

SOUTH JERSEY

COURIER-POST

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1979 17



Union plea rejected in Eagle Point strike

By DENISE WISENFIELD
Courier-Post Staff

WOODRIFY — A Superior Court judge denied a union request Thursday for a temporary injunction to force workers at Tranco's truckbody Eagle Point plant to return to work.

Judge Samuel C. DeLemone said the union's representation about striking employees of the West Deptford refinery had not been sufficient evidence at a hearing late Thursday that the company was causing "immediate and irreparable harm" to the union.

"I am convinced that the union management is not being forthcoming in its negotiations," DeLemone said, ordering both sides to meet to improve heavy fines on violators of court orders on the three-day-old strike.

Workers walked out about 11 p.m. Wednesday after unsuccessful efforts to settle several non-strike contract issues.

The judge issued a temporary injunction forbidding picketing of members to the plant until a temporary Mediation Company lawyer in Trenton, Monday, goes to court Thursday that DeLemone's order has been "clearly forgotten on many occasions."

Police have arrested several picketers for blocking gates to the refinery which is being operated by some 300 supervisory personnel.

DeLemone said the company and Local 442 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, which has accused management with trying to intimidate picketers, can offer additional proof of their claims Monday.

"Management if you're doing anything wrong, stop it before Monday," said DeLemone. "In the union, please obey the court's orders."

Union lawyer Harold Cross bowed his request for a restraining order against Tranco Thursday night. Cross contended that Tranco's striking workers who had been fined \$100 a day for picketing, and who had been arrested for picketing, were in violation of the court's order.

Marion testified that Tranco lawyer Lawrence Elie was present and was directing the other men. Elie contended that Marston's recollection of Thursday morning's events was "highly inaccurate" and that the company's trucks did not get out of the plant before 10 a.m. Monday.

Elie presented for the hearing was West Deptford solicitor Sabey Gray.

He stated the union initially asked for an injunction blocking company and township police interference with pickets.

"At the hearing, however, Cross withdrew the request for restraining orders and the police saying 'we don't want anything but their good will.'"

Cross said there had been some confusion concerning exactly what the West Deptford police were supposed to do at the strike site.

DeLemone argued that "road blocks" were in this strike but said he would be available for further hearings on two hours before should problems arise.

Meanwhile, company and union representatives are scheduled to meet Saturday morning with a federal mediator at the Hightstown, N.J. plant.

In the first negotiating session since talks broke off on Wednesday.

Union officials say the strikers' issues include company policies on absenteeism, raises for employees who work overtime, differences over the staffing levels of certain jobs and supervisory working conditions.

A wage agreement for the oil workers was reached last week by a national bargaining team representing some 600,000 members.

The Eagle Point refinery strike is the first since a 7-week walkout in 1963.

Bob Shryock



Many still remember legend of Wayne Rabston

They heard Wayne M. Rabston today that they did not bury the legend.

"When they made him, they broke the mold," said former Rep. John E. Hant.

"The guy was great. Just great."

Rabston was 68 when he died Tuesday at his home in Wenonah after a long and distinguished career as a soldier and civic servant.

It was difficult to think of Rabston being 68 years old even in the twilight of his life. Despite failing health, his mind like a sharp, his irrefutable memory intact. His charm and wit still made him stand out in a crowd.

Rabston served with three military units, beginning with the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944. Three decades later, he was still active as an Air Force colonel in China during World War II.

But Rabston was best-known for serving Gloucester County and Wenonah. He was a four-term Gloucester County sheriff, county fire marshal and Red Cross director. In Wenonah, he was fire chief and board of education secretary. And what about Rabston did he do well?

"A very dynamic person," said Bill Baam, former county engineer and a close personal friend of Rabston. "He took all his jobs seriously. When it was time to let him go, time had for all his finishing. Wayne didn't like any feeling around on his job. He insisted on everything being done in the proper order."

Baam recalls that while Rabston was living on North Marion Avenue and was serving one of his terms as sheriff there was a squabble over the paving of some sidewalks in his part of town.

"Wayne had caught out," Baam said. "He didn't want the kids up on North Marion walking on the streets. He always had safety on his mind. This is the way he thought you should show your civic duty. He won that one, too."

Rabston was responsible for John Hant getting into politics. When Wayne decided to step down after his fourth term as sheriff, he gave Hant a strong endorsement. Hant won, and went on to serve as the New Jersey senate and U.S. Congress.

Shortly after Hant succeeded Rabston as sheriff, a Newark police officer was used when his gun accidentally discharged and killed an infant.

"Wayne came in my office and told me he thought it would be a good idea if we instituted a firearms course for officers in a county," said Baam. "As a result, in three and a half years we ran over 400 officers through the course. Wayne used to come to the pistol and rifle range himself and help out."

Ed Baker, himself a legend in Gloucester County, was another of Rabston's close friends. He tells a side of Wayne Rabston not many people know.

"He was one of the best sheriffs we ever had," said Baker, and he was a very good fire marshal, too. He always helped those he ran across in the line of duty who were unfortunate. He aided families, many times out of his own pocket. He never said anything to anybody about it. He also saw to it that many a veteran got help in hospitals. I considered him 'Mr. American Legion.'"

Rabston was still visible in Wenonah, right up to his death. He would walk around the corner from his North Clinton Avenue home to the Carriage Shop three times a week and pick up ice cream for his wife, who is confined to a nursing home. He would talk with the town clerk, most of whom knew him and respected him.

"One of the outstanding features about Wayne I remember is that he showed charity like no one else," said George Bowker, proprietor of the Carriage Shop. "It was always, 'Hello, dear, how are you?' He knew how to make a woman feel like a woman."

"I remember Wayne and Mr. (Norman) MacLeod sitting at the counter discussing World War I days," said Jane Bowker, George's wife. "They were fascinating tales."

The Bowkers will miss that door opening and Wayne Rabston walking through it. But they'll remember the legend.

Publicity man paid for services, not silence, Resorts chief says

By BON AUBRY
Courier-Post Staff

ATLANTIC CITY — The chairman of Resorts International spent much of Thursday explaining to the Casino Control Commission how a publicity relations man paid for some good jobs and an otherwise personality into a five-dollar profit.

David Proskiy, an attorney, said that he knew New Jersey and not return except with written permission from Resorts.

Proskiy's verbal contract with the commission, though the terms were not written, was that he would not reveal any public statements made by Proskiy, Crody said. "I can't recall any. There were none, but I can't recall them off hand."

"CRODY could not recall what Proskiy said at the other officials," he said. "It was pretty clear that you can ask them (Proskiy). He'll be here."

Crody denied that Proskiy was

in a record of the corporation, its subsidiaries, officers and directors.

IN HIS sixth day on the witness stand at a seven-hour hearing, Crody denied that Proskiy had anything derogatory to say about the firm.

He said that Proskiy was constantly at odds and arguing with other company officials including Resorts President I.G. Davis and Vice President H. Steven Norton. "It was like a 'den mother,'" said Crody.

Crody claimed the contract clause was simply to keep Proskiy from making statements about the internal workings.

However, when asked by state Assistant Attorney General G. Michael Krohn if he could recall any public statements made by Proskiy, Crody said, "I can't recall any. There were none, but I can't recall them off hand."

"CRODY could not recall what Proskiy said at the other officials," he said. "It was pretty clear that you can ask them (Proskiy). He'll be here."

Crody denied that Proskiy was

paid for his silence. Part of the money provided in the contract was for Proskiy's efforts on the Bahamas to win an extension of Resorts casino license, Crody said.

Other money is for Proskiy's part in bringing Resorts to Atlantic City.

The original contract was signed in July 1976 and has been amended several times. The last version, signed Dec. 6, nullified "silence clauses" and modified the money settlement.

ACCORDING to Crody, Proskiy already had been paid \$200,000 cash and given stock worth \$25,000 in payment for public relations work on the Bahamas.

Proskiy's payment for bringing the company to New Jersey is now an amount around \$1.5 million. He will collect it only if Resorts is successful in obtaining a few dozen casinos in the state.

Crody says the current amount contains \$5,000 in cash and stock.

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Keeping casinos clean is a job that never ends



CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — It has been less than a year since illegal gambling started in Atlantic City, N.J., but already three arrests of legislators in Nevada in three decades. The fight to end Nevada's illegal casinos is a dirty job that never ends.

As developments in the past year show, the problem still exists.

Of course, all different new from the time, so far, when legislator Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegal and others of similar ilk were major players in the Las Vegas area.

But it is clear the efforts to weed out unsavory types never really end.

This week in Atlantic City, three casinos to open since gambling was legalized in 1975 remain in business.

New Jersey Attorney General John Deenan is urging denial of a request to change Resorts International's temporary license to a permanent one, based on allegations of mob ties, association with persons of questionable character, and mismanagement of casinos in the Bahamas and Atlantic City, State Casino

Control Commission hearings on the request are expected to last two more weeks.

In Nevada, the latest in a long series of steps to curb alleged mob influence was taken by the state Casino Control Commission on Monday.

"This is the Age of Squid," said Attorney General's "back book" of unsavory types barred from casinos.

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