Union Plans to Return
Today After Ratification
—Pay Increased 8%

By A. H. Easkin

A settlement of the six-day-old dress strike was reached early today. The paralyzing of 105,000 members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union back to their shops in New York and six nearby states is expected to begin this afternoon.

The formula for ending the dress industry's first shutdown in 25 years was a product of three intensive days of mediation by former Senator Herbert H. Lehman and Harry Urviller, the industry's impartial mediator.

The two peacemakers, acting as special representatives of Mayer Wagner, praised both sides for their cooperation in resolving the complex dispute over union demands for higher wages and "foothold" contract enforcement.

The mediators expressed hope that the new three-year pact would usher in a period of durable labor peace in the billion-dollar-a-year industry. This hope was echoed by David Dubinsky, president of the union, but some employers voiced a fear that the contract would prove too costly and fail in its stabilization goal.

If ratified by both sides, the pact will provide a direct pay rise of 8 cents per hour, with minimums set at $1.35 per hour in the lower-price field and $1.60 in the lower-grade field. A pay increase paralelled the general recovery of production in the dress industry and eliminating non-union operations.

The return of these key groups would permit an immediate start on the movement of dresses to pre-Easter delivery. Most of the idle operators, pressers, examiners, finishers and helpers would take up their shears and needles tomorrow morning if the back-to-work timetable is not altered by unratified contracts.

Measures to end a handicap in contract enforcement were detailed, and negotiations were complicated negotiations.

As one device to stifle non-union competition and curb contract violations in union shops, the employers agreed to use a union label in all dresses made under union conditions.

The preliminary ratification of the proposed agreement was given by unanimous vote of union executive board members, meeting at the New Yorker Hotel.

They acted after Mr. Dubinsky had told them that all money matters had been satisfactorily handled and a meeting of minds reached on thousands of questions involving lighter policing of the new pact.

However, their vote will have no binding force unless the final package is approved by 2,286 representatives of the firm's top management. The chairman have been instructed to gather at Manhattan Center, Thirty-fourth Street and Eighth Avenue, at 10 A.M. in the hope that a decision to drop pocket signs can be made then.

Employers Wary

Ratification by the 2,286 members of the five manufacturers' associations may prove a more time-consuming process. This is partly because arrangements between jobbers and contractors must await completion of the labor accord and partly because of a widespread feeling on the employer side that a pay rise is too big.

Spokesmen for the associations said they would send out telegrams calling their members to vote on the pact once it was initialled.

However, Nat Boriskin, executive director of the United Popular Dress Manufacturers Association, said the mechanics of ratification made the general reception of production until Thursday.

Mr. Dubinsky emphasized that his workers would be permitted to work until the association, representing their employers, had signed up.

Even after the major groups approve the contract, 15,000 women's shops formerly covered by special union agreements and 17,000 others in Pennsylvania contracting units that seceded from the establishment associations will stay on strike.

The union said it would not get a green light to return until their employers had沙龙ized to his design standards to permit uniformity of labor costs. This would be a year, at least.

None of the union's hopes that the pact would restore the stability that has made the garment field a model of labor-management cooperation eased the industry's unhappiness over the rise in the wage bill.

The bitterest opposition was manifested in the ranks of the Popular Priced Dress Manufacturers Group, which represents jobbers in the lower-price field. The ranks of this association already have been split by the defection of seven key jobbers, with an annual volume of $200,000,000.