

The original documents are located in Box 47, folder “President - Meetings Labor (3)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

ARNOLD R. MILLER
PRESIDENT, UNITED MINE WORKERS
OF AMERICA



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1974

MEMO TO: KEN COLE

FROM: MIKE DUVAL

Attached is a copy of the Q & A on the coal dispute for the President and Jerry terHorst.

On Monday we will have a Schedule Proposal for the President to meet with the coal operators and the Union leadership. The meeting probably should take place just after the memorial shutdown and its purpose will be to get negotiations started.

cc: Phil Buchen ↙
John Carlson
Frank Zarb



COAL STRIKE

Question: United Mine Workers will go out on a memorial five-day shutdown beginning Monday. This is only a prelude to the threatened national shutdown when their contract with the coal operators expires on November 12. We understand that this could have a disastrous effect on the economy of this nation, and I wonder if you would tell us what you and your Administration are doing to avoid such a calamitous situation?

Answer: As you know, I have been meeting with my advisers within the Administration and labor leaders, generally, concerning problems which face the nation's economy. There is no question that a national coal strike would have very serious consequences and, thus, I am taking steps to insure that the Administration does everything in its power to protect the national interest.

Although we had a 46-day national coal strike in 1971, the economic impact was not too severe overall, primarily due to the large stocks of coal which the users had on hand.

However, current coal stocks are substantially lower than they were in 1971 and a prolonged strike could have a severe adverse impact on this nation's economy.

My Special Assistant, Bill Usery, who is also Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, has been working with all parties to this dispute for many months. He, in

coordination with other officials of my Administration, are developing comprehensive plans to insure that the government actions are designed to provide maximum help to both sides, in order to avoid, if possible, a national shutdown this Fall.

Although I am concerned about the scheduled five-day memorial work stoppage planned by the United Mine Workers for August 19-23 - because of the impact this will have on our critical need for energy - the normal avenues of collective bargaining are open and I believe that it is through direct communication between the parties that these disputes can most successfully be resolved.

M. Duval
8/17/74

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
VIA: KEN COLE
FROM: MIKE DUVAL
SUBJECT: COAL DISPUTE

Following our meeting with you, Ken Cole, Jim Cavanaugh and Frank Zarb Monday night, Frank and I followed through on the Meyer Bernstein idea. His thought is that we try to get the Duke Power Company to agree to certain concessions in their dispute with the UMW and thereby pave the way for a quick settlement. This could be used by the President, as a part of a broad public interest appeal designed to convince Arnold Miller that the UMW should call off their threatened memorial shutdown scheduled for August 19-23.

After consulting with Larry Silberman, Dick Schubert, Bill Usery, Peter Nash (NLRB), and others, we established the following:

1. The Duke Power Company dispute involves a conflict between two unions and a very bitter operator-union power struggle. It is very likely that even if Carl Horn, President of the Duke Power Company, and Arnold Miller were to agree immediately to settlement terms, this could be implemented over a short period of time. There have been several "blocking charges" filed with the NLRB involving violence in the Harlan County area, whether or not there has been good faith negotiation and who represents the mine workers. Under NLRB procedures, these petitions must be dealt with prior to any settlement.
2. There is a substantial question whether or not Miller really could prevent the memorial shutdown, even if he wanted to. Besides the fact that his motives clearly are to force a draw-down on coal inventories and establish his own control over the

Union, the existing rival factions for the Union leadership would probably oppose any attempt to call off the shutdown and would view such a call by Miller as a sign of weakness. Furthermore, Rick Banks, who is the principal adviser to Miller at this time, has stated that Miller would not agree to such a call-off, regardless of who asked for it.

3. If the memorial shutdown goes forward, there is a chance that the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association could allege that it constitutes a secondary boycott (if they can tie it to the Duke Power Company controversy) under Section 303 of Taft-Hartley. Theoretically, they might also attempt ~~A~~ Section 301 suit for breach of contract, seeking damages and injunction. For a variety of reasons, it is questionable whether the BCOA would take such an action, since it would result in them going into the negotiations on the main contract with even a worse adversary relationship.
4. Any efforts we might take to avoid the memorial shutdown could be counterproductive to our efforts aimed at avoiding the nationwide shutdown on November 12. If Miller were to agree to postpone the memorial strike and his Union membership were to rebel, this would render the Union leaderless at the time negotiations were beginning.

*they filed a
secondary boycott
charge today.*

Attached as additional background material are:

- A. Record of my conversation with Bernstein and a list of the points he suggested.
- B. A memorandum from Bill Hobgood concerning the efforts of FMCS to mediate the coal dispute.

I have generally concluded, based on the advice of all we have talked to, that it would be a mistake to commit the President personally this early in the game. We must recognize that the President's personal involvement is the ultimate and best weapon we have to resolve the threat of a national shutdown in the best interest of the country.

After discussing it further with you, we are pursuing a strategy of having Brennan, Usery, and others deal through normal channels with the parties of the dispute. We will redouble our efforts and ride heavily on all

Executive Department efforts to urge the parties to solve their difficulties. We will prepare a statement for use by Jerry terHorst if questions come up concerning the five-day shutdown. We are also preparing a draft Presidential statement which can be used in the event of the five-day shutdown, which will be designed to get the parties to the negotiating table on the overall and important question of a national contract.

Further, the interagency coal dispute task force co-chaired by Frank and myself will continue to meet weekly to insure a coordinated federal effort.

cc: Frank Zarb

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH
MEYER BERNSTEIN, AUGUST 14, 1974

I called Bernstein at the request of Phil Buchen concerning the potential coal strike issue. I expressed our sincere appreciation for all he was doing to help the country concerning this issue by cooperating with the President and the Administration. I advised him that we had followed up actively on his suggestions today. Bill Usery's office had been in contact both with the Duke Power Company and the United Mine Workers, and that a meeting was scheduled tomorrow with the staff of the UMW.

Bernstein made the following points very forcefully:

- . If Duke Power Company "gets away" with what they're doing, the Union will remain traumatized because they have already spent over a million dollars in benefits and still have not forced the company to exceed to their demands.
- . The only way to get Miller moving was to get something specific in writing from the company indicating agreement with the points that Bernstein had raised earlier with Buchen.
- . Miller is a suspicious person by nature, does not have experience in running the Union and, therefore, must have a signed agreement from Duke Power before he could induce the Union members to call off the scheduled five-day memorial shutdown.
- . If the memorial strike goes forward, then a strike in November is inevitable because there will be no holding back the Union members after they get fired up over a five-day shutdown.
- . The only way Tony Boyle got the Union members back during the 1971 strike was to pay them a "\$10 million bribe". Miller won't take this route as it is alien to his approach to Union problems. Thus, if we fail to stop the memorial strike, a six-month general strike in November is possible.

I left it with Bernstein that we would work hard to follow up on his suggestions in terms of trying to facilitate negotiations between the parties to the Duke Power dispute. I stressed that we would do this through normal mediation channels and that I did not envision Presidential involvement at this time. I again thanked him for his efforts and assured him that the White House Staff was actively following through with this.

COMMENT

Bernstein stressed throughout the conversation that he was in constant communication with Miller, and I suspect that his position is motivated strongly by a desire to pressure Duke Power to soften their position. However, if the President were to get involved at this point, all of Miller's options would be open and he could reject the Presidential initiative if that suited his strategy. Furthermore, Bernstein's insistence on a signed letter of concession from the power company as a price for getting the ball rolling underscores in my mind the need for all of us to respect the established procedures for collective bargaining.



cc: Ken Cole
Phil Buchen
Frank Zarb

1. The parties contracted to accept all terms and conditions of the National Bituminous Coal agreement of 1971 negotiated between the UMW of American and the Bituminous Operators Association, Inc. effective as of August , 1974, together with such amendments as may be met to this agreement upon its expiration.

2. All strikers at the Brookside Mine will be reinstated immediately to their jobs without prejudice and without loss of seniority for the period of the strike. They will be called back to work as their jobs become available with the immediate reopening of the mine, but in no event later than August , 1974.

3. All charges and complaints arising directly or indirectly from the strike will be withdrawn by both parties, and, to the extent that each party controls by all other persons associated with such party.

4. All disputes, grievances or differences originating during the strike and remaining unsettled on the date of this agreement will be taken up and disposed of as grievances under the grievance procedure of the 1971 agreement.

Two additional points Mr. Bernstein made were:

The sister mine strike in all probability can be settled by reinstating the discharged striker. The UMW is now making no claim to representation of the worker at that particular mine.

The high government official should issue a statement calling for renewed efforts on mine safety.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT,

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20427

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Duval, Associate Director
Domestic Council

From: William P. Hobgood *WPH*
Special Assistant to
the Director

Subject: Duke Power Company/Brookside Mine Dispute -
1974 Coal Negotiations

This will respond to your request of August 14, 1974, for a summary of FMCS activity concerning subject topics.

Duke Power Company/Brookside Mine

Mediation activity occurred at the local level prior to the strike's initiation in July 1973. Contacts from the National Office level were initiated in March 1973 and have continued to date. These contacts have been with Mr. Carl Horn, President of Duke Power Company, and Mr. Rick Bank, Executive Assistant to Arnold Miller, President of the United Mine Workers. These contacts have taken the form of extensive telephone conversations and separate meetings in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Washington, D. C.

Currently, the dispute involves the Southern Labor Union, an independent union headquartered in Oneida, Tennessee, as well as the UMWA and Duke Power Company's Eastover Mining Company. The company, in discussions with the Service and more recently in discussions associated with a stockholder's suit, has committed itself to signing the 1974 Bituminous Coal Association agreement if the UMW wins another representation election. Such an election has been petitioned for by the UMWA, with the Southern Labor Union as an intervenor, but cannot be conducted by the Board until a number of unfair labor practice

charges have been resolved and agreement can be reached on a list of eligible voters. It is this latter problem that FMCS is addressing and which forms the basis for a meeting to be held with UMWA on August 15, 1974. We are hopeful this meeting will lead to a joint meeting with Duke Power Company under our auspices. Once an acceptable list of voters is agreed upon, it may be possible to clear away the charges and proceed to an election. This is our objective. However, we have been advised by Rick Bank that resolution of this dispute will not prevent the memorial period scheduled for August 19-23, 1974.

1974 Negotiations

Since January 1974, frequent meetings have been held with industry and union officials concerning their preparation for negotiations and encouraging prompt initiation of bargaining. These meetings have escalated in the last several weeks with the next one scheduled for August 15, 1974, with the UMWA. We anticipate that bargaining will begin the week of August 26, and there is every indication that the staffs of the prospective parties are working diligently to meet that timetable and to make negotiations meaningful once they begin.

As mentioned above, a five-day memorial period is scheduled for August 19-23 with several objectives in mind:

- a. Reduce current stockpiles of coal and improve UMWA bargaining posture;
- b. Strengthen political position of Arnold Miller; and
- c. Increase pressure on resolution of the Duke Power Company/Brookside Mine dispute.

The UMWA has ten memorial days under their agreement. However, the BCOA (Bituminous Coal Operators Association) feels that use of the memorial period is unprecedented and that it is being used illegally as a secondary boycott involving the Duke Power Company dispute.

We feel strongly about maintaining a low profile in the memorial period question as well as the early stages of bargaining, keeping in mind that we have established an excellent relationship with the parties and anticipate a more visible role when demanded.

As to the role of other Departments and the President, extreme care should be exercised in premature intercession. We feel the critical period will be approximately three weeks prior to the November 12 deadline, but we will maintain our active relationship with the parties during the entire bargaining effort. The various Government options prior to the deadline and afterward, should a strike occur, were discussed with you in our meeting on August 12, 1974, in Frank Zarb's office.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Negotiations more difficult

Other 5 days will
be used

Invite Horn

Favorable

TODAY
- meetings

Miller



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Bernstein

- fast week shooting + near homes
- union frustrated
- Co. knows what union want.

BCL agreement

Duke

1. Parties contract
Not BTCL 1971
etc
together with
2. Proinst jobs
w/o p
- call back
3. Charges a coming
withdraw



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4. Disputes &
grievances
— use of

Highpoint

— SLA contract

— fired on no man

& reinstated

w/ contract with the U.M.

Mine safety statement
by high Fed off.



ADDENDUM TO PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED PAPER RE:

ARNOLD MILLER

Since it will probably be impossible for the President to meet with Mr. Miller this week, this addendum will not be relevant except as background.

The United Mine Workers, as we discussed, has called for a 5-day shutdown in coal production next week in memory of workers killed or maimed in the mines. The union's present contract provides for up to a 10-day memorial period.

The President might suggest to UMW President Arnold Miller that the mine workers call off the shutdown in the national interest. He could argue that to do so would be an action of high statesmanship on Miller's part which would bring public acclamation to the UMW. He could point out that efforts to strengthen the economy today would serve as a fitting memorial to miners who have been maimed or killed since it would improve the lives of living -- working or retired -- miners and their families.

The President could indicate that he would make a public request for the miners to call off the shutdown if Miller wanted it and would then issue a statement praising the miners for their response in the public interest.

The problem with this, of course, is the fact that the shutdown is obviously part of the Mine Workers Union negotiation strategy, since a 5-day shutdown will reduce coal stocks by that much and put additional pressures on coal users in case of a strike later this year. To give up the shutdown is to give up a union weapon in the collective bargaining effort. Miller, therefore, would probably be quite reluctant to call off the shutdown but he might be persuaded to do so if the President could convince him that it was in the Nation's interest to do so.

(If this meeting is an impossibility this week, I would strongly suggest that perhaps the President might make a phone call to Mr. Miller and ask for his cooperation in this matter.)

UNITED MINE WORKERS SHUTDOWN

8/13/74 - at Mr. Buchen's request, called Robert J. Hitt's office at Interior; he was not available; neither was Rogers Morton.

343-6054

Robert J. Hitt
Executive Asst. to Secretary Morton

Talked with Kurt Herge; he said the most knowledgeable person on mine safety would be James Day who would be back around 3 o'clock.

For Coal Mine Health & Safety -- Hershel Potter	343-4249
For Metal and Nonmetal Health and Safety - Tom Shepich	343-6665
Jack Carlson -- Asst. Secy. for Energy & Minerals (and for future directions -- in charge of MESA (Mine Enforcement Safety Adm.))	343-2186

Then Mr. Buchen called Ambassador Arthur Goldberg (former Justice Goldberg)

At his suggestion, we called Meyer Bernstein

965-1686

Then he asked me to get Ken Cole; he wasn't available -- so we talked with Warren Hendricks, his assistant.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1974

Eva:

When Mr. Buchen came out of Ken Cole's office this afternoon he asked me to give you the names of the other men who were in the meeting.

Besides Ken Cole, the men were:

James Cavanaugh, Deputy Director
Domestic Council

Frank Zarb, Assistant Director
Office of Management and Budget

Michael Raoul-Duval, Associate Director
Domestic Council

Judy Johnston



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Tuesday 8/13/74

12:00

President
George Meany
Mr. Bucher

Arnold
Miller
United Mine Workers

5-d -> stop
to protect
angers
in mines
(Interior)

Thursday
*
Saturday

- double effect economy
& would ask his
people to investigate



Recommended by Goldberg
Jamaica

Meyer ~~Re~~
Bernstein — Watergate Ap^{ts}
Steakworkers Reps

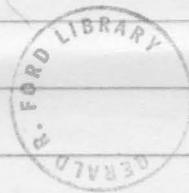
Helped Miller in campaign
4

Joe Parki — for controversy

Carl Horn
- Duke Power Fed Power Com.

United

~~Warren Horn~~
Warren Hendricks



Allen Wallace Pres Rochester Univ.
— economist (friend of Jack Stiles)

ARNOLD RAY MILLER

President, United Mine Workers of America Arnold Miller, became 12th president of the UMW in December 1972. Began working in the coal fields of West Virginia at age 16. Black lung disease and work-related arthritis forced him to retire from the mines in 1970. A local union official for many years, he supported the 1969 candidacy of Joseph "Jock" Yablonski against incumbent UMW president Tony Boyle. After Yablonski's murder in late 1969, the U.S. Department of Labor was sought and obtained a rerun of the Boyle election. Miller ran in the reelection and was elected UMW president in 1972. Miller ran on a platform of turning the union back to the miners, and since his election has reduced the headquarters staff, cut salaries, sold the staff cadillacs, and made plans to move the headquarters from Washington to the coal fields.

He is faced with enormous difficulties in pulling the UMW together after the devicive election contest which left it almost prostrate.

UNITED MINE WORKERS

The union was organized in 1890 in Columbus, Ohio. It was one of the eight founding unions of the CIO in 1936. It now has 213,000 members in 1,300 local unions across the nation.

UPCOMING UMWA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

On November 12, 1974, the contract between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Assn. (BCOA) expires. The union represents about 80,000 soft-coal miners; BCOA represents 75 percent of the nation's coal producers. Any agreement coming out of these negotiations will set the pattern for other associations and unaffiliated bituminous coal firms and will eventually affect nearly all of the industry's 150,000 miners and 70,000 pensioners. Formal talks have not begun.

The union's bargaining objectives include;

- a substantial pay increase
- a cost-of-living wage escalator
- fewer pay grades and smaller differentials between top and botton pay



--increased royalty payments into pension and benefits funds, as well as bigger pensions

--lower retirement age

Impact of a UMWA strike would be immediate and severe in regions where coal mining is the principal occupation, including West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and Virginia. Also adversely affected would be all coal haulers and such major rail carriers as Chessie System, Norfolk & Western and Penn Central. Utilities and steel industries generally stockpile a 90-day supply, so won't feel the pinch at first. However, that supply is expected to be less than 90 days if the strike takes place in November.

Issues

Following is Mr. Miller's position on various issues:

Legislation	Favors a pension reform bill. Strongly supports Kennedy-Griffiths health bill. Favors national health insurance program under direct federal control.
Economy	Opposed to any form of wage controls. Favors Publically owned federal oil and gas corporations to compete with private companies.
Mining	Called for reform of black lung benefits program. Supports Sen. Williams bill on coal mine safety. Strongly opposed to nominee for Federal Coal Mine Safety directorship.
Special	Favors public financing of federal elections. Blasted Gerald Ford's congressional voting record on labor matters. Called for comprehensive tax reforms.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date August 31, 1974

TO: Mr. Buchen

FROM: JIM CAVANAUGH

X FYI

 For appropriate action

COMMENTS

Eva - for fik

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1974

MEETING WITH ARNOLD MILLER, PRESIDENT, U.M.W.A.
Monday, September 2, 1974
10:30 a.m. (30 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Jim Cavanaugh 

I. PURPOSE

This meeting should set the tone for the development of a positive relationship with Miller on the eve of the opening of national bargaining on the coal contract.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. This meeting is one of a series of individual meetings you are having with labor leaders. You met with Meany on August 13th, Fitzsimmons on the 16th, Hall on the 22nd and Woodcock on the 29th. Unlike the other union leaders this will be Miller's first visit to the Oval Office.
2. Miller has just returned from final negotiations which settled the Duke Power Company dispute. The settlement, which Bill Usery was involved in, brought to conclusion a 12-month strike and constituted a major political and organizational victory for Miller.
3. Background on Miller and the U.M.W.A. at Tab A

B. Participants: Arnold Miller

Staff: Mike Duval

C. Press Plan: White House photo

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I know of your concern about the need to improve safety conditions in the mines. I'd appreciate your views on how this can best be done.
2. How do you view the relationships between organized labor and the Department of Labor, as well as other government agencies?
3. I'd like to have your thoughts on the economic situation and the critical problem of inflation.

Arnold Miller

- 51 years old - West Virginia resident
- Elected over incumbent Tony Boyle, in a court ordered election just under two years ago.
- Has not held any prior national union position or previously engaged in any local or national bargaining

United Mine Workers of America

- 112,000 Active Members
- 90,000 Inactive Members (pensioners)
- Mines approximately 75% of all coal in U.S.

National Coal Negotiations

- Begin September 3, 1974 - Hay Adams Hotel Washington, D.C.
- Companies represented by Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), an association created by the industry for national bargaining
- Composition of BCOA
 - Steel industry owned mines
 - Electric utility owned mines
 - Commercial mines
- Contract will expire November 12, 1974
- For first time in history of UMWA, contract must be ratified by entire union membership

Brookside Dispute

- Mine owned by Duke Power Company, Nation's 8th largest electric utility; mine located in Harlan County, Kentucky. Duke Endowment Fund owns approximately 40% of Duke Power Company stock.
- August 29, 1974 settlement under auspices of W.J. Usery, Jr. following 13 month strike; frequent acts of violence and recent shotgun death of 22 year old mine worker, Lawrence Jones
- This settlement constituted a major political and organizational victory for Arnold Miller

Mine Union Calls a National Shutdown Of 5 Days in Battle for a New Contract

By BEN A. FRANKLIN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 — The United Mine Workers union today called for a five-day "memorial period" shutdown of the nation's coal mines for next week, exercising a clause in its expiring contract with the coal operators to put pressure on them for a new one.

The Monday-through-Friday job action will take about 120,000 working members of the union off their jobs in 1,200 mines and reduce coal supplies by a week's production of about 12.5 million tons — perhaps 2 per cent of this year's expected output of 620 million tons. For most coal consumers — with the exception of the steel industry and some isolated electric power plants — the interruption was not expected to be grave.

Strategy Used by Lewis

Union officials acknowledged privately that a reduction of above-ground coal stockpiles was a main strategic objective of the shutdown — a move, in part, meant to weaken the industry's bargaining stance in forthcoming negotiations against a new contract deadline of Nov. 12. But neither the newly militant leadership of the union nor principal industry spokesman would comment publicly.

In a statement here an-

nouncing the long-expected "memorial holiday," the president of the United Mine Workers, Arnold R. Miller, justified the invocation of a contractual provision, originally conceived by the late John L. Lewis for negotiating and protest purposes, by citing both the high accident rate of the coal industry as a whole and the "corporate violence" of a single company.

Mr. Miller was referring to the Duke Power Company of North Carolina and its Harlan County, Ky., subsidiary, the Eastover Mining Company. Eastover's Brookside and Highsplit, Ky., mines have been struck since July, 1973, in a bid for union recognition which the giant utility has so far rejected. Next week's "job in-action," as Mr. Lewis termed the memorial periods, was also designed to bring industrial pressure to bear on Duke Power for a settlement.

'Remember the Price'

Stressing the psychological impact and the public sympathy that the union plainly hoped to gain, Mr. Miller said that the memorial period would officially "commemorate the thousands of coal miners killed while working in the nation's mines, all the miners whose lives have been ravaged by black lung disease, and coal-mining families who are victims of company violence designed to prevent them from winning the protection of a United Mine Workers contract."

"At a time when coal miners are being asked to double or even triple coal production," he went on, "it is important to pause and remember the price miners have paid throughout this century to insure the nation an adequate supply of coal.

We do not intend to pay that price again."

Noting that 100,000 coal miners have died in accidents during this century and that 73 have died in mine mishaps so far this year, Mr. Miller said: "The giant energy conglomerates are being served notice by this memorial period that coal miners have had their fill of dying."

Contract Allows 10 Days

Another five-day memorial period could be called by Mr. Miller this fall to use up the full 10 days authorized for such commemorative demonstrations in the expiring three-year contract. The union and the industry have barely begun bargaining.

Spokesmen for the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, the industry's bargaining arm, and of the National Coal Association, the major trade association, declined to comment on the job action. The trade body has said that with the exception of some steam-electric generating plants of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the steel industry, coal stockpiles in June were at normal or above normal levels.

The trade group said that industry coal stockpiles were at an average 23 days' supply, lower than normal. The T.V.A. said that its stockpile average had declined "seriously" to only a 58-day supply, with reserves on the ground at few individual power plants as low as 12 days.

Miners' memorial periods were called by Mr. Lewis following mine disasters in 1947, 1949 and 1952, and a four-day holiday was declared by the union under the contractual authorization when Mr. Lewis died in June, 1969. None has been called since then.



ARNOLD RAY MILLER

President, United Mine Workers of America Arnold Miller, became 12th president of the UMW in December 1972. Began working in the coal fields of West Virginia at age 16. Black lung disease and work-related arthritis forced him to retire from the mines in 1970. A local union official for many years, he supported the 1969 candidacy of Joseph "Jock" Yablonski against incumbent UMW president Tony Boyle. After Yablonski's murder in late 1969, the U.S. Department of Labor was sought and obtained a rerun of the Boyle election. Miller ran in the reelection and was elected UMW president in 1972. Miller ran on a platform of turning the union back to the miners, and since his election has reduced the headquarters staff, cut salaries, sold the staff cadillacs, and made plans to move the headquarters from Washington to the coal fields.

He is faced with enormous difficulties in pulling the UMW together after the devicive election contest which left it almost prostrate.

UNITED MINE WORKERS

The union was organized in 1890 in Columbus, Ohio. It was one of the eight founding unions of the CIO in 1936. It now has 213,000 members in 1,300 local unions across the nation.

UPCOMING UMWA CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

On November 12, 1974, the contract between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Assn. (BCOA) expires. The union represents about 80,000 soft-coal miners; BCOA represents 75 percent of the nation's coal producers. Any agreement coming out of these negotiations will set the pattern for other associations and unaffiliated bituminous coal firms and will eventually affect nearly all of the industry's 150,000 miners and 70,000 pensioners. Formal talks have not begun.

The union's bargaining objectives include;

- a substantial pay increase
- a cost-of-living wage escalator
- fewer pay grades and smaller differentials between top and botton pay

--increased royalty payments into pension and benefits funds, as well as bigger pensions

--lower retirement age

Impact of a UMWA strike would be immediate and severe in regions where coal mining is the principal occupation, including West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and Virginia. Also adversely affected would be all coal haulers and such major rail carriers as Chessie System, Norfolk & Western and Penn Central. Utilities and steel industries generally stockpile a 90-day supply, so won't feel the pinch at first. However, that supply is expected to be less than 90 days if the strike takes place in November.

Issues

Following is Mr. Miller's position on various issues:

Legislation	Favors a pension reform bill. Strongly supports Kennedy-Griffiths health bill. Favors national health insurance program under direct federal control.
Economy	Opposed to any form of wage controls. Favors Publically owned federal oil and gas corporations to compete with private companies.
Mining	Called for reform of black lung benefits program. Supports Sen. Williams bill on coal mine safety. Strongly opposed to nominee for Federal Coal Mine Safety directorship.
Special	Favors public financing of federal elections. Blasted Gerald Ford's congressional voting record on labor matters. Called for comprehensive tax reforms.

*President
Labor mtg*

September 23, 1974

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

Thank you for your letter of September 4th enclosing your resume. I will be happy to forward it to the appropriate office for consideration.

Also, I appreciate very much your helpful counsel on the circumstances of the United Mine Workers strike against Duke Power.

Most sincerely yours,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Meyer Bernstein
Watergate East
Apartment 906N
2510 Virginia Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037



Meyer Bernstein
Watergate East, Apt. 906 N
2510 Virginia Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037
Sept. 4, 1974

Mr. Philip Buchen
Counsel
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen,

In the thought that an imaginative and obviously dedicated new administration may have use for experience not generally found in government circles, I am enclosing a résumé.

I should add that I resigned from the United Mine Workers of America primarily because of policy differences with certain aides of the union's president. The separation was friendly: the officers retain my respect and good will; and, I believe, I theirs.

Best wishes.

Sincerely

Meyer Bernstein

Meyer Bernstein



MEYER BERNSTEIN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
900 15th STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Born Rochester, New York, 1914.

Graduated Cornell University, 1936.

Watergate East, Apt. 906 N
2510 Virginia Ave., NW
Washington, D. C. 20037
(202) 965 1686

In October of same year joined staff of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (which in 1942 was transformed into the United Steelworkers of America) as a volunteer organizer.

Took part in little steel strikes of 1937, and later represented Union before the National Labor Relations Board in settlement of reinstatement and back pay claims of some 10,000 discharged workers.

Served the Union in various other functions, including handling grievances and arbitration, contract negotiations, preparing testimony before various governmental agencies, speech writing and economic research.

Volunteered in Army in December, 1941. After 3 years, 9 months, 5 days, 13 hours, and 38 minutes of service, returned to Union as CIO Veterans' Representative in Washington, D.C. While retaining this post, moved back to Pittsburgh in 1946 and resumed functions in the United Steelworkers' Research Department.

In 1950 went to Germany on loan to the Foreign Service of the State Department, where he served as labor liaison in the Ruhr area. Major purpose was to help rebuild a democratic, responsible, and effective labor movement.

In 1952 returned to Washington as Steelworkers' Representative to the Wage Stabilization Board.

In 1953 once more in Europe as United Steelworkers of America Representative to the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community and its associated unions, transferring in 1956 to Geneva, Switzerland as assistant to the President of the International Metalworkers' Federation.

In 1957 returned to Pittsburgh to handle the supplemental unemployment benefit program for the Steelworkers' Union.

In 1958 appointed International Affairs Director for the Union.

1972 June resigned from USWA to become observer for MFD Reform Group in United Mine Workers of America Election.

1972 December appointed Director of Public and International Affairs for UMWA.

Traveled widely, including all five continents and all four quarters of the globe. He has participated as delegate in numerous international agencies such as The Economic Commission for Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the like.

He is the author of numerous studies and brochures, including "The 100 Largest Steel Companies in the Free World", "Foreign Competition and Steel Wages", "The 1959 Steel Strike", "Labor and the European Communities", "Employment Costs and Foreign Trade", "Steel Labor in the Soviet Union", "Collective Bargaining in the American Steel Industry", and "The Unions in the United States" (translations from the French), and "The Steelworkers' Election."

Languages: German, fluent; French, serviceable; Spanish, limited reading ability.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 6, 1974

MEMO TO PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: MIKE DUVAL

D

I talked with Dick McCormick concerning the Mine Workers' situation. Thanks for letting us know of his interest and that he has some good ideas concerning this matter.

cc: Jim Cavanaugh

August 30, 1974

To: Jim Cavanaugh

From: Phil Buchen

**Attached is the commentary on
the Mine Workers situation as furnished
me by Dick McCormack, who is
presently with Treasury.**

Attachment



Sensitive

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 28, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: DICK MCCORMACK *DM*

As you know, the Mine Workers under Arnold Miller and the coal operators (Bituminous Coal Operators Association) are on a collision course for a crippling strike on November 15. You know also what this will probably do to the economy. Nor is the Taft Hartley Act a feasible remedy here because of the unique ability of this industry's workers to go underground and simply not manage to dig much coal. (You will recall that Truman actually had to send the army into man the coal mines in an earlier era.)

This strike is partly an exercise of Machismo both by Arnold Miller-who needs a strike to build up his own image and position within his union-and the bituminous coal operators some of whom represent the most Neanderthal types still functioning in the American economy.

Miller's problem is that he doesn't have the support and reputation with the rank and file to enable him to forge out a compromise settlement and call off the strike plans. And right now everybody is so psyched up for a strike that events have taken a momentum all their own.

There's something you can do about this. We have a month or two to help Arnold Miller build up his own position within his union which will give him the clout and prestige essential for him to take a leadership position in moderating demands and avoiding a strike.

I have three recommendations:

1. Include Arnold Miller on the economic summit meetings. And take other opportunities to give Miller high level exposure.
2. Assign somebody from the White House staff to get the facts on the present state of informal negotiations between the Mine Workers and the BCOA. If he gets topside company clearance,

Pete Slaybaugh of the Denver regional office of Continental Oil can give your staff man a good picture of the industry's expectations. So can Guy Farmer, a labor lawyer with the BCOA in Washington.

3. If need be, put some heat on the BCOA officials to work for a compromise--not a cave in--but a meaningful compromise.

It is important, I think, that President Ford not commit his own personal prestige to avoid the coal strike until thorough staffing indicates whether or not this is a realistic possibility. Ford should not be put in the position of getting the UMW and BCOA at a table with him--and later have the mediation process flop and a strike occur.

A final note: If a coal strike occurs, the probability of a January 7 strike in the oil industry is greatly enhanced.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/16/74

Cy has gone
to Sen. Griffin



FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20427

August 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Duval, Associate Director
Domestic Council

From: William P. Hobgood *WPH*

Subject: A. O. Smith Corp./United Auto Workers Strike

As you requested, following is a summary of the subject dispute.

Strike began on August 9, 1974 - involves 5,100 workers. Company manufactures auto frames, suspension parts, bumper supports for AMC, Chrysler, and General Motors. Several plants of these manufacturers will be severely hurt if strike progresses for any period.

Issues

Wages

Company Position - 1st year - 38¢ per year
2nd year - 18¢ per year
3rd year - 18¢ per year

Union Position - 1st year - 65¢ per year
2nd year - 50¢ per year
3rd year - 50¢ per year

Cost of Living

Company Position - .4 = 1¢ per year

Union Position - .3 = 1¢ per year

Pensions

Company Position -

1st year - \$9 per month per year of service
2nd year - \$9.25 per month per year of service
3rd year - \$9.50 per month per year of service

Retirement at age 57 with 30 years of service
and \$240 per month supplement

Union Position -

1st year - \$10 per month per year of service
2nd year - \$10.50 per month per year of service
3rd year - \$11 per month per year of service

30 and out regardless of age with \$750 per
month supplement

Language

Approximately 146 remaining languages including
issues such as jury duty which could be cost
items

Status

A National Representative of FMCS is meeting
with the parties today's date in Milwaukee. From the
above issues, you can see that it is a very difficult
situation.

8/15/74

Parts Supplier Strikes Threaten Auto Output

By Neil D. Rosenberg
Special to The Washington Post

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 14— Unless continuing strike at two Milwaukee-based firms which manufacture auto supplies are ended within 10 days, American Motor will begin to close down production.

General Motors said production of 1971 cars and trucks at five plants, scheduled to resume Monday after the model change, has been suspended indefinitely because of the strikes.

A source at Chrysler said a light truck assembly plant in St. Louis might stop production because of the strike. The production disruptions among the major auto makers might mean delay to customers of some 1975 cars and trucks.

The companies on strike are A. O. Smith Corp. which makes auto frames, control arms, suspension parts and bumper supports, and Briggs & Stratton, which makes cylinder locks.

The Smith strike has been on since Friday and involves 5,100 workers, and the strike at Briggs & Stratton began Aug. 1 and involves 7,500 workers.

An AMC spokesman said

today that if the strikes are still on by Aug. 26, "we'll have to start shutting down during the week."

Briggs & Stratton makes all the lock assemblies for AMC cars and Smith supplies most of the control arms and other suspension parts.

"We can't make cars without locks; you can't start them without an ignition lock," the AMC official said.

The GM plants affected are in Janesville, Wis., Baltimore, Flint, Mich., Oshawa, Ontario, and Lakewood, Ga.

A GM spokesman said that production of intermediate sized cars at Framingham, Mass., would be delayed one week because of a shortage of bumper supports made at Smith.

The strike at Smith is the first in the company's history. Negotiations are scheduled to resume Thursday morning.

Briggs & Stratton, which is also the world's largest producer of small gasoline engines such as those used for lawn mowers and snow blowers, is scheduled to resume negotiations Tuesday.

Federal mediators are involved in both strikes.



Friday 10/18/74

9:20 George Meany's secretary advises he is at a
Comsat Board meeting -- probably not returning
to the office until 11:00 or so.

Would you want me to call him at Comsat?

Virginia Teahas



Friday 10/18/74

10:35 Mr. Meany's secretary called back to say he would not be able to attend the dedication ceremony at 11 o'clock.

At Mr. Buchen's request, called Rustand's office to let them know Mr. Meany would not be there.



*United
Auto Workers*

Thursday 12/19/74

Meeting
12/19/74
10:30 a. m.

10:20 Mr. Buchen talked with Steve Schlossberg on behalf of Leonard Woodcock -- and then came over to meet with him at 10:30 (Thursday 12/19).

G. C. - United Auto Workers



*Lesson mtg
meany*

Thursday 12/19/74

11:20 Did your phone call from George Meany change
the 4 o'clock Friday meeting with the President?



Thursday 12/19/74

President

MEETING
12/20/74
3:30 p. m.

Labor

9:20 There will be a meeting with the President and
George Meany on Friday 12/20 at 3:30 p. m.

Mr. Buchen is to call Mr. Meany and invite him.



Thursday 12/19/74

11:20 Did your phone call from George Meany change
the 4 o'clock Friday meeting with the President?

No, it is still on for that time.
G M merely confirmed his acceptance.
P-

