackay, is not transmitting any press copy because of an embargo called by the ACA as the result of the Press Wireless strike, but is continuing to move other commercial traffic. A strike would cut into all of RCA's overseas service.

The embargo on press traffic continued to impose difficulties in transmitting overseas copy, but newspapers and press associations were managing to get essential traffic through by other facilities.

### Guild Decision Put Off

John F. Ryan, executive vice president of the Newspaper Guild of New York, CIO, said guild members employed in newspapers and press associations that may be picketed were being told that a guild decision on crossing picket lines would not be taken until a picket line had appeared.

Only two newspapers in New York are possible targets of such a picket line, THE NEW YORK TIMES and The New York Herald Tribune, which have an ownership interest in Press Wireless. Other offices that the ACA has threatened to picket are those of the Associated Press, International News Service, United Press, North American Newspaper Alliance and Editor & Publisher, which also have an interest in Press Wireless.

An ACA spokesman said that a cable had been received from Vassiliv Kuznetsov, chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, saying that an ACA request to support its strike by not handling "hot copy" had been taken under consideration.

At the New York office of Tass, Soviet news agency, it was said that since the strike and embargo started Tass had sent its American file to another of its bureaus overseas where other cable or wireless facilities are available to relay its copy to Moscow. Normally Tass transmits most of its copy through Press Wireless.