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CWA Local 4340

Mobilization 2008

August 7, 2008

Moving forward in our “CWA History – A Brief Review”, we can see a trend in how big companies and the government has been doing business since the beginning. We must remember that a friendly administration can take us forward, even with not so friendly big business nipping at our heels (not to mention our wages and health care)...

1946: First National AT&T Agreement

When the war ended in August 1945, the wages of telephone workers remained below those of many industries. Contract negotiations stalled and the presidents of the NFTW affiliates authorized the Union’s Executive Board to call a nationwide strike at 6:00 a.m., March 7, 1946. In the early morning hours of March 7, workers around the country prepared to walk the picket lines.

At 5:30 a.m., after 20 hours of bargaining, NFTW President Joseph Beirne and Cleo Craig, AT&T Vice President in charge of negotiations, signed the Beirne-Craig memorandum. A strike had been avoided and for the first time in history, AT&T had negotiated a national agreement with the Union and committed its associated companies to that agreement.

While a major victory was won in the 1946 negotiations, the basic weakness of the NFTW had revealed itself. During negotiations, 34 of 51 affiliated unions broke away and signed separate agreements.

Here in 2008, 62 years later, and full circle, we have the opportunity to witness history repeating itself. We must stand strong and together in the days, weeks and months ahead. We must never forget that our differences within the Union make us strong. The “Company” is out for the money... We can be heard. It is important, VERY IMPORTANT, that we are strong, and prepared, and involved!

Resources are available through the Local office. Call 216-635-4340 or email us at mobilize4340@aol.com. Info is also on line at www.cwa4340.org.

In Solidarity,
CWA Local 4340 Mobilization Committee

216-635-4340 or www.cwa4340.org