

Fires Spread Across City Amid Strike As Hundreds Of Guardsmen Pitch In



Armed National Guardsman Watches As Fire Officers Get Set To Combat Blaze At Waverly And Haynes

By Richard Gardner

Taunts By Strikers Greet Fire Fighters

By SCOTT WARE

Striking firemen were already there when a pumper truck arrived to battle the flames engulfing a vacant house at 499 Vance. But it was clear they had no intention of helping to fight the blaze.

Two of them, in civilian clothes, sat casually on a brick wall across the street. About eight others drove up and down the street in a pickup truck. It wasn't long before more arrived, joining the spectators drawn by the smoke and flames.

"Let it burn," one of the firemen yelled. The firemen had been on strike for about four hours — since shift change at 7 a.m. yesterday. They came to the fire scene to heckle and jeer at the captains and deputy chiefs who normally give them orders, but who yesterday found themselves on the opposite end of the hose.

"Hey, captain," shouted one of the strikers. "That's not the way to lay a line. You'll never get the fire out that way."

Downtown, an hour or so earlier, a group of strikers outside Fire Department headquarters at Front and Union reacted jubilantly to news of another fire that burned out of control at Chelsea and

Stonewall. "The brass just lost a two-story frame," one of them exulted. It was a day of tension and high tempers — but the striking firemen were not the only ones to be numbered among the angry.

"This is ridiculous," said Steve Corn, 25, a bystander, as he and several hundred others watched the effort to contain the fire on Vance. It burned near several other buildings, and many spectators wondered if the wind would spread the flames to those structures.

"I can sympathize with what they want," said Corn. "But when they're endangering other people like this, I just don't understand it."

Other spectators at the Vance fire were more vehement. "They ought to be shot," one woman said, motioning toward the strikers.

Still, there seemed to be a reservoir of public sentiment supporting the firemen's strike and demands for better pay and working conditions. "You better tell Mayor Chandler to give them what they want. They deserve it," said one man.

Even Vasco Smith, a County Court squire who reported the Vance fire and whose dental office immediately next door was threatened by the fire, was reluctant to condemn the strikers.

"When it gets this close to home, it's serious," said Smith, who helped the working firemen get their lines in position when they arrived to fight the fire.

"But folks have to do what they have to do to make a point. I just hope nobody has to suffer as a result."

The firemen also appeared to have the sympathy of many city policemen and even some of the National Guardsmen called up to replace them. But that sentiment showed signs of wearing thin as the strikers began to cause more and more trouble during the day.

Outside the gate to the National Guard

An Editorial—

Sad Day For Firemen

THE FIREMEN'S UNION is counting on public support in its strike against the city and its citizens.

It's doubtful the firemen will get it — or that they deserve it.

Memphians have been proud of their firemen over the years, and deservedly so. The department is internationally recognized as a superior organization. It has been a model for others. It has given Memphians good fire protection, which is reflected in good fire insurance rates.

So firemen have enjoyed popular support.

BUT LET THE STRIKERS not pretend their union accomplished that.

Public appreciation grew out of actions taken by mayors, members of the City Council, and members of the City Commission in earlier years. These leaders saw to it that funds were available for fine equipment and programs of excellent training. Firemen responded with outstanding performance. The city government has been willing to pay for top-rated fire protection, and so have the taxpayers.

But that does not translate into backing for a strike. For several reasons the action taken by members of Local 1784 of the International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL-CIO) is not going to arouse support:

- The union has tried to arm-twist the city administration into a change in wages based on shift

differentials without effectively making its case before the public. A fire department is a unique operation with strange but necessary variations in work-hours and off-days. It can't be lumped with all other municipal services because it's not like them.

- The strike came over a single issue. That's poor labor strategy and poor public relations. It leaves the city administration nowhere to go. If firemen hoped that memories of last year's budget crisis during police negotiations (which eventually evaporated) would stir public sympathy they were mistaken.

- The rash of vandalism and harassment that accompanied the strike is contrary to the public image of Memphis firemen. It came as an ugly shock.

- Close observers have noticed a fever among some of the more strike-happy union members. Emotion has been injected into a situation that requires calm thought and rational action. That's out of place on the front line of public safety.

- Whatever the contract issue or grievance, citizens still believe employees in critical public service jobs should not strike. To do so jeopardizes an entire community and every citizen.

We hope thoughtful firemen will reconsider. A lot of them have been victims of inept union officials.

Endangering a city, its people, its homes, its business and jobs is not the way to win public support.

Fires spread through Memphis last night as union firemen maintained a strike which began about 6 a.m. Hundreds of National Guardsmen moved into the city. More guardsmen were expected to arrive early today, and they will be joined by about 120 federal fire fighters.

Capt. W. W. Marlar, police command duty officer, said there were about 45 fires from 8 until midnight, which left firemen struggling to respond to all of them. The fires were in vacant buildings, occupied dwellings and warehouses, he said.

Police tactical squad officers arrested two arson suspects at 9:55 last night at Evergreen and North Parkway. Marlar said they were suspects in a blaze at the

This story was prepared by staff reporters James Chisum, Katherine Barrett, Dan Henderson, Christopher Jennewein, Thomas Jordan, Jeff Katz, Terry Keeter, Scott Ware and Jerome Wright.

Department headquarters at Front and Union in what appeared to be an attempt to force non-strikers to abandon their posts. Strikers used a silver-colored lug wrench to break the glass from the building's front door, and a captain was slightly injured in a scuffle.

One striking fireman was arrested after an incident with policemen directing traffic at a fire near Vance just east of Danny Thomas. Tires of some working firemen were slashed.

Fire officials would not divulge the number of supervisory and union employees who reported for work, but Maj. Gen. Carl Wallace, the Tennessee National Guard commander, said about 150 firemen were on duty. He said about 500 guardsmen were on duty in the city, and a guard spokesman said another 100 are to arrive early today.

City officials said Local 1784 of the International Association of Fire Fighters represents about 1,400 men, nearly all firemen below the rank of captain. About 175 men are not represented by the union.

Last night, the city was granted a temporary injunction prohibiting the union from "violent and mass picketing" and from "blocking ingress and egress" to the city's fire stations. The injunction did not limit the number of pickets.

Chancellor Robert Hoffmann signed the temporary restraining order and set a

(Continued on Page 4)

New Contract Gets Approval From AFSCME

By JEROME WRIGHT

Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) yesterday accepted a new labor contract with the city.

James E. Smith, director of AFSCME Local 1733, said the vote was 558 to 553.

However, the haggard-looking Smith, who had just completed the last of seven separate voting meetings, declined to give specifics of the agreement.

"My folks are tired. I'm tired. And I'm not going to be sitting here all day talking to no news media," Smith said.

Specifics, while also declining to give specifics, city officials said the city's offer "was the best they (AFSCME) had ever received."

The ratification came after several weeks of bargaining. Smith said earlier the union would not work without a contract.

The close vote angered many members, who called for another vote.

The new contract covers 2,300 sanitation, park, public works, auto inspection station, zoo and police service employees, and city court clerks.

Reached at his office yesterday, Sanitation Director Claude Pearson said he was delighted with the ratification vote, adding it was what he expected.

My faith and confidence in those employees has been upheld," said Pearson. AFSCME represents about 1,430 sanitation employees.

Pearson, a member of the mayor's strike contingency team, said negotiations between the two groups ended at 1:10 a.m. yesterday.

Maynard Stiles, public works director, also said he expected a favorable vote from the Local 1733 membership.

"I'm pleased it was ratified. It's exactly what I expected," Stiles said. About 300 public works employees are Local 1733 members.

"The city's offer was the best they have ever had. The vast majority of the (union) membership are responsible individuals and realize this was an excellent package," Stiles said.

However, the closeness of the vote indicated otherwise.

About 200 persons gathered at the Aft-

(Continued on Page 4)

The Weather

National Weather Service

FOR MEMPHIS and Vicinity — Partly cloudy with a 50 per cent chance of thundershowers today, decreasing to 30 per cent tonight. High in the mid-90s. Low in the upper 70s. Winds southwesterly at 10 mph. Partly cloudy with thundershowers possible tomorrow. High tomorrow in the mid-90s. Sunrise, 5:50; sunset, 8:18.

YESTERDAY'S REPORT

High, 94 degrees at 4 p.m.
Low, 80 degrees at 6 a.m.
Normal high, 91; low, 71.
(Map, Details on Page 11, Sec. C)

Assignment: Memphis—

Legal System Gets The Raspberries

By LYDEL SIMS

One of the proudest traditions of a free nation is that, in America, justice is blind. And it's more than simply a pious claim. It's true, and you can prove it for yourself any time you wish. Take an example. Better still, take two.

My own faith in the awesome blindness of justice was reinforced last week by examples on opposite sides of this great continent — the cases of one David Begelman in California and one Jacqueline Datcher in a Maryland suburb of our nation's capital.

THE NEWS ITEM about Begelman, a former president of Columbia Pictures, where he made \$400,000 a year, told of his sentencing for stealing \$40,000 from his own studio.

He had done it by forging endorsements on checks.

Why would a man who is already making \$400,000 a year want to steal \$40,000 more? Well, it's puzzling. Even the judge, Thomas Murphy of Burbank, Calif., was puzzled. He said Begelman's actions smacked of a "death wish." He said the affair was "bizarre, bizarre conduct as you'll find anywhere."

And, having thought it all over, he fined

Begelman \$5,000 and put him on three years' probation.

Think of it. And some cynics claim that a \$400,000-a-year man with what smacks of a death wish cannot find justice in America if he is guilty of \$40,000 worth of bizarre conduct.

THE ITEM ABOUT Miss Datcher said she had been convicted, by a jury of her peers, on a charge of petty shoplifting — specifically, eating two strawberries at a Maryland supermarket near Washington.

Miss Datcher said she didn't eat any strawberries. A store detective testified he saw her lift her hand to her mouth.

The corpus delicti, or whatever a lawyer might call the merchandise involved, was, of course, unavailable for submission as evidence. But the assistant state's attorney, a man named Courtois, apparently scored a telling blow with a statement that will live in the annals of strangled syntax if not in the history of law.

Obviously strawberries in a chewed condition is depriving someone of the value of his strawberries," he was quoted. "Strawberries in a swallowed state even more so."

The jury (six men, six women) found the defendant guilty. Sentencing has been set

for Aug. 7, so Miss Datcher has more than a month to wonder whether she'll get the maximum penalty: a \$500 fine and 18 months in prison.

Time alone will tell whether bizarre conduct and death wishes are considered extenuating circumstances in a petty shoplifting case. Presumably Miss Datcher doesn't make \$400,000 a year, but she has, by her own account, spent \$300 in legal defense already. That ought to be bizarre enough to help a little.

SURELY WE CANNOT tolerate strawberry-munching in supermarkets. That strikes at the heart of a free-enterprise system. And for all we know, the judge may follow the Begelman precedent, fine Miss Datcher one-eighth of the value of two strawberries and let her off with a warning.

But it is heartening to know our legal system is so flexible, so capable of adjusting to circumstances, that it is possible to get probation and a \$5,000 fine for stealing \$40,000, but also possible to get 18 months and a \$500 fine for eating two strawberries.

There may be weirder worlds than ours in the universe, but I'll bet you a quart of berries none are in our particular galaxy.



By Richard Gardner

Firemen Struggled Last Night To Save Vance Avenue Public Library
The Vacant Two-Story Building Next Door Was Destroyed



By James Shearin

Blazes Keep Fire-Fighters Busy Day And Night

A fire at 499 Vance (above) near Lauderdale burned out of control as striking firemen watched from across the street and heckled supervisors

who battled the blaze. A lieutenant was slightly injured. Last night, National Guardsmen (below) handled the

hose as firemen brought a blaze at the Lawler-Shrine School at 201 Collins under control.



By Thomas Busler

Firemen Strike For Public Notice

By CHRISTOPHER JENNEWINE

The fire fighters struck yesterday so people would take them seriously — and the results were deadly serious.

Firemen had complained for weeks that the city wasn't paying attention. The city had postponed negotiation meetings, tried to make lieutenants part of management — the firemen called it "union busting" — and a key letter from Mayor Wyeth Chandler had been inadvertently addressed to the Memphis Police Association.

The firemen said they wanted to be treated like other some city employees, and in the end struck because they weren't getting the night pay other employees receive. Some city employees who work eight-hour shifts are paid extra when they work at night. Firemen work 24-hour shifts.

After the last red and white signs were handed out yesterday morning, union president Kuhron Huddleston was saying it was time for the public to take notice. "We're depending on the citizens now to come to our aid," he said.

The public is usually 100 per cent behind the

underdog, but this time the underdog had been offered 17 per cent over two years and another holiday. And people were seeing closed fire stations, untended fires and smashed tires.

If the firemen were not likely to rally public sentiment, they had struck on an issue that allowed little compromise. Mayor Wyeth Chandler labeled the "shift differential" request as "absolutely without merit" and at \$1.3 million annually, too expensive.

Firemen work at night by definition, he said, so they aren't entitled to extra pay for it. Since that's a disagreement over concept, rather than amount, there's little room for compromise.

The firemen claimed had faith negotiations and were to some extent justified. City negotiators did not present a final proposal until late Friday afternoon because they were waiting for

results of a three-day vote by fire lieutenants on union representation.

That vote was to determine the city's negotiating position on the scope of the bargaining unit, one of the issues on the table.

The firemen said they had only an hour to discuss the bulk of the city's economic proposal, but Chandler said they could have picked it up by talking to other unions, since the city offered the same package to all.

In the end the strike seemed more a spontaneous reaction than part of a strategy. Signs had been printed, but the union had not prepared the city for a possible strike. There were few inflammatory statements, and the three-day picketing of City Hall in June had a festival atmosphere.

When the talks broke off at 6:15 p.m. Friday, both sides said they were willing to go back to the table. The negotiating teams spent the night waiting for calls, but did so only as a formality.

With an issue that is difficult to compromise and 1,400 angry firemen on the picket lines, the strike may get ugly. It probably will come down to a question of stamina: The firemen versus the mayor and 500 guardsmen.

Analysis

Firemen's Pay Offer Called 'Unparalleled'

The city offered the firemen a package that would raise a top-level private's salary by almost 17 per cent in two years.

It was the same offered the city's 13 other unions and called for a 6 per cent raise effective yesterday, \$30 on April 1, 1979, and 7½ per cent on Oct. 1, 1979.

Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler called it "unparalleled in this community's history." Between now and Oct. 1, 1979, a top-level fire private's salary would rise \$186.94 a month.

That private's monthly salary would rise immediately from \$1,108.88 to \$1,175.41, then to \$1,205.41 and finally \$1,295.82 at the end of the two years.

The "shift differential" issue that sparked the strike would have added \$986 a year to every fireman's salary.

Employees who work a regular eight-hour shift are paid extra if they have to work at night. The firemen argued they should also get this extra pay.

But Chandler said the demand was "absolutely without merit" because a fireman works at night by definition. His salary, Chandler said, is based on the way he works.

Firemen work 24-hour shifts, alternating days on and off for three working days, then are off for four days.

The city's initial package had a 5 per cent increase, but a percentage point was added later. Last week Chandler individually informed councilmen that the city would have a surplus of more than \$1.5 million for the fiscal year ending Friday and got their assurances that \$900,000 could be used to fund the extra per cent of salaries.

To give a 6 per cent raise to members of all city unions would cost the city \$5.6 million annually. But to give just the firemen shift differential would cost \$1.3 million.

Unions Shifted Gears After Killing Of King

Memphis firemen walked off their jobs in a strike in 1970. Volunteers manned the trucks and hoses, and although the strike lasted four months, it ended with the strikers asking for their jobs back and promising to have nothing more to do with unions. But the background of yesterday's strike and the modern era of governmental unions here began in the late 1960s with the efforts of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to organize sanitation workers.

That effort led to a 65-day strike by the sanitation workers which began in February, 1968. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led an aborted march to support the striking garbage men and was preparing for another when he was killed here April 4.

The death of the civil rights leader gave impetus to efforts to reach an agreement with the sanitation union and although details remained in dispute, a settlement was reached the month he died.

AFSCME moved quickly to organize other municipal employees, including those at the Memphis Park Commission, Memphis Housing Authority, the inspection station employees, nonacademic workers at the Board of Education and employees at City of Memphis Hospital. The organization of the hospital workers was punctuated by a 49-day strike in the fall of 1968.

The municipal union moved out of the noisy organizational stage after gains were consolidated and contracts signed in 1969. Although there have been walkouts or

short strikes by a few members since, AFSCME has usually managed to obtain contracts with ordinary, nonvolatile negotiations. The most noticeable dispute between government and union was an eight-day strike in January, 1975, by Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division employees represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Efforts to organize police and fire unions had begun also in the late 1960s, but such organization came only after the success of AFSCME.

Local 1784 of the International Association of Fire Fighters was chartered here on June 16, 1971, after a city decision to abandon the traditional parity of pay for firemen and policemen. Its first contract was signed in July, 1972.

The Memphis Police Association was organized in 1973, and unionization has since followed for sheriff's deputies and county firemen.

Panama Feels Quake

PANAMA CITY (AP) — An earthquake shook Panama early Saturday, sending people fleeing from their beds into the streets, but authorities said damage was light and there were no reports of casualties. A marine traffic control officer, said the tremor stirred up large waves on Lake Gatun, through which the Panama Canal passes.

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Contract Specifics To Be Given Later

(Continued from Page 1)

can Methodist Episcopal Church Minimum Salary Building at 280 Hernando about 3 p.m. yesterday for the union's final voting meeting on the contract. It was obvious that the deciding ballots would be cast there.

As union leaders walked into the building, they were constantly stopped and asked if there would be a strike. The reply was always, "We won't know anything until this meeting."

The six other meetings had begun about six hours earlier and had been staggered throughout the day.

Finally, about 5 p.m., Smith emerged from his second-floor office, flanked by union officers and members of the negotiating team, and caught an elevator to the lobby to address newsmen.

His face perspiring, he announced that he would not give specifics of the agreement and said he would be open to few questions.

"We are here to announce that an agreement has been reached and a contract has been ratified," Smith said. "The vote was a very close one. The closest in the history of Local 1733."

"We would like to inform the city and the people of Memphis that we have accepted a contract."

After Smith's announcement, Local 1733 president Taylor Rogers said the union and the city will meet Wednesday to finalize the new labor agreement.

"We still have some loose ends to tie up," he said. "We will meet with the city... to finalize the package and possibly sign the agreement."

Rogers and sanitation director Pearson, while not giving details, said the loose ends concerned contract language.

"We've got some housekeeping items that we've got to clean up... We're not going to release specifics until we've crossed all the t's and dotted all the i's," Pearson said.

However, sources said April 4, the anniversary date of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., would be a holiday for AFSCME employees — a demand described by union leaders as a key to any settlement.

King was killed April 4, 1968, while assisting in a strike by the union, which was then seeking recognition as the city's first municipal union.

Meanwhile, Smith was asked if AFSCME

would support the fire fighters strike, he replied, "We're going to support the fire fighters in their struggle with the city." Calling the AFSCME membership and

striking fire fighters brothers in the labor movement, Smith said Local 1733 will support the fire fighters in "whatever way they request us."



Lt. B. N. Leggett Shouts At Pickets After Tire Slashed

By James Shearin

Hospitals Prepare Fire Plans; Sabotage Warning Circulated

(Continued from Page 1)

hearing on the city's request for a permanent injunction for 2 p.m. Monday.

City Atty. Clifford D. Pierce Jr. said the city will seek to enjoin the firemen from striking and from interfering with the operations of the Fire Department. The suit will declare the strike illegal, citing violations of a no-strike provision as well as violence and threatened violence, he said.

Meanwhile, members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), in a close election, voted to accept a contract with the city. Negotiators for the city and AFSCME had reached agreement on a pact at 1:30 a.m. yesterday. The vote was 558 to 553.

"We're happy that it was ratified," said

have just about had it. I don't know how it will be done, but it will be done under the supervision of firemen," Chandler said.

Chandler said there have been no efforts to resume negotiations at this time, but contacts have been made through other unions, union leaders, legal representatives and others in the city "to see what can be done to restore firemen to their tasks which would be a prerequisite for any further discussions on any subject."

Police had investigated six vandalism incidents by noon, and reports of vandalism from various places continued. Police said tires were slashed on seven vehicles at a fire station at 550 South Mendenhall. Glass was broken from the northeast door of the 65 South Front Station, police said.

Fire Director Robert Walker also said brake lines on fire engines and captain's cars had been tampered with, air was released from some tires and headlamps were broken.

Police had suspects in two of the vandalism incidents, but the only confirmed arrest was of a 35-year-old striking fireman who had been asked to move his pickup from its position on hoses near a vacant house fire at 499 Vance. When he did, he almost hit Patrolman J. R. Lovett, who grabbed at the cab door and was pulled along. Policemen climbed in back of pickup and drew their guns, stopping the truck about two blocks away.

Thomas H. Boillot, 35, of 4050 Kenosha was charged with aggravated assault. A hearing is scheduled for tomorrow in City Court.

Fire Capt. Arthur Mason said he was awakened at 11 a.m. when he heard glass breaking at the Fire Department headquarters at 65 South Front, where he was sleeping upstairs. He told police he saw strikers and a lieutenant arguing, and got between them to break it up. Mason received a cut on the lower lip.

Fire-fighting efforts were concentrated in 22 of the city's 48 fire stations, but Walker would not confirm the report.

Sam Posey, a union vice president, said the union had established 11 emergency units — vehicles equipped with radios — to help rescue any persons who might be trapped in burning buildings. But he said none of the striking firemen would help fight fires except when lives were involved.

Posey said Allen Blair, the union's attorney, and a representative from the national office of the fire-fighters union were meeting yesterday to discuss methods of renewing negotiations with the city.

Firemen walked out after failing to agree with the city on shift differential pay. Firemen, who work 24-hour shifts, wanted an extra 50 cents an hour for 16 hours of the shift.

Chandler said the claim was "absolutely without merit" and would cost about \$1.3 million a year. The amount almost equals the raise for all city employees above a planned 5 per cent increase, he said.

Chandler said 5 per cent raises which would cost the city \$4.7 million annually were to be boosted by \$900,000 from a \$1.5 million budget surplus.

Chandler said he felt shift differential payments would have to involve a move to an eight-hour day instead of the current 24-hours on, 24-hours off shifts of firemen.

Chandler said that all employees who work eight-hour shifts, if they work the night shift are now paid night differential.

James Shearin, acting information officer for the Tennessee National Guard, said troops began moving to Memphis fire stations at 2:15 p.m. yesterday. He declined to say how many were sent to each station.

Shearin said the guardsmen included men from the Third Battalion of the 115th Field Artillery and Company B of 473rd Support Battalion, both Memphis units.

Also in Memphis were men from the 168th Military Police Battalion from Ripley and Dyersburg and from Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 30th Separate Armored Brigade from Jackson.

At Methodist International Airport, units of the Tennessee Air National Guard and nonstriking firemen were manning the fire stations.

"We're operating as normal," said Tom Seale, airport director of operations.

Shearin said last night that about 100 men from Troop A of 230th Cavalry, stationed at Jackson, Tenn., are to arrive in Memphis early today. Also are expected, he said, are about 120 fire fighters from the Forestry Service.

At Methodist Hospital, duty administrator W. W. Rush said the hospital and Methodist South have assigned special teams to verify fire alarms before calling the Fire Department.

Public reaction to the strike was not apparent, but a young woman called The Commercial Appeal late yesterday and

blamed the striking fire fighters for her father's death from a heart attack. The woman, who asked that she not be identified, said the voluntary workers manning the ambulance didn't know how to correctly use the oxygen machine.



Wallace

Walker

Mayor Wyeth Chandler. "This is further evidence that our proposal was fair and equitable."

In another government-union action, Albert Byars, chairman of the negotiating committee for seven building and trade craft unions, said yesterday members ratified the city's offer by "a substantial margin."

The unions, representing roofers, plumbers, cement masons, electrical workers, carpenters, bricklayers and painters, accepted raises that were the same as those rejected by the firemen: 6 per cent immediately, \$30 across-the-board April 1, 1979, and 7½ per cent Oct. 2, 1979.

David Baker, president of the Memphis Police Association, said the association is supporting the fire fighters and its executive board was in session yesterday to evaluate its position. He said the union had its last meeting with city negotiators Thursday night and had not heard further from them. He said later yesterday no job action by policemen is planned.

A contract between AFSCME and the Hospital Authority has been extended until Monday at 10 a.m., when negotiations are scheduled to resume.

Wallace, Tennessee's adjutant general, said only 3 of the city's 14 ambulances were found to be useable, and Civil Defense authorities were asked to coordinate runs for those and for private ambulances. He said tires had been slashed, engines tampered with and emergency medical equipment aboard them damaged. Some fire equipment was also found damaged, he said, but no cost estimate has been made.

He said the three city ambulances were stationed at City of Memphis Hospital near downtown, Doctors Hospital in southeast Memphis and the police North Precinct headquarters.

Civil Defense Director Billy Ray Schilling said the ambulances were being dispatched from an emergency medical center at City Hall. Persons should call 523-1313 for ambulance, rather than the regular Fire Department number. In addition to the three Fire Department ambulances, Medic Ambulance Service, Inc., and Weaver Ambulance Service have about 17 ambulances available.

Wallace said it costs the state \$50 per man per day to mobilize the National Guard.

Wallace said the guardsmen called to duty included 16 Memphis firemen, all of whom reported.

Chandler, who remained in his office with staff members early yesterday until word of the strike reached him about 6 a.m., discharged union president Kubron Huddleston and the union's 11-member executive board, charging that they "exercised no leadership at this time of crisis" and in fact "joined in and participated with the membership in formulating a strike situation." Huddleston could not be reached for comment yesterday.

In remarks after a morning press conference, Chandler indicated he will not return to negotiations while the firemen are on strike.

"If they want to come back to work, they'll report to their stations at the time they're supposed to be there," he said.

"In the morning, we'll begin to use National Guardsmen as firemen — our men

the Memphis Dodge Boys

JULY FOURTH SALE

- COLT
- DIPLOMAT
- ASPEN
- CHALLENGER
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Early Call From Fire Director Meant Quick End To Chitchat

By THOMAS JORDAN

The men sitting at one end of the long table eating breakfast from throwaway trays were startled by the buzzing of an extension telephone, its line button winking.

It was almost 5 a.m., too early for the call they were expecting. But they stopped eating and listened closely as Mayor Wyeth Chandler talked on the phone.

They were expecting a call later saying a strike by city firemen would begin at 7 a.m. Fire fighters were scheduled to meet at 5:30 a.m. to reconsider, if necessary, a vote taken Friday night to strike at 7.

But in another call before 6 a.m., Chandler received word from Fire Director Robert Walker saying firemen were leaving station houses even though they were ordered not to by their supervisors. The mayor immediately called Maj. Gen. Carl Wallace, commander of the Tennessee National Guard.

Seven hours earlier, at 11 p.m., Chandler and the directors gathered in the mayor's conference room on the second floor of City Hall to put finishing touches to an emergency plan to be used if the fire fighters struck.

The men were casually dressed. Chandler, who went to City Hall from his home, was wearing a faded blue shirt, blue trousers and casual shoes. Walkie-talkies, coffee cups and pads of yellow paper were scattered along the table.

Those with Chandler included Chief Administrative Officer Henry Evans, Police Director E. Winslow Chapman, Personnel Director Joe Sabatini, Sanitation Director Claude Pearson and General Services Director Charles Chumley. Walker was in and out of the conference room. Other city



By David Darnell

Mayor Wyeth Chandler At Press Conference

employees also huddled with the mayor and his directors throughout the night.

After spending about three hours completing the contingency plan, the officials began their vigil. Chandler said the city wasn't expecting the union officials to call saying they wanted to resume contract negotiations, but he wanted to be "accessible" if a such a call was made.

Considering the charged atmosphere, Chandler appeared relaxed, making small talk with his advisers.

At one point, Pearson broke out a deck of cards and played gin with Evans. Pearson earlier had climaxed a long bargaining session with a tentative settlement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1733. Others read the morning newspaper.

After Chandler called the National

Guard commander, the first reports of violence and sabotage crackled into the room on a police radio Chapman had set up. He then tried to telephone Kuhron Huddleston, president of the fire fighters union, but Huddleston wasn't in his office.

A few minutes later, when Huddleston returned the call, Chandler told the labor leader: "Your people have gone completely berserk. They're out of control."

"You and members of the executive committee are no longer members of the Fire Department."

Chandler then began drafting a statement he would present at 10 a.m. saying the striking fire fighters had not only violated their oaths as Memphis firemen but had acted in "violation of simple human decency by leaving the citizens of this community unprotected from the ravages of fire."

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'Our Houses Are Unprotected Too,' Striker Notes

(Continued from Page 1)
Armory on Hollywood, picketing firemen stopped the cars of guardsmen responding to the mobilization order. In most cases, the strikers simply asked the guardsmen for their support and urged them not to put out any fires.
After a while, however, several of the strikers grew rowdier, and began insulting the guardsmen and kicking their cars as they pulled into the armory. Police officers, who to that point had chatted amiably with the firemen, had to intercede, prompting an angry exchange between an officer and one of the strikers.
The harassment also angered some of the guardsmen as they squealed their tires and responded to the firemen's taunts with

insults of their own as pulled into the armory lot. Some guardsmen, however, spoke in friendly tones with the firemen, telling the strikers they supported their demands but had to report for duty anyway.
Included among the 500 guardsmen who reported were about 150 members of the 168th Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Dyersburg and Ripley. The men, equipped with riot equipment, rolled out of Dyersburg in a convoy of about 50 jeeps and trucks about 1 p.m., four hours after the alert was sounded.
During the day, several of the strikers made it clear they weren't enjoying what they were doing.
"I regret it, that it had to come to this,"


said Mike Cordera, a paramedic with the ambulance unit at the fire station at 333 East Parkway South. "But they called our hand. We just want to be treated fair."
Pvt. Sonny Chambers, who, like Cordera, was a picket at the East Parkway fire station, agreed. "We want to be at work," he said.
Life Sentence Given Habitual Criminal
Bobby Lee Jeffries, 35, of 2086 Hubert, Apt. 4, was sentenced Friday to life in prison as an habitual criminal in Criminal Court.
A jury Thursday found Jeffries guilty of the sale of heroin and sentenced him to 6 to 12 years in prison.

"This strike, it's not our wish. But this has just built up year after year after year until it's come to a head and we don't have any choice."
"If it were up to us, we'd rather be working. Our houses are unprotected too, you know."
In a separate portion of the trial, Asst. Atty. Gen. Neil G. Taylor and Jerry Easter asked for the life sentence, telling the jury that Jeffries had 10 prior felony convictions. His previous convictions included burglary, breaking and entering an automobile, grand larceny and fraudulent use of a credit card.

Fire Departments In County Don't Relish Assistance Idea

County fire officials last night said they might help in battling Memphis blazes, but no one seemed enthusiastic about the idea.
So far, however, they said no one from the city has asked for their aid.
County Fire Chief Duane Mallory said the county department has a mutual-aid agreement with Memphis, as it does with all other municipalities.
Art Street, president of the Local 2585 of the International Association of Firefighters, which represents county firemen, said members of the local would obey orders to answer ambulance calls and fight fires in Memphis.
have been treated grossly unfair. They're (the city government) trying to treat the fire fighters as second-class citizens, second-class employees."

Collierville Fire Chief Ben Wilson said the department, which operates six pieces of fire-fighting apparatus, will not take any action that would jeopardize the strike by Memphis firemen.
In Bartlett and Millington support for Memphis was even less certain.
Bartlett Fire Chief Shaw Stuart said he had not discussed aiding Memphis. "I haven't talked to the men so I don't know how they feel."
Germantown officials could not be reached for comment.
In Millington, fireman H. George said, "I've heard a few volunteers out here say that's a chance they would have to take of getting into a conflict with Memphis firemen walking the picket line."



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