

# CITY SERVICES IN DETROIT SNARLED BY STRIKE

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**DETROIT, July 16—** Struggling through the first full day of a walkout by 7,000 city workers, Detroit's 1.2 million residents made do today without buses, garbage pickups, health clinics, libraries or summer park programs.

The strike began at midnight after a 10-hour negotiating session. No new talks have been scheduled, and other unions honored the picket lines that were set up by Michigan Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

By the end of the day, the city was preparing to file papers in Wayne County Circuit Court to force some workers to return to their jobs.

Mayor Coleman A. Young, assailing the walkout as illegal, said the city would go to court on Thursday. Among the workers the Mayor said he considered essential are bus drivers, health care employees, garbage collectors and chemists who measure the purity of drinking water at the city's water treatment plant. **Plea for Workers' Return**

"What can I say to city workers?" the Mayor said at a news conference. "Come down out of the stratosphere. Let's get back to work and get down to serious negotiations."

The union had demanded a three-year contract with a 26 percent raise, a figure Mr. Young described as "so unrealistic, it's not even worthy of discussion." The city offered a 2 percent increase for next year and proposed that subsequent raises not exceed 6 percent.

The city also tied its offer to future revenue, with city bargainers saying they could not agree to fixed wage increases because they could not be sure Detroit could afford them.

The city has about 18,000 city workers, about 6,000 being police officers and firefighters who are forbidden by law to strike. Some 5,000 other workers are represented by about 30 other unions that are still negotiating.

James Glass, director of Michigan Council 25, accused the city of "not bargaining in good faith."

Other union officials charged that the city's position was the same as when the labor contract expired April 30. The workers remained on the jobs until the negotiations broke off, and some say they are prepared for a long strike. Mayor's Raise an Issue

On picket lines outside Detroit's main municipal building, strikers angrily denounced Mayor Young, a former labor organizer. They complained that it was unfair for the city to reject their demands only months after granting Mayor Young a raise.

In January his salary rose to \$115,000 from \$79,983, making him the nation's highest paid mayor. Salaries for the nine-member City Council also climbed, to \$53,000, from \$43,418.

"Do you think 44 percent for the Mayor and 20 percent for the Council was reasonable?" asked Frank Walker, a building inspector, referring to the size of the Mayor's salary increase. "They're saying let us eat cake." Other strikers termed the city's 2 percent offer an insult. "I don't appreciate the way he's treating us," Carla Wilbert, a senior stenographer, said of Mayor Young.

With the zoo padlocked and supervisors operating the water treatment plant, the City Council asked to meet with the Mayor to discuss the situation. The Council president, Erma Henderson, also urged a resumption of bargaining "to ameliorate all the differences." The Council has no official role in the negotiations, although it must give final approval to a contract.

The walkout is the second in the nation's sixth largest city since an 11-day strike in 1980. Bargainers reached an agreement that ended that dispute hours before the Republican National Convention opened here, and the contract contained economic concessions in return for guarantees against certain kinds of layoffs.

Union officials contend that this industrial city, which was plunged into financial crisis by the recession, is healthy enough to afford the city pay increases now that the automobile industry is profitable again. The city has a surplus of \$52 million this year, and Mr. Glass contends that some of it should be spent on its workers. Cuts in Revenue Sharing Cited

But Mayor Young rejected that idea today, saying that most of the surplus would be "wiped out" by cuts in Federal revenue-sharing programs. The Mayor also wants to assign a higher

priority to restoring municipal services that were trimmed in the recession than to giving workers larger paychecks.

Council 25, which sets the pattern for city negotiations, is the bargaining agent for more than a dozen union locals.

Union officials say that other city unions have been cooperative. City bus drivers, represented by the teamsters union, refused to cross picket lines at the city's four bus terminals. Teamster Local 214, which represents 1,700 garbage truck drivers, said it was honoring the picket lines as well.

The Mayor did not cross any picket lines today. He did not go to his office and spent most of the day at the official residence on the Detroit River.

Photo of Detroit city workers on picket line (AP)