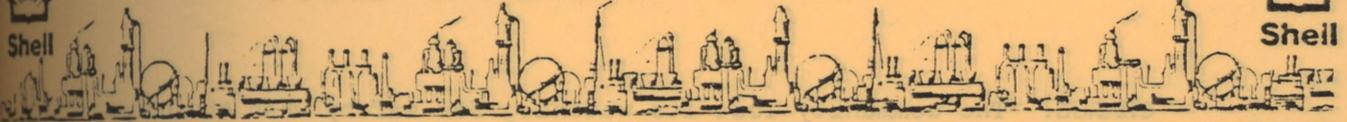




THE INSIDE STORY



NUMBER 18

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1980

OCAW CHARGES UNFOUNDED

In an effort to muster support, OCAW International called a "public" forum on Monday, February 11th at the University of Houston. Shell was not invited, but the event did receive some media attention. The audience was reportedly almost exclusively made up of individuals supportive of the union position. Speakers included: H. J. McClain, director of OCAW District 4; Anthony Mazzocchi, OCAW vice-president and director of health and safety; Sharon Itaya, an M.D. hired by the International as a consultant; and various local OCAW representatives.

Here are some of the charges made by the union, and our responses to them as they relate to DPMC.

CHARGE: Oil companies are trying to maintain production with office personnel, secretaries, and many people unfamiliar with the refinery and its hazards.

RESPONSE: DPMC operating crews are not inexperienced. A large portion of the crew running this Complex consists of supervisory and technical personnel who have had direct, hands-on experience in the past. Many of them have worked themselves up through the hourly ranks. We have augmented the operations staff with Shell employees having no previous operations experience, but before they take over a job, they have had to show they are qualified by completing intensive training in operations, safety and fire training ... just the same as any new operations employees would. Operations crews are still made up of a mixture of people with various levels of previous experience, and supervision is still on hand.

CHARGE: Most of the trained firefighting forces are now out on strike.

RESPONSE: All of the operating personnel plus about 200 of the Shell maintenance staff have received comprehensive training or refresher training in firefighting techniques. As under non-strike conditions, we are prepared to respond in an appropriate manner with trained personnel to any fire or emergency that may occur.

CHARGE: The few trained people still working are forced to work long, exhausting hours seven days a week.

RESPONSE: For the first couple weeks of the strike DPMC people who took over the operations did work seven days a week. Now, however, with the addition of more trained personnel, those people operating the units are working schedules which allow them days off every week.

KNOW THE RIGHT TOOLS

CHARGE: The community lost its watchdog for safety when the union went out on strike.

RESPONSE: The union does not stand alone as the one interested in safety at DPMC. From the top on down, safety is the number one priority at DPMC. Everyone is encouraged to think safety in everything they do, and are given the tools to do so. This commitment has not changed because of the strike, and the safety record thus far has reflected that.

CHARGE: Refinery operations are hazardous - both from explosions and from release of toxic fumes. Highly skilled people are needed to avert crises and prevent disasters.

RESPONSE: We don't argue that the potential is there. But since we recognize that potential, we have always been especially attentive to safety. Our DPMC employees currently on strike know that, and we are proud of the good record they have helped build over the years. But anyone who thinks the current group of people is any less motivated, skilled, trained or capable of running this Complex in not only a safe but also an environmentally sound manner ... is just plain wrong.

CHARGE: The environmental record has not been good since the strike began, and the Air Control Board has said the companies are exempt from regulations during the strike.

RESPONSE: Quite the contrary. DPMC's overall environmental performance has continued to be among the best in the industry since the strike began, thanks to the attention and skills of those performing the operations and maintenance functions. DPMC has no intent of lessening to any degree its commitment to accept environmental performance ... and, by the way, the governmental agencies who monitor our operations daily aren't changing their procedures either.

FOUND

Set of car keys. Call Les Cole on 6301, describe, and claim.

WINNERS

Last Friday's jacket winners based on lucky badge number 841 were Tracy Vance of Chemical Cost Accounting, and Baylor Bishop of the Inspection Department. Red D. Worker says today's lucky winners will be wearing badge number 523. If this is your badge number, go to either the chemical or refinery main guard house to register for your prize.

WORK SAFELY



KNOW THE RIGHT TOOLS