



shelletter

HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 69

Friday, January 18, 1963

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

NEGOTIATIONS

We understand Norco have a meeting scheduled Monday. A meeting with the Union was held Wednesday at Wood River, with the parties recessing yesterday. Another meeting is being held there today. Quoted below from the January 15 issue of the Wood River Refinery's INSIDE NEWS is a good resume of their current situation.

A press release with the following information was given out to all newspapers, as well as local radio and television stations:

"For the last ten days of meetings with union representatives, we have continued our efforts to work out some reasonable basis upon which employees generally could return to work under new, agreed-upon contract terms while disciplinary action against three employees for misconduct related to the strike was considered. We have pointed out that these three employees would have recourse to the National Labor Relations Board, an impartial government agency, but this approach was rejected by the unions. On Saturday, negotiators explored the possibility of other employees returning to work under signed Agreements so that disciplinary action taken against the three strikers could be handled under the contracts. This approach would provide for arbitration in the case of discharge. However, arbitration under these circumstances was also rejected by union representatives notwithstanding numerous statements to the public press concerning their willingness to arbitrate.

"We are at a loss to understand the unions' position unless they are prolonging the strike at Wood River in an effort to lend support to other unions at our Norco and Houston Refineries and Chemical Plants, with whom they are said to be allied. As long as this attitude of the unions continues, it does not appear that they are interested in settling the strike at an early date. In any event, so long as the unions at Wood River continue to reject every attempt on our part to work out a reasonable strike settlement agreement and permit employees to return to work under already agreed-upon contract terms, it appears that an early settlement of the strike here is unlikely."

OPERATIONS

.....It looks like the freeze left us just in time to make way for the rains...and a note from the "thanks for something" department - at least we didn't have both rain and freeze at the same time! Meanwhile, in a cloud of activity, work goes right along on the Dubbs 9 Cracking shutdown in the Thermal Cracking Department.

SAFETY

As the mid-point of January slips past, now is the time to start thinkin' up slogans for the February contest....The slogan entry box is still located in the Hash House, and the Refinery mail will still accept your entries....So think now, be a winner later.

AND OUR JANUARY SLOGAN: LOOK IT OVER, MAKE IT SAFE...DO IT.

(Over)

BIRTHDAY BELLES & BEAUS:

January 18 - Stan Brandenberger, Johnnie Calvin

January 19 - Ray Hornsby, Henry Tolley

January 20 - Virgil Lehmborg, Russ Seaber, Bill Kubricht

DIRECTORY DIRECTIONS: One thing the Mail Room has a lot of today....Telephone Directories....In fact, ALL KINDS of directories - Houston (white pages) and Pasadena, South Houston, Deer Park (white and yellow pages)....Now the problem: how to get these brand new models out to our deserving directory recipients 'round and about the Refinery...Solution: Drop by the Mail Room and pick up the number of copies you need for your area or location. Distribution for the Main Office will be made by the Mail Room personnel.

Report your NEWS SCOOPS TO THE Editor - Ext. 540....The job you save may be his... ..And that wraps it up for this time....Happy weekending.....

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